



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY HALL KIVA
3939 DRINKWATER BLVD.
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Robert Frost, Chair
John Faramelli, Vice-chair
George Adams
James Duchene
Ron King
Ronald Petersen

ABSENT: Jeanne Alspaugh

STAFF: Debra Baird, Community Services General Manager
Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator
Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Manager
Trina Clemens, Admin Secretary (departed 5:48 p.m.)
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager
Doug Nesselroad, Parks and Recreation Manager
Lorelei Oien, Admin Secretary (departed 5:48 p.m.)
Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Manager
William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director
Rose Williams, Parks and Recreation Manager

GUESTS: Mayor Mary Manross
Vice Mayor Wayne Ecton
Council Member Betty Drake
Councilman W.J. "Jim" Lane
Councilman Robert Littlefield
Councilman Ron McCullagh
Councilman Tony Nelssen
Craig Clifford, Financial Services General Manager
Janet Dolan, City Manager
Deborah Robberson, City Attorney
Dan Worth, Municipal Services General Manager
Patricia Denvir, Member of the public

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m., noting the presence of a quorum.

2. **ROLL CALL**

A roll call confirmed the members present as stated above.

3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

At the request of Chair Frost, a moment of silence was observed.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Action)**

Regular Meeting of February 6, 2008.

VICE-CHAIR FAREMELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2008 MEETING. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

5. **PARKS AND RECREATION DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY COUNCIL**
(Information Item)

Chair Robert Frost will present an overview of Parks and Recreation programs, facilities, and projects to the City Council. Discussion will also include unfunded projects and Commission responsibilities. The City Council will have the opportunity to ask questions relating to the presentation and engage in discussion with the Commission members.

Chair Frost welcomed Mayor Manross and City Council members to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He informed the group that the purpose of the meeting was to provide information on Scottsdale parks, facilities, recreation programs, capital projects, capital improvement projects, and Commission duties and responsibilities. He gave a slide presentation; highlights include:

Parks and Facilities

- 43 parks
 - 957 acres of parks
 - 4 aquatic centers
 - 4 fitness centers
 - 5 community centers
 - 2 tennis centers
 - 60 athletic fields
 - 2 skate parks
 - 1 disc golf course
 - 8 urban lakes
 - 2 neighborhood equestrian facilities
 - 3 off-leash areas
- Specialty facilities: Pinnacle Peak Park, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale Stadium, Scottsdale Sports Complex and Civic Center

Chair Frost stated that Scottsdale has one of the finest parks and recreation systems in the country.

Awards and Recognition

- 2004, 1999 National Accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies
- 2003, 1982 and 1971 The Sports Foundation Gold Medal Winner
- 2004 Arizona *Sports Illustrated Magazine's* Sportstown, USA
- 2008, 2007, 2006 - 100 Best Communities For Young People
- 25 years continued Tree City USA Designation
- 16th year continued Tree City USA Growth Award
- Project awards from local, state, regional and national organizations

Aquatics

- 433,871 attended the City's four aquatic centers
- 6,152 participated in Learn-to-Swim lessons

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

- 401,500 train riders
- 31,900 attended Holiday Lights event

Youth and Adult Sports

- 943 youth and 1,452 adults took tennis lessons
- 2,619 participated in tennis league play
- 418 teams participated in sand volleyball leagues
- 2,129 youth participated in basketball, volleyball, flag football, track and field programs
- 883 adult sport teams for softball, basketball and flag football

After School/Summer/Teen Programs

- 1,055 children at five school sites and three park sites
- 5,063 youth participated in summer and sports camps
- 100-150 teens attended daily activities and events
- 203 youth in the Summer Youth Corps Program

Specialty Programs

- 8,638 individuals registered for special interest classes
- 186,993 people visited Pinnacle Peak Park
- 24,000 anglers at Chaparral Lake
- 65,000 visitors to the off-leash area at Chaparral Park

Adaptive Recreation Programs

- Provided adaptive assistance/accommodations to 1,500 participants
- Offer five Special Olympic sports
- Annual Sweethearts Ball and Halloween Dance

Special Events

- April Pools Day - 200
- Exclusively Little – 2,000
- Fall Festival – 5,000
- Hispanic Heritage – 3,000
- Holiday Harmony – 5,000
- Holiday Lights – 31,900
- Labor Day Luau - 598
- Mighty Mud Mania – 10,000

- MLB Spring Training – 148,988
- Parada Del Sol and Trails End – 35,000
- Railfair – 9,250
- SCA Arts Festival Children's Area – 10,000
- Skate Park Competition – 1,000
- Sunday Night Concerts – 20,100

Trends

- Demand from residents for emerging technology and information
- Increased demand for open space and updating existing facilities
- An increasing need for health and fitness components
- Increased citizen participation in public processes
- Rising graffiti and vandalism
- Cross-generational at-risk behavior and issues
- Increased need for partnerships, grants, and collaborations
- Sports field space
- Program wait-lists

Chair Frost added that Commissioner Petersen will be working with staff and various groups on the field allocation project and this will be agendaized for the Commission's March meeting.

