

**MEETING OF THE PAPAGO PARK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
Monday, September 29, 2008**

Scottsdale Stadium  
Team Shop  
7408 E. OSBORN ROAD

**Executive Committee Members present:**

City of Phoenix City Councilmember Greg Stanton  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board Chair Phil Richards  
City of Phoenix Past Parks and Recreation Board member Jim Holway  
City of Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman  
City of Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross  
City of Scottsdale Councilmember Betty Drake  
City of Scottsdale Parks Commissioner Bob Frost  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council member Ricardo Leonard

**Executive Committee Members absent:**

City of Tempe Parks Board member Frank Granillo

**Others Present:**

Kathi Reichert	Matt Ashton	Karidill Granville
Mark Richwine	Taylor Ashton	Tim Conner
Shane Anton	Taryn Shapen	Jeff Williams, Sr.
Bill Murphy	Ruben Guerrero	Marc Garcia
Tim Merritt	Cynthia Peters	Jayne Lenin
Brandie Ishcomer	Erica Rivera	

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Drake called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

Committee Members Stanton, Holway, Hallman, Manross, Mitchell, Drake, Richards, Frost, and Leonard were present. Committee Member Granillo was absent.

**2. Papago Park Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2008**

Committee Member Hallman made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2008 meeting. Committee Member Stanton seconded the motion. Approved 7:0.

**3. Reports and Recommendations Regarding Funding Opportunities  
Arizona Centennial Legacy Project Application Status  
Tribal Gaming Grants**

Committee Member Hallman said since there are no funds available at this time, he did not feel there was a need to apply for the Arizona Centennial Legacy Project.

Committee Member Hallman thanked the Salt River-Pima Indian Community for their contributions. Chairperson Drake said she was looking forward to working with the Community.

City of Phoenix Deputy Director Kathi Reichert reported that the City received word from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community that they would be awarded \$250,000 for the master planning process. She added that the City of Phoenix received an unofficial no on a grant submission to the Ak Chin Indian Community, and that the Gila River Indian Community would announce awards in October.

#### **4. Ad Hoc Committee Update Request for Proposals for a Regional Papago Park Master Plan**

Mr. Richwine stated that staff has been working to select a team of qualified consultants to guide the Committee through this process.

Mr. Shawn Wagner introduced Jeff Kratsky from Olsson Associates, and Brian Trusty, Senior Manager from Pros Consulting out of Dallas Texas a sub consultant for Olsson Associates on this project.

Mr. Jeff Kratsky discussed the team working on this project, and the strategies they have worked on thus far. Papago Park is an icon, and his firm fully recognizes its importance to the community. He discussed the master planning process, and stated the team wants to inject some new ideas from other great parks around the country.

Brian Trusty from Pros Consulting gave a presentation which discussed the characteristics of a high quality park. It should be a representative piece of the area and add value to the community in many different aspects. It should be large enough to enable a significant degree of preservation and protection of the habitat. A high quality park should provide opportunities to utilize best practices in managing cultural and natural resources, and provide a variety of different activities. Citizens should recognize it as a diverse, well-maintained location, featuring excellent facilities and innovative programming.

At the request of the Ad Hoc Committee, a list of six great, high quality parks in six cities was compiled to help inspire this process:

- Central Park, New York City
- Balboa Park, San Diego
- Grant Park, Chicago
- Griffith Park, Los Angeles
- Fair Park, Dallas
- Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Olsson Associates will provide a framework to assist the Committee in managing the capacity of the park most efficiently in order to provide a seamless experience to visitors. The goal is to provide safe, diverse, enjoyable, well-maintained facilities.

Committee Member Hallman noted that most of these parks have historic elements to them, in large part because of their ages; the historic elements were built as part of the

original park features. He stated Papago Park includes not just historic elements, but sacred elements that date back over 1,000 years. He stressed the importance of the cultural resource strategies and treatments to protect, preserve, and mitigate harm to these features, and asked that the process afford them special attention. He indicated public disclosure of archeological and sacred sites can often subject them to harm and damage.

Committee Member Frost said ambiance and visual attractiveness is key to a successful park, and asked this be addressed in future discussions.

