



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
VIA LINDA SENIOR CENTER
10440 E. VIA LINDA
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85258
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Robert Frost, Chair
John Faramelli, Vice Chair
George Adams, Commissioner
Jeanne Alspaugh, Commissioner
James Duchene, Commissioner
Ron King, Commissioner

ABSENT: Ronald Petersen, Commissioner

STAFF: Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator
Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Manager
William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director
Jan Cameron

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost 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

Chair Frost called for a moment of silence.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 17, 2008.

COMMISSIONER KING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER ALSPAUGH SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on Capital Improvement Projects including Grayhawk Park, Camelback Park and Civic Center Mall renovation.

Mr. Barnard stated that the Grayhawk Park project was originally budgeted for \$8,943,500, using a combination of funds from Bond 2000, the general fund, and a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The project consists of a four-field, multi-use sports complex, a restroom/concession/maintenance building, a playground, lights, and parking. Phase 1 is estimated for completion in the fall of 2009. Staff met with the residents of the Grayhawk community on September 8. The budget was not large enough to cover all of the amenities that were originally considered during the design phase. The off-leash dog area, in particular, is currently unfunded.

The Camelback Park project is being built on the former Villa Monterey Golf Course property. A total of \$3.1 million in general fund money was used for the acquisition and conversion of the property into a linear green space park, including a new lake, pumps, irrigation system, walkways, and vegetation. The property came with a deed restriction that limited its use to either a golf course or a green space park. The project is about 80% completed, and should be finished by the end of November of 2008.

The Civic Center Mall renovation consists of two projects, a \$467,000 project to rebuild a restroom, and a \$970,000 project to re-design the western edge of the mall. The restroom project is already underway. A contract for the re-design project was awarded to A Dye Design. The project's goals are to create better ADA and pedestrian access, and to open up the western approach to the mall. In response to Vice Chair Faramelli, Mr. Barnard said the project manager is Doug Makinen. Staff would welcome input from a Commission representative. In response to Commissioner King, Mr. Barnard noted that Scottsdale has an ADA Coordinator who will provide guidance on the Mall redesign project.

Commissioner Duchene inquired about the nearest off-leash area to Grayhawk. Mr. Barnard responded that there is a small dog park at Horizon Park. Vice Chair Faramelli inquired about the cost of the off-leash area. Mr. Barnard explained that utilities would need to be extended to the proposed area of the park. It would also likely require its own parking and restroom facilities. The cost of those improvements would likely be over \$2 million.

Chair Frost asked why the restroom project on the Mall would cost so much. Mr. Barnard explained that there was an issue with the original design, and that contract was cancelled. The site presents significant challenges to creating the desired amenities, while conforming to the feel of the existing mall area.

Chair Frost requested a future agenda item to discuss the appointment of a Commissioner to the Mall renovation project.

6. FITCITY SCOTTSDALE UPDATE

Leslie Clark, Parks and recreation Manager, will update the Commission on the community-wide wellness initiative, FitCity Scottsdale.

Ms. Clark said the vision of FitCity is to bring together community-wide health and wellness resources to establish Scottsdale as the fittest city in America. The project began through the efforts of community leaders who formed a planning committee that has been meeting for the past year. A website survey has been created to gain insight into the community's current fitness level, and to identify existing risk factors. There will be a luncheon in November to launch FitCity, and a community rollout will occur on January 24. Activities will be centered on some of the walking routes downtown. Plans include expanding the website, establishing a sustainable program, and eventually establishing a not-for-profit organization run by an executive director.

Commissioner King asked whether it would have been appropriate for the Commission to be involved with FitCity during the planning stages. Ms. Clark responded that the project is still in the planning stages, and Commissioners are welcome to attend the meetings.

7. LUCKY DUCKY DERBY EVENT UPDATE

Nicole Garcia, Director of Phoenix Events, will present an overview of the 2009 Lucky Ducky Derby duck race to benefit several Arizona Charities, May 17, 2009 on the Scottsdale Waterfront.

Ms. Garcia said the goal for 2009 is to have 50,000 ducks in the race. The goal is to beat Cincinnati, which currently has the biggest race. The event is being held at the Scottsdale Waterfront. The event raised \$17,000 for Phoenix Children's Hospital, and nearly \$10,000 for other charities across the Valley.