Recently Completed Capital Projects

- McDowell Mountain Ranch Park and Aquatic Center
- Scottsdale Stadium/Spring Training Facility
- Chaparral Park Extension
- Mescal Park Lights
- Scottsdale Stadium Seat Replacement

Capital Projects Under Design or Construction

- City Hall Lagoon
- Eldorado Ballfield Renovations
- Grayhawk Community Park Phase I
- Indian Bend Wash Lakes Renovation
- McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Museum Building
- Playground Equipment Replacement'
- Public Pool Equipment Replacement
- Scottsdale Ranch Park Tennis Courts
- Chaparral Park Quad South Ballfields
- Sports Lighting and Expansion
- Troon North Community Park Phase I
- Camelback Park (formerly Villa Monterey golf course)
- Vista Del Camino/Yavapai Ballfields
- Pima Park Water Treatment Plant/Recreation Center
- Vista Del Camino Community Center Remodel

Chair Frost added that the following projects are unfunded:

- Grayhawk Community Park Phase II
- DC Ranch Community Park, Phase I and II
- Troon North Community Park Phase II
- DC Ranch Neighborhood Park
- Whisper Rock Park
- Desert Mountain Neighborhood Park

Commission Responsibilities in Accordance with City Ordinance

- Advise the City Council, when requested by staff, on offers to the City of real and personal property to be used for park or recreation purposes.
- Advise, counsel, and aid the City Council in the purchase, sale, lease or other method of acquiring or disposing of lands, structures, and facilities for use as parks or recreational centers.
- Advise, counsel, and aid the City Council and City Manager in the operation, use, care, and maintenance of areas owned, leased or otherwise acquired by the City for use as parks or recreation centers.

Chair Frost added that, in addition to the above responsibilities, the Commission has assumed the following responsibilities:

- Review and recommend:
 - Park master plans and designs
 - Park names
 - Changes to the Parks Master Plan
 - City co-sponsorship requests
 - Matching sports facility grants
 - Capital improvement budgets
 - Capital projects
 - Art projects proposed for City parks
- Assist in review and selection of architectural and engineering firms
- Host citizen meetings on park designs
- Hear citizen complaints and make recommendations
- Assist in sports field allocation meetings
- Tour and report on park facilities and recreational activities
- Keep updated on park and recreation activities
- Participate in park openings and dedications
- Advocate for parks and recreation
- Represent the best interests of Scottsdale citizens in all deliberations

Chair Frost concluded his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Littlefield asked if the sports field allocation issue is going to be addressed. Chair Frost replied in the affirmative and stated that a policy meeting will be held tomorrow with staff, representatives of the various teams, and Commissioner Petersen as a representative of the Commission. This issue will also be an agenda item at the March 5, 2008 Commission meeting as previously stated.

Councilman McCullagh stated that some of the users of the facilities have made monetary contributions toward ballfield/facility improvements. He asked if these organizations receive special consideration for use of those fields. Mr. Murphy responded that the answer is no. These improvements are made under the Partnership Funding Program and become part of the facility for all to use. Chair Frost added that the field allocation policy is under review to ensure that as many teams as possible are accommodated.

Councilman Lane asked if the organizations that have contributed toward ballfield/facility improvements are given any consideration/preference at all for a specific field. Mr. Murphy responded that the current allocation policy reads that historical information is used to weigh the allocation, but it is not the primary consideration. Councilman Lane asked for confirmation that there is no exclusivity, but there is some consideration. Mr. Murphy responded that is one portion of the current allocation criteria.

Commissioner Duchene commented that as a previous member of an organization that had contributed funds for field/facility improvement, he could verify Mr. Murphy's statement. He added that the Youth Sports Task Force, formed by Mr. Murphy and his department, includes 30 representatives of various organizations and will be participating in developing a more defined policy. While a field allocation policy is an immediate issue, there are other issues that need to be addressed such as parking, field condition, intergovernmental agreements, and school maintenance versus City maintenance.

Councilman Nelssen asked what the Commission's advice and consideration is on the neighborhood trails system. Chair Frost responded that although the trails system was not mentioned in the presentation, there is a Trails Coordinator; however, he did not believe it is under the Parks and Recreation Commission's purview. Ms. Baird confirmed that it is not; the program is overseen by the Preservation Department. She added that Mr. Murphy's department provides maintenance of the trails.

Councilman Nelssen stated he was more concerned with implementation, because there are trails that have been talked about in excess of ten years and he was wondering when they are going to be built. He stated that he was a previous member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and it was always a point of contention. He opined that the plan for a neighborhood trails system seems to be dead. Ms. Dolan responded that, as discussed at Council meetings, after the Master Trails Plan was adopted, it was given to the Preservation Department to implement. However, there was not adequate resources to handle the trails program workload and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve workload. The majority of the resources were used in the Preserve. In last year's budget process, the Council approved two new positions in the Transportation Department and they will be responsible for implementing the Neighborhood Trails Plan.

