



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY HALL KIVA
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008**

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Robert Frost, Chair
John Faramelli, Vice Chair
Jeanne Alspaugh, Commissioner
Ron King, Commissioner
Stan Koczka, Commissioner
- ABSENT:** George Adams, Commissioner
James Duchene, Commissioner
- STAFF:** Lindsay Adarme, McDowell Mountain Ranch Recreation Coordinator
Linda Ayres, Senior Recreation Coordinator
Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator
Brad Bishop, Cactus Recreation Coordinator
Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Manager
Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Manager
Susan Conklu, Transportation Planner
Bob Deleon, Fire Department Assistant Chief
Kroy Ekblaw, Planning & Development Services
Vivek Galav, Capital Project Management
Teresa Huish, Senior Transportation Planner
Reed Kempton, Principal Transportation Planner
Mark Lescoe, Senior Recreation Coordinator
Doug Makinen, Capital Project Management
William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director
Doug Nesselroad, Parks & Recreation Manager
Rhonda Thomas, Capital Project Management
- GUESTS:** Patrick Brundage, Scottsdale Aquatic Club
Terina McCandless, Verizon Wireless
Frances Olsen, Citizen
Darlene Petersen, Citizen
Dave Schuster, Clavadistas Del Sol
Jennifer Shin, Scottsdale Synchro Arizona

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above, noting the presence of a quorum.

3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Frost called for a moment of silence.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of December 3, 2008.

VICE CHAIR FARELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2008 REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER ALSPAUGH SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

5. **SPONSORED TEAM ANNUAL AGREEMENT AND PRESENTATIONS**

Brad Bishop, Cactus Recreation Coordinator, and Lindsay Adarme, McDowell Mountain Ranch (MMR) Recreation Coordinator will provide a brief overview of sponsored team agreements. City sponsored teams; Scottsdale Aquatic Club (SAC), Clavadistas Del Sol (CDS) and Scottsdale Synchro Arizona (SSA) will present team information and updates from 2008.

Mr. Bishop outlined the criteria that Scottsdale's sponsored teams must meet. The majority of a team's active members must be Scottsdale residents. The program must provide a recreational opportunity to the public and be non-profit in nature. Programs must also insure the City, and provide insurance for teams and participants. Their activities must not displace those of the City. As sponsor, the City provides the teams with the use of pool facilities, and covers pool operating and staffing costs. It also provides marketing support and storage space for team equipment.

The community benefits in many ways from these programs. They foster the development of youth, provide them with an outlet to participate in team sports, promote the development of competitive swim, dive, and synchronized swimming skills, keep costs affordable to the community, and showcase the programs regionally and nationally. Ms. Adarme said sponsored teams allow participants to continue their sports throughout the year, after the City's summer programs have ended. The coaches also contribute to the training and knowledge of City staff, and teams contribute to special events.

Mr. Brundage said the Scottsdale Aquatic Club (SAC) has been part of the community for over ten years. It has grown to 275 swimmers, ranging from ages 5 to 18. The percentage of Scottsdale residents on the team is 60%. In 2009, the team will begin charging a small fee for non-residents. There are five swimmers currently on scholarship. The program aims to develop participants not just as swimmers, but also as individuals. The staff of nine has been recognized regionally and nationally, and several have swum competitively at elite levels. The team has been a USA Swimming silver medal club for several years, and is working to become a gold medal club. Many team members go on to swim competitively in college and the U.S. Olympic Trials. The majority of their funds come from dues and fundraising efforts.

Mr. Schuster reported that Clavadistas del Sol (CDS) is entering its 15th year as a diving team. It has 55 divers in eight levels of lessons. Scottsdale residents comprise 69% of the team's divers, and 14.5% are on scholarship. Twenty percent of revenue comes from fundraising, and their finances are sound. Out of state divers come to Scottsdale to compete in meets, which contributes to the local economy. Two divers have received college scholarships in the past year. The team has had its first national champion this year, and qualified for the U.S. Diving Talent Development Camp.