In response to an inquiry by Committee Member Hallman, Mr. Kratsky indicated there are archeologists and biologists involved in the Eco Plan.

Chairperson Drake asked whether the issue of balancing of the natural areas within the park with the use areas has been addressed. Historical photographs show the levels of degradation, and said a desired outcome would be to upgrade the natural desert quality while still allowing use.

Chairperson Drake suggested the vision and scope of work be identified after hearing from the stakeholders and community. She said it was important to reach out to the public in this process, encouraging out-of-the-box thinking to develop a park that people will love for generations.

Mr. Kratsky recognized that crafting a public involvement process that truly relates to Papago Park and its setting is critical to this process, and indicated that it will also be the most challenging. Initial ideas can be validated and built upon as the process goes forward.

Chairperson Drake said the public workshops will be very helpful in that regard. She noted while there are not a lot of stakeholder groups from Scottsdale within the boundaries of the park, members of the public, citizen associations, the tourism community, and trails advocates are very interested in this project and want to expand the connection.

Committee Member Phil Richards said the Committee recognizes the historical and spiritual value of the park to the tribal community. Those issues might want to be identified with them first, in order to carve the Master Plan around those issues.

Committee Member Bob Frost suggested an Executive Committee group tour be arranged after the scope of the plan begins to evolve.

Committee member Jim Holway said starting with a vision that the park can be something greater than it is would be important. He commended the Consulting firm for their efforts thus far. He said it is important to expand the public's mindset in regard to what is possible at the park. He asked if the Consultant has experience with the multi-jurisdictional aspect like Papago Park. Mr. Kratsky explained there are several instances of this, and generally his consulting team has been structured to address multi-jurisdictional issues.

Mr. Kratsky discussed the challenges and complexities of multi-jurisdictional issues, and stressed the importance of reaching out to the stakeholders. It is important they understand the park's potential and current value, and the constraints to success it currently faces. He stated a good example of a park with multi-jurisdictional issues is Golden Gate Park, where they have over 16 different public and private organizations operating on site.

Brian Trusty from Pros Consulting said community input is key to success; engaging the community meaningfully and providing feedback throughout the process is important.

In regard to the scope and linear nature of the project, Mr. Kratsky said the schedule would show the interrelationships of each of the tasks to one another. This will show the key relationships before moving to the next stage of the process, which is critical. Seeing the schedule aligned with the detailed scope will give a much better feel for the timing and how important the interrelationships are.

In response to Committee Member Hallman, Mr. Richwine explained the team has asked for and received a very comprehensive scope and approach to this particular project. The price that the consultant team has delivered to us far exceeds current funding. At this juncture, the only funding that has been allocated for this project has come at the generosity of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. To date, that amounts to \$384,000. In order to get to the comprehensive plan that the consultant team has proposed, additional funding will be necessary. That should come from the participating municipal agencies. The City of Phoenix may be able to identify funds through the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative, pending Parks and Recreation Board recommendation and City Council approval. The cities of Tempe and Scottsdale will have to ask their policy bodies what level of financial participation they could support. There is currently approximately a \$216,000 gap in funding for all phases.

In response to Chairperson Drake, Ms. Kathi Reichert indicated the City of Phoenix could potentially contribute approximately \$100,000, upon approval by their Park and Recreation Board and City Council. Committee Member Hallman said he would not feel uncomfortable going back to Tempe's policy body and asking for a similar level of participation. Mr. Richwine said they are looking for each city to contribute \$100,000, which would give a little excess working capital to make sure the project is fully funded.

Mr. Richwine said the tribal community has been very generous in their donation, and out of respect for that the Committee should attempt to move this process forward in a timely manner.

In response to Committee Member Hallman, Mr. Kratsky said this process is estimated to take 10 to 11 months. Committee Member Hallman said this would allow the cities time to identify sufficient funding in their budgets. He indicated his hope that the cities can come back with commitments of \$50,000 each in this fiscal year, and another \$50,000 in the next fiscal year.

Committee Member Hallman made a motion to accept the proposal from Olsson & Associates and its team, that the cities' staffs be directed to negotiate and finalize a contract at their determination based on the final assessments from their individual agencies on the total amount of available funding, and that the final scope of work come

back to the Ad Hoc Committee for final approval. Committee Member Greg Stanton seconded the motion, requesting that the motion be amended to include that the final scope of work come back to the Ad Hoc and Executive Committees for final approval. Committee Member Hallman accepted the amendment. Approved 7:0.