The Commission viewed a brief video on last year's event. Ms. Cameron said the event is a good way to attract people to the downtown area, and get them involved in supporting local charities. The ducks are collected afterwards and reused.

Commissioner Alspaugh said the event would benefit from more publicity, as it was lacking last year. Many people did not know about it until it was over. Ms. Garcia explained that the media plan has been improved for this year's event. Commissioner Duchene suggested working with the schools to announce the event. He also suggested that restaurants and businesses might be interested in offering gift certificates as additional prizes. It would drive more traffic to Scottsdale businesses, without costing the event money.

8. MCCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK PRELIMINARY BUILDING DESIGN

Staff will give an overview of the public input meeting at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park held on September 27 regarding the preliminary building design.

Ms. Cameron reported that the project architects gave a public presentation of the design on September 27. Twenty-four people attended the meeting, with the majority being from the resident railroad clubs that will be housed in the building. She noted that the existing drawings are preliminary, and the Commission would have a chance to view detailed drawings as the process continues. The goal is to build a 10,000 square-foot building. The City of Scottsdale has earmarked \$2.4 million for the project, and an additional \$3 million is needed to make it a reality. A fundraising effort is underway. The users and neighbors of the park have expressed their support. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009 for completion in the summer of 2010. Chair Frost said that having citizen involvement in the process makes a strong statement.

Ms. Cameron confirmed for Vice Chair Faramelli that the preliminary design is intended for fundraising purposes. It does not indicate exactly what the final design would be like. Mr. Barnard added that the interior of the building is close to its final form. Everything else is open to modification.

9. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Commissioners will give updates on events and activities they have attended since the last Commission meeting and discuss dates for an upcoming park tour.

Commissioner Duchene reported that he is serving on the Fees and Charges Review Team, which meets annually to determine charges for various programs. He asked the Commission to share their concerns and suggestions, which he could pass on to the Team.

Commissioner Duchene noted that New York Life is soliciting grant and charitable donation requests through October 15. They are placing an emphasis on youth this year. He suggested that either FitCity or Scottsdale's after school programs could benefit from this funding.

Chair Frost noted that he sits on the Executive Committee of the Papago Park Project. The Committee is looking at the facility as a whole. The park sits in Phoenix and Tempe, but Scottsdale borders its northern edge. An architectural planning team has been hired to gather input and make recommendations on how to make the park into a renowned public facility, comparable to parks such as Balboa Park in San Diego. Public input will be extensively gathered. The design portion alone will cost about a half a million dollars. Each of the cities is being asked to help develop the plan. Mayor Manross and Councilman Drake also sit on the Committee from Scottsdale.

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 reported that the aquatics group has started classes at McDowell Mountain Ranch and El Dorado Parks. The over seeding process for the Civic Center Mall is finished, and flowers are being planted. The Rail Fair will be on October 11th and 12th. The Scottsdale Sports Complex is hosting the Arizona Soccer Cup, the Hammer Cup Tournament, and the Serrano Pro Classic Tournament. Scottsdale has become a real destination for many of these tournaments, bringing in many people from other states. Scottsdale Stadium is hosting the Arizona Fall League beginning next week. The Championship game is scheduled for November 22. Youth Sports has kicked off its fall program with 35 football teams and 28 volleyball teams. October 6 is the opening of the new Yavapai ball fields.

Chair Frost requested an agenda item to discuss a replacement for Commissioner Petersen on the Youth Allocation Program.

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.

Rico Francisco stated there was unprecedented interest in the dog park at a recent Grayhawk HOA meeting. The community needs one now. He suggested that a temporary dog park replace the fourth ball field until Phase 2 can get underway. Many taxpayers have pets instead of kids and this facility would improve their lives.

Carl Ekberg said dog owners need something in the area. There is no need for a restroom or utilities, beyond water for the grass. It does not need to be as expensive as the proposal suggests. He supports the idea of temporarily replacing one ball field with the off-leash area. The community was promised a dog park.

Paul L. Hanson said local media and professional sports teams would jump to support the Lucky Duck Derby. He felt the cost of the proposed restroom for the dog park was too high. He supports the idea to temporarily replace a ball field with the dog park. The community does not need separate restrooms or parking lots. The people who supported the dog park were not aware that the meeting was taking place, or more would have shown up to support it.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 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 with a large initial 'W'.

William B. Murphy
Parks and Recreation Director