Commissioner Koczka inquired whether the teams have tryouts. Mr. Schuster responded that the team tries to accommodate young people of all abilities through a new program designed to keep them interested, even if they are not ready to dive competitively. Mr. Brundage said the SAC has expanded options for those who are interested, but are not ready yet to make a full commitment.

Ms. Shin said the McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center allows Scottsdale Synchro Arizona (SSA) to have multiple practices simultaneously for various age levels. No new members were turned away, including one special needs child. Ninety percent of last year's team returned this year. The team has 17 members, ages 6 to 15, and 88% of them are from Scottsdale. The Saturday Synchro event was introduced this year to introduce girls to the sport. The tuition rate was decreased, and \$1,300 in scholarships was offered. Anyone can join the team. If some girls need to improve their skills, the coaches will offer them special assistance. They become great role models for swimmers. The team will host the Cactus Classic Synchro Meet in February. Last year's event attracted 175 swimmers, with 50% coming from out of town clubs. There was a 50% increase in enrollment this year, due to the exposure the sport received during the Olympics this summer.

Mr. Murphy indicated that staff recommends approval of the agreements.

COMMISSIONER ALSPAUGH RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ANNUAL CITY SPONSORSHIPS WITH SAC, CDS, AND SSA. VICE CHAIR FAREMELLI SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

6. VERIZON WIRELESS GENERATOR ADDITION TO EXISTING WIRELESS FACILITY AT AZTEC PARK

Rhonda Thomas, Capital Project Management, and Terina McCandless, Site Acquisition & Zoning Specialist on behalf of Verizon Wireless, will present a proposal to add a backup generator to their existing wireless facility at Aztec Park.

Ms. Thomas noted that Verizon Wireless has had a facility at Aztec Park since 1999. They have an equipment shelter and a light standard with antennas. Currently no generator is permanently located at the park, and one is necessary to comply with new FCC requirements for backup power in case of an outage. The company also wants to standardize sites so they all use the same generators. The unit will be screened to match the existing facility, and Verizon will replace a tree that is being removed. This amendment will require approval from Council.

Commissioner Koczka inquired about the anticipated disruption to the park. Ms. McCandless responded that construction would take one or two weeks, and could be scheduled so as not to impact any field activities. Once the facility is constructed, fuel would need to be cycled once a week, a process that takes about an hour. Technicians will service the generator during their regular monthly visit.

Commissioner King inquired whether this addition would impose any negative aspect to the park's operation. Mr. Murphy responded that staff does not expect there to be any impact at all, and the enclosure will be minimal. Commissioner King asked about changes to the terms of the lease. Ms. Thomas said there is no change to the terms of the lease; only an amendment will be added.

In response to an inquiry from Chair Frost, Ms. McCandless said a diesel truck would likely only have to top off the generator once per quarter. Mr. Murphy added that the truck would access the site either through a ball field or a sidewalk.

Commissioner Alspaugh inquired about the decibel level and the potential impact on neighbors. Ms. McCandless said it would be no louder than the existing AC units on the shelter.

Mr. Murphy indicated that staff recommends approval of the request.

VICE CHAIR FAREMELLI RECOMMENDED APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF A BACKUP GENERATOR TO THE EXISTING WIRELESS FACILITY IN AZTEC PARK. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

7. SKYSONG PARK

Council approved Amended Lease Agreement No. 2004-119-COS-A1 with the ASU Foundation on July 10, 2006. This allowed for the addition of residential uses in the project and adjusted the City of Scottsdale responsibilities including SkySong Park. Doug Makinen, Project Manager, Capital Project Management, and Kroy Ekblaw, Executive Assistant, Planning & Development Services will give an overview to inform the Parks & Recreation Commission on the scope of work proposed of the park.

Mr. Makinen said under the current lease agreement, the City is responsible for developing a half-acre pocket park at SkySong by early 2010. He displayed slides of the proposed site. As the SkySong development changes and matures, the park project could also change.

