



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STADIUM PRESS BOX
7408 E. OSBORN ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: John Faramelli, Vice Chair
George Adams
Jeanne Alspaugh
James Duchene
Ron King
Ronald Petersen

ABSENT: Robert Frost, Chair

STAFF: Linda Ayres, Senior Recreation Coordinator
Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator
Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Manager
Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Manager
Trina Clemens, Admin Secretary
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager
Doug Nesselroad, Parks and Recreation Manager
Jason Wadron, Stadium Coordinator
William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Faramelli called the meeting to order at 5:00 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

At the request of Vice-Chair Faramelli, a moment of silence was observed.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 19, 2008.

COMMISSIONER KING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2008 REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER ALSPAUGH SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

5. 2008/09 PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE

Jeanne Jones, Community Services Budget Manager, will give an overview of the Fiscal Year 2008/09 Parks and Recreation Proposed Operating Budget. The Commission will be provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Ms. Jones reviewed the FY2008/09 Proposed Operating Budget. The City of Scottsdale faces more challenges this year because of the current state of the economy. As a result, the budget is a conservative one.

The Parks and Recreation Division has a \$23.5 million budget that supports 307.42 FTE, including a large number of seasonal and part-time employees. The budget is used to maintain 43 parks, 16 million square feet of highway medians, and staff handles over 500 million citizen contacts annually. Work by volunteers allows the City to save the equivalent of 13 full-time staff.

The proposed budget represents a modest \$91,000 increase over the previous year. This was accomplished largely by increased salary savings, and the lack of new facilities coming on line. Some staff positions were reallocated to cover areas of highest need. The Parks and Recreation Division will make its City Council presentation on April 17. Final adoption is expected on June 3.

In response to Commissioner Duchene, Ms. Jones said 54% of the Department budget is allocated to salaries and benefits, while citywide it is closer to 75%. The Parks and Recreation budget has a higher percentage than average dedicated to utility bills and maintenance.

Commissioner Duchene inquired about the budget cutting process. Ms. Jones explained that every department in the City was asked to reduce their salary expenses and put that money into a contingency. If a problem was to develop during the course of the year, Council could consider taking money from the contingency to cover salaries. This year's budget is in good enough shape that further cuts are not expected. Mr. Murphy added that if drastic cuts were ever needed in the Parks and Recreation Department, staff would bring that to the Commission for input.

In response to Commissioner King, Ms. Jones responded that the Department realizes \$2.3 million in savings due to efforts from volunteers.

6. CIVIC CENTER MALL UPDATE

Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager, will give an informational update on the Civic Center Mall maintenance and events schedule.

Mr. Davis noted that Jason Waldren was named the new Stadium Coordinator, and that Jeff Cesaretti, who was promoted from the grounds crew, will assist him.

Mr. Davis reported that over 130 outdoor events were held on the Civic Center Mall this year, with a total attendance of 140,000. Eight full-time maintenance staff provide coverage seven day per week. Projects in the last year included sod renovation on the north side of the Mall, landscape enhancements to some of the older areas along Drinkwater Boulevard and First Avenue, and renovations to Mayer Garden. The Department also worked with the Scottsdale Pride Committee to plant the Liberty Garden outside City Hall.

7. DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT UPDATE

Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager, will give an informational update on the Downtown Waterfront and recent special events.

Mr. Davis said the Department maintains 97,000 square feet of parking area in the Waterfront project, 1,200 square feet of turf, a water feature and a pedestrian bridge. Staff worked on 24-hour, rotating shifts during Super Bowl week to assist with the needs of the Police and Fire Departments.

In response to Commissioner King, Mr. Murphy said the Loloma School plans to use the new Rose Garden for art classes.

Vice Chair Faramelli inquired whether private development was participating in the maintenance of the Waterfront area. Mr. Davis responded that the developer handles maintenance of the north side, while the City maintains the south side. Mr. Murphy added that the south side developers would be expected to maintain the patio areas of their restaurants, while the City would care for the multi-use path.

In response to Commissioner King, Mr. Murphy said developers have committed to maintain service at or above the City's level.

8. SPRING TRAINING UPDATE

Jason Waldron, Stadium Coordinator, will give an informational update on spring training 2008 and scheduled events from April to July.

Mr. Waldron said 2008 marked the 50th year of spring training at Scottsdale Stadium, and the 16th year that the San Francisco Giants called it their Cactus League home. There were 15 home games with nine sellouts, and a total attendance of 148,935, averaging 9,929 per game. These figures were down a bit from previous years, mainly because of an earlier season start. The stadium is second in attendance in the Cactus League to Hohokam Stadium. A record 1.3 million fans attended Cactus League games this year, and that is

expected to grow as the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians are joining next year.

Scottsdale Stadium is still considered one of the best facilities for spring training. Other events held there include the Giants Fantasy Camp, Scottsdale Charros baseball clinics for youth, the 50th anniversary of the Hashknife Pony Express ride, the Spring Starlight Sleepover, the Arizona Baseball Celebrity Charity Game, K9 trials, and various weddings and corporate events.

Vice Chair Faramelli inquired whether there was something the Commission could do to thank the Scottsdale Charros for their efforts during spring training. Mr. Murphy said he would agendaize a discussion on that issue.

9. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Commissioners will give updates on events and activities they have attended since the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Alspaugh reported that the Vista del Camino grand reopening was fabulous.

10. 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 noted that a residential developer has agreed to abandon 20 feet of right-of-way along 84th Street that leads into Northsight Park. It will be included as part of the City's overall trail plan, and will be maintained at eight feet. The developer will landscape the wall alongside it.

The aquatic staff is busy filling lifeguard positions, the Youth Corps is taking applications until April 30, and the sports complex is hosting the Arizona Soccer Cup through the end of the month.

Arbor Day is April 11. The City is working on an observance event with Scottsdale Leadership at Vista del Camino.

In response to Commissioner King, Mr. Nesselroad described how the TouchProbe security tool works.

Commissioner Alspaugh requested that a representative from the Police Department be invited to discuss issues pertaining to parks, particularly in the southern Scottsdale area.

11. 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.

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
AV-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