

**CITY OF SURPRISE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2019 / 6:00 PM

**Surprise City Hall – Community Room
16000 North Civic Center Plaza
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374**

CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members: Wayne Turner (Chair), Ron Jensen (Vice Chair), Charlie Woodland, Steven Berwald, Raymond Grim, Bill Pupo
Absent: Mark Brown (excused)

City Staff: Donna Miller and Marla Babb

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports:

Chairman Turner: Welcomed commission member Bill Pupo.

D. Staff Reports:

Director Donna Miller announced that the Maricopa County Library Board of Directors recently eliminated overdue fines which will allow for more customer access and service.

Friends of Surprise Libraries have agreed to donate \$15,000 for the Hollyhock Branch to continue to support Saturday hours. They also agreed to donate up to \$6,000 for the outdoor Asante Library book drop.

Parks and Recreation ordinances that were recommended for approval at the April Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting were approved by City Council in June. Staff is working on updating signage.

A new Park Ranger was hired this summer.

The Department officially changed their name to Parks and Recreation (from Community and Recreation Services) on July 1.

Several members of the Parks and Recreation Department have attended emergency preparedness trainings, for events and activities in the past six months.

Paul Frie completed the National Recreation and Parks Director's School last week and is now certified. This was a two year program.

New commission members were added as members of the National Recreation and Parks Association.

City is looking to open Hollyhock Library additional hours on a trial basis starting in January. Ongoing budget for additional hours will be discussed at the next regular meeting as part of the department FY 21 budget and the department's priorities and goals.

Staff provided the 2019 fall edition of the Recreation Times brochure.

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the July 4th event, which was held in Mark Coronado Park. There was a band, backyard games, food trucks and fireworks. Attendance was 21,000 guests. There was no baseball game in the stadium because of field renovation project. The event went really well.

Upcoming programs and events for Fall:

- Fiesta Grande on October 12th, 5-9 pm in the Original Town Site.
- Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th, pancake breakfast 7:30 am, The Veteran's Reflection Circle ribbon cutting at 8 am and parade starts at 10 am.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Andy Cepon: Surprise Resident – see agenda items 4 and 5

CONSENT AGENDA

- E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda
No items were identified as consent agenda items.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to approve minutes from April 22, 2019.

Commission Member: Charlie Woodland made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2019 Commission meeting. Vice Chair Ron Jensen seconded the motion, 6 yes votes. Passed.

Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and action to appoint a chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for a term ending on June 20, 2020.

Wayne Turner was nominated as the Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission by Ron Jensen. No other nominations. Ron Jensen made a motion to appoint Wayne Turner as the Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Steve Berwald seconded the motion, 6 yes votes. Passed

Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and action to appoint a vice chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for a term ending on June 20, 2020.

Charlie Woodland nominated Ron Jensen as the Vice Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission by Charlie Woodland. No other nominations. Charlie Woodland made a motion to appoint Ron Jensen as the Vice Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. Steve Berwald seconded the motion. 6 yes votes. The motion passed.

Item 4 – Discussion, and possible direction by the Commission, on dog park area signage related to size/weight.

Donna Miller provided background and purpose of the discussion, provided information gathered from other cities, enforcement language and summary of options. Staff have received feedback from just a few members of the public that signage related to dog areas needs to be updated. Research completed reveals there is no consistency among cities, some are separated by size and others are based activity level. Surprise current dog parks signs are based off size and include a weight of more than 20lbs and less than 20 lbs.

Consensus from the commission was leaving it small and large areas and remove the weight amount.

Call to public:

Andy Cepon, Surprise resident: Dogs should be separated by activity level passive/active. There are a number of issues, it is a safety issue, and dog breeds differ. Greyhounds, Jack Russells are fast and run, these dogs may get mixed in with large senior dogs and the senior dogs would then need protection as they are not active, they are passive. The Commission should be concerned about public safety, and base rules on active/passive dogs. Dog parks in the city are the most highly utilized square footage in the city. The city is 5 dog parks behind. Also the city should open a puppy park. Cell phone use is also a problem; cell phones should be restricted at the dog park. People on their cell phones; do not keep an eye on their dogs.

Item 5 – Discussion regarding an update to Parks and Recreation mission statement.

Director Miller provided current mission statement as well as some considerations and examples