Chair Frost noted that in recent decades, the Department has not supported the concept of pocket parks. He asked how the City finds itself maintaining a park that would have no recreational uses other than to provide open space. He felt it should be owned and maintained by the developers. Mr. Ekblaw responded that the City entered into a ground lease with the ASU Foundation which defines certain responsibilities for the City, including the park. The open space is intended to provide connectivity through the project. Because of its proximity to the residential neighborhood, the expectation was that the park would be public. Chair Frost suggested that it be referred to as open space median landscaping, rather than a pocket park, to avoid setting an unwelcome precedent.

In response to Vice Chair Faramelli, Mr. Ekblaw said the core retail area near the park is expected to serve both the offices and the surrounding residential areas. The greatest amount of pedestrian activity is expected in the central part of the site. Vice Chair Faramelli felt that the park should be incorporated more fully into the core area. It could work as a gathering space in support of the retail area. Mr. Ekblaw noted that one concept calls for the continuation of open space to the east of the property that could eventually tie into the park.

Vice Chair Faramelli inquired about the process. Mr. Makinen explained that staff would conduct public meetings and develop the concept further before it returns to the Commission for additional review.

Commissioner Koczka inquired about the residential area. Mr. Ekblaw said it would contain 324 units, ranging from studios to three-bedroom apartments, and be home to about 600 residents. Commissioners Koczka and King agreed with Chair Frost that the park should be a continuation of landscaping, rather than a pocket park. Mr. Ekblaw indicated the terminology could be adjusted to avoid that perception.

Commissioner Alspaugh asked whether any thought has been given to a Foundation partnership with one of the retailers. Mr. Ekblaw said the project does not have a retailer on board yet, but that remains an opportunity in the future.

Chair Frost invited public commentary.

Darlene Petersen suggested the park should offer trees for shade, benches, a water fountain, and restrooms. She inquired whether it would only be a temporary park. Mr. Ekblaw responded that it is intended to be permanent. He added that the features she

mentioned are being considered, though the retail establishments are expected to offer public restroom facilities.

8. UPDATE ON THE DESIGN AND RELOCATION OF FIRE STATION #601 TO ELDORADO PARK

Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator, and Vivek Galav, Project Manager, Capital Project Management, will provide an update on the relocation and design of Fire Station #601 from Thomas and Miller Road to the southern end of Eldorado Park along Miller Road.

Mr. Barnard noted that this item is part of the process to document whether existing uses in the park comply with the zoning and code requirements. It does not change anything in the park. He said the park has been in place for over 30 years. The municipal use requirement has only come into effect recently, and Eldorado Park has to be brought up to speed. Scottsdale currently has two parks that host fire stations, and the Department has found it to be a good collaboration.

Mr. Galav provided an update on the design of the fire station. The facility is necessary to improve coverage and reduce response times in south Scottsdale. It will be located north of the south driveway on what is now a parking lot. The existing driveway will be closed and a new one will be provided across from Palm Lane. The site was acquired by exchanging one acre of land in Eldorado Park with an equally sized area in Camelback Park. Six public outreach efforts have been conducted. An informational presentation was made to the Commission on January 16, 2008, and the Eldorado Master Plan was approved on June 18.

The station will have a large community room located on the south side of the building near visitor parking. Mr. Galav displayed a series of elevation drawings of the station. The plan is to present the design to the Design and Review Board and Council in 2009, for start of construction in spring of 2010, and completion in spring of 2011.

Vice Chair Faramelli inquired about the change in number of parking spots. Mr. Galav said the goal is to replace all the parking, but a dike is complicating the situation. Mr. Murphy added that the parking area west of the skate park would remain. Commissioner Koczka asked whether the parking would be missed. Mr. Murphy responded that it is used a lot during larger events, but the usage can vary throughout the year.