Councilman Lane asked whether certain activities at the senior centers can be offered to senior citizens only or if they have to be offered to the community as a whole. Ms. Baird responded that all the facilities are built with public funds and anyone can participate in the activities at the senior centers. She acknowledged that there are issues at Granite Reef Senior Center, but staff are working diligently to resolve them. Multi-generational programs are sometimes offered. Councilman Lane said he was thinking specifically of the fitness programs that are designed for seniors. He asked if it is possible to let a certain age group participate in those exclusively. Ms. Baird responded that, generally, only seniors participate in the senior fitness programs; however, if a teen or child wanted to participate, they would be encouraged to attend a class that would probably be more enjoyable; however, they are not denied access to any class.

Councilman Nelssen stated he attended the Thanksgiving festivities at Granite Reef Senior Center and a number of people spoke to him on this issue. They felt that more and more of the facility amenities were being used by youngsters in the community. He asked why the facility was called a senior center if the seniors did not have preference. Chair Frost suggested that a meeting with the City Council and the Human Services Commission is needed. Ms. Baird responded that the facility is called a senior center because the majority of programs are directed toward seniors. Councilman Nelssen stated that the seniors' concern was that they were going to lose their programs as more and more younger people used the facility. Ms. Baird assured him the number of seniors at Granite Reef and Via Linda far outnumber the number of youth and it very unlikely that any programs will be lost.

Vice Mayor Ecton inquired as to whether or not Chandler had just opened a recreation center for youth. Ms. Dolan responded that she did not know the impetus for that center, but it was a priority

in Chandler to provide a community-based center. It is a fee-based recreation center. Council Member Drake added that Scottsdale has several centers of this type that offer a wide variety of recreation opportunities for all age groups. She asked if there is one item that was at the top of the wish list and stated the Council would appreciate having the Commission's thoughts.

Chair Frost acknowledged that the Commission has discussed the need for financing options or bonds. However, this may not be the best time to pursue a bond issue, given the current economic climate. The Bond 2000 monies have been expended and the only money available for next year will be from the General Fund. Chair Frost added that there are unfunded needs, but this is not the best year for a bond.

Commissioner Adams stated that the issues regarding the ballfield allocation and the senior centers are related. There is more demand than resources and this is a challenge for Parks and Recreation to resolve to the satisfaction of the community.

Commissioner Duchene was in agreement and opined that these are the types of issues that could involve the Commission. Mayor Manross added that in the past, Scottsdale has done a good job at projecting needs and trends. She wondered if this has been done recently in light of the fact that the median age in Scottsdale is going down, yet people are living longer. She feels that the community will support the need for new facilities. She agreed that this not a good year for a bond in what appears to be a national recession, but dialogue needs to be started. The help and support of the Commission is welcomed and needed.

Councilman McCullagh stated that the Parks and Recreation "wish list" should not be constrained as a result of the budget. The Commission should continue to monitor what recreational facilities are needed and leave it to the Council and staff to figure out how to budget it. The budgets will dictate the timing on when the facilities are brought online, but the needs do not change—just the timing.

Council Member Drake stated that voter approval of the update to the General Plan will occur in three years. Since Parks and Recreation is a part of that Plan, it is important to not only assess current facilities, but also to have a vision for the future. In addition, the Planning Department is starting their area planning for the southern part of the City and the Airpark, with the idea of doing more focused plans for each area. There is a tremendous opportunity to set some targets in the southern part of the City. Chair Frost responded that the Planning Department gave a presentation to the Commission and he has forwarded a memorandum to Mayor Manross indicating volunteers from the Commission for committee membership for each of the area plans. He was hopeful that they would be approved.

Councilman Lane asked if the Commission has been involved in the public outreach regarding the new museum building at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Chair Frost responded that the Commission has been involved. Vice-chair Faramelli is the liaison and he will attend the public meetings. Mr. Murphy stated that Vice-chair Faramelli has been asked to be on the committee for the Master Plan and there will be additional neighborhood outreach regarding the additions to the Railroad Park.

Chair Frost thanked Mayor Manross and the City Council for attending the Commission's meeting. He encouraged them to contact the Commission to assist in resolving issues that relate to Parks and Recreation.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT (Information Only)

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.

Ms. Patricia Denvir, 76070 Chaparral Road, indicated that her house is two doors from the corner of Miller, on the south side of Chaparral. When she first moved there, it was delightful. Then came the 101 and things got very crowded—ambulances, fire engines, and large construction equipment. In addition, there is a bike path. She voiced concern over the trolleys being on the street. She has looked at the trolleys and feels they are too wide for the street. She showed a map for the proposed route of the trolley, which will run every 15 minutes. With the traffic and existing congestion, she did not feel that this is a viable idea and suggested an alternate route.

Chair Frost thanked Ms. Denvir and suggested she go to the Transportation Commission. He advised her that the trolleys were not under the Parks and Recreation Commission purview.

Mayor Manross thanked the Commission for having the Council join the meeting today.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William B. Murphy
Parks and Recreation Director