



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WORK STUDY SESSION
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 (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)
Jeanne Alspaugh, Commissioner
James Duchene, Commissioner
Ron King, Commissioner

ABSENT: Ronald Petersen, Commissioner

STAFF: William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the study session to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. WORK STUDY

Chair Frost noted that the purpose of the study session was to discuss goals for the upcoming year. He reported that Scottsdale did not receive any awards at the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) conference. He suggested a greater effort be made this year to apply for awards.

Chair Frost asked the Commissioners to suggest items they would like to have added to future agendas.

Commissioner King requested that the City consider waiving recreational fees for non-profits.

Vice Chair Faramelli said he would like to give a report on his involvement with the South Scottsdale Area General Plan Update Committee. Chair Frost said such reports could be presented during the time allotted to Commissioner comments.

Commissioner King asked that the Transportation Department be invited to report on the bicycle element of the Transportation Plan.

In response to Chair Frost, the Commission indicated that it would like to schedule a meeting with City Council again this year.

Chair Frost suggested a joint work-study session with the City of Glendale's Parks and Recreation Commission. They were very active at the awards banquet, and are very involved as a group. Perhaps both Commissions would be able to learn from each other.

Vice Chair Faramelli said the Commission should brainstorm to come up with creative solutions to alleviate the field capacity problems. Commissioner King asked whether it would be possible to lease facilities at schools that are being considered for closure. Mr. Murphy said School Board is still trying to determine what it is going to do about school closures. He said the Commission could request an update from them.

Commissioner Alspaugh suggested an agenda item to discuss which Commissioners would represent the Commission at staff meetings.

Vice Chair Faramelli requested a report on the feedback that has been received from the public outreach efforts associated with several use permits. It would be nice to know what the community's comments are. Mr. Murphy said staff attends those meetings and could provide a report on them.

Chair Frost asked the Commission to consider which goals it wanted to pursue over the next two years. He said it is important to understand the Commission's role in terms of advocacy, what steps need to be followed, and how the Commission should communicate with City Council and staff.

Commissioner Alspaugh said that considering the budget constraints that are expected over the next few years, it would be important to make sure that the City is offering the right programs.

Chair Frost suggested the Commission could provide feedback to help identify where potential cuts could be made, in the event of budgetary cutbacks. Such support would be helpful to staff.

Commissioner Duchene said he would like to ensure that the Commission is adding value to the staff's efforts. It takes time away from staff's regular job to prepare for meetings, and much meeting time is spent on informational items. The Commission

should focus more on advocating for certain positions. If the Commission is going to take a stand on budget priorities, it has to be involved in the process.

Chair Frost suggested that the Commission adopt a parks bond issue as its goal. The City of Phoenix now has a 1/10 of a percent sales tax that is used for parks. The measure received approval from 87% of voters. The Commission could get input from Scottsdale citizens to determine what they would like to see in a similar initiative, and whether they would support it. He also suggested that Cynthia Peters be invited to discuss how she was able to get the effort started in Phoenix. Preservation could also be invited into the process. Vice Chair Faramelli said a bond issue is a huge project, and expressed uncertainty whether a sales tax would be the best way to proceed. Chair Frost responded that answering such questions is exactly why input from experts and citizen groups would be necessary.

Commissioner Adams said resource allocation is a big portion of the Commission's job. A bond would be the next logical step. Commissioner Duchene felt the Commission should take a leadership role and serve as a lightning rod in proposing such initiatives. Vice Chair Faramelli said once the Commission understood the current budget situation it would have a clearer picture of the projects that would not be funded. The Commission could then start looking into other sources of revenue to fund them.

Commissioner Adams suggested looking further into the concept of a shared-use facility between Scottsdale and the Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community (SRP/MIC). The Commission could explore partnering with them to develop a destination for youth sport programs, which would improve tourism and revenue opportunities for both communities. Vice Chair Faramelli said it would require a lot of patience to work through the process, but the Commission may have the necessary resolve to do it. He noted that the SRP/MIC has already identified land for recreation facilities.

Commissioner Adams said the field allocation issue is not going to disappear. The demand is increasing, and there is not enough land in Scottsdale to meet it. Being proactive is the only way the Commission can affect any change.

Commissioner Duchene said that at some point, the Commission would have to look into some of these topics to evaluate them. He asked whether any national organizations have resources that would enable Scottsdale to get a handle on things like that. Chair Frost suggested a discussion to prioritize the items first.

Commissioner King said the Commission plays an important role in encouraging dialogue with the community. The more information that staff has, the better the decisions it can make.

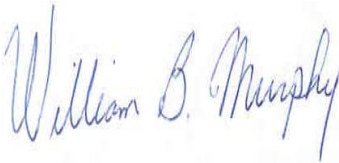
Commissioner Duchene suggested enlisting the help of the local newspapers to spread the word that the Commission is looking for input from the community.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the study session adjourned at 4:45 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