In response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Faramelli, Mr. Barnard explained that a land and conservation grant was used for the improvements in Eldorado Park. Whenever those improvements are changed, they have to be replaced in size at another location in the City. Less than one acre of park is being taken out of use at Eldorado, and is being replaced with a designated acre at Camelback Park that was not park before. The swap was made with the National Park Service.

Commissioner King emphasized the importance for the City to maximize its property. Having a fire station on park property is a good idea. He encouraged the City to let Parks and Recreation use the old fire station site at Miller and Thomas Road. Chair Frost noted that the park has several old bays that were originally designed as an urban campground. He suggested those spaces might be expanded to accommodate additional parking in the future.

Chair Frost invited public commentary.

Frances Olsen said the noise on Miller Road is excessive, and it will only get worse with fire sirens. The move is going to cost the City \$5 million, which makes no sense considering its current financial problems. Chair Frost noted that the City is facing a shortage in operating money, but the fire station is being built with bond funds that were approved in 2000.

Assistant Fire Chief Deleon said the Department aims to be good neighbors. Firefighters aim to minimize noise by only using sirens when they are necessary. There is no requirement to use them all the time. Training activities will be limited at that station, and equipment checks will be conducted later in the morning. Many other properties were considered, but none were available that met the Department's response needs.

9. TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN: INTEGRATING BICYCLES

Reed Kempton, Principal Transportation Planner, will provide an overview of the Transportation Master Plan adopted January 2008 with an emphasis on the bicycle element.

Mr. Kempton noted that Council adopted the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) in 2008. Scottsdale has adopted a complete streets policy. A complete street includes bicycle lanes, planted medians, a sidewalk or paved path on one side, and unpaved trail on the other. All transportation documents, including the bicycle plan, have been integrated into one plan that covers everything. It was based on the goals of the General Plan, and is intended to provide connections between all the different modes. The League of American Bicyclists has designated Scottsdale as a bicycle-friendly community at the silver level. It is the first city in the nation to reach that level without being home to a major university. Staff intends to reach the gold level.

Walking and bicycling are recognized as serious modes of transportation in the plan. Bike lanes will be added to existing corridors without adding new pavement, by re-stripping. One goal is to implement a continuous north/south path from the Salt River to the Tonto National Forest. Only one mile remains to connect WestWorld with the Tempe Town Lake. The next major connection will be from Horizon Park to the McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center. Mr. Kempton displayed a map of the planned system. Currently over 60% of address points are within 1/2 mile of a path. Ultimately, it will be 93%. A high priority is to establish connections between trail segments.

An analysis was conducted on street bicycle level of service, to establish how comfortable and safe it is for bicycles to ride on streets. The information is used to identify the major corridors that are most in need of level of service improvements. The goal is to have 75% of streets with a speed limit greater than 30 m.p.h. include bike lanes by 2030. Staff is also working on state of the art technology to allow bicycles to trigger traffic signals.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner King, Mr. Kempton said the average bicycle speed on multi-use paths is about 12 m.p.h. It is impractical to try and enforce speed limits, but it seldom becomes an issue.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Commissioners will give updates on events, activities and reports from committees they have been involved with since the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Alspaugh noted that her company held its annual holiday party at Chaparral Park, and she credited staff with being instrumental to its success.

Chair Frost said he attended the opening of Camelback Park, and toured Club SAR.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions. This includes, but is not limited to, updates on programming, special events, calendars, and upcoming meetings.

Mr. Murphy provided a report on the Amazing Swim project. He noted that Fit City would kick off on January 24, 2009. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park has opened their holiday lights event. Attendance is on pace to exceed last year's so far. The Youth Sports Task Force continues to work out the glitches in the new field allocation process.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens may address the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission during Public Comment. This "Public Comment" time is reserved for citizen comments regarding non-agendized items. However, Arizona State Law prohibits the Parks and Recreation Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not on the prepared agenda.

There were no public comments.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
AV-Tronics, Inc.