Chairperson Drake clarified this would be contingent on the three cities' ability to provide the discussed funding.

## **5. Sandra Day O'Connor House Relocation Effort**

Committee Member Hallman said the City of Tempe has appointed a Papago Park Master Planning Ad Hoc Committee made up of representatives from interested boards and commissions and other community organizations. The group is tasked with working with consultants to get the best community input possible to facilitate outreach throughout the city. Sharon Doyle from Tempe's Rio Salado Commission is chairing the committee.

Committee Member Hallman presented a short video discussing the O'Connor House as part of the greater context of Papago Park. He explained the context for this effort is the Carl Hayden Campus for sustainability, which covers the riparian areas and the raw desert landscape. The entire foundation for the house has been poured and the infrastructure is ready. Reassembly of the house will begin within a month, with estimated completion in spring of 2009.

In response to Committee Member Frost, Committee Member Hallman indicated the entire project will be located within Papago Park. Committee Member Frost noted this is moving forward in its own design context outside the parameters of the project, and that it seems counterproductive. Committee Member Hallman explained the house could have been bulldozed if it was not placed quickly. This project began almost two years ago, and pre-dates the Executive Committee's efforts.

Committee Member Frost asked if any landscaping was involved. Committee Member Hallman clarified there is a small area of landscaping that immediately goes with the house, but part of the bigger project is to re-vegetate that area in a way that fits with the Master Plan. He discussed protected sacred elements around the house site. These pieces need to be re-examined in regard to providing public access and protection. The Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community has donated \$200,000 towards the revegetation of that portion of Papago Park; however, that will not go forward until the Master Plan process is complete.

Chairperson Drake noted there was a lot of urgency regarding preserving the house, and said she is sure it will be folded seamlessly into the Executive Committee's final plan.

## **6. Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative Public Input Process**

Committee Member Stanton said the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative renewal passed overwhelmingly in the May election, with 87 percent of the public supporting a

renewal of the sales tax. He expressed his desire to make Papago Park a big part of that initiative.

Cynthia Peters discussed the initiative renewal; 60 percent will be dedicated to park amenities, and 40 percent will go toward the acquisition of preserves. The results of 10 community meetings and an online survey revealed citizens' top priorities to be shade, restrooms, picnic areas, increased park maintenance, preserve development, security lighting, dog parks, golf course improvements, and pool renovation.

Ms. Peters discussed criteria for selection of projects and fiscal capacity. Estimates indicate approximately \$30 million a year can be raised over the next 30 years, with the ability to double that through bonding efforts. In regard to criteria, parks that need major renovation such as Papago and Encanto are priorities, as well as projects that require limited operating and maintenance expenses.

60 percent of the funds will be used for the renovation of parks; potential improvements could include restrooms, ADA facilities, shade, major irrigation system upgrades, upgrades to golf courses, community centers, and pools. These issues were raised during the community input process. Continued development of incomplete parks will be considered with community centers and sports facilities. In addition, Phoenix will be looking at the acquisition of future park sites.

All of this information will be presented to the City Council in mid-October, and will return to the Parks Board with a preliminary capital improvement plan. The final plan is anticipated to go before the Phoenix City Council in mid-November.

Committee Member Richards said this forces a look at public and private partnerships. In difficult economic times, common ground and consensus can be reached regarding problems and their resolution.

#### **7. Election of a New Committee Chair**

Committee Member Hallman nominated Committee Member Ricardo Leonard as the new Executive Committee Chairman. Committee Member Frost seconded the motion. Approved 7:0.

#### **8. Call to the Public**

None.

#### **9. Future Agenda Items**

Committee Member Hallman said coming back to the Committee with the signed contract is important.

#### **10. Next Meeting/Meeting Schedule**

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Mr. Richwine said to allow time for each Committee Member to work with their respective policy bodies, the meetings should be held quarterly. He expressed hope that another meeting could be held before the end of the year.

## **11. Adjournment**

Chairperson Drake adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V-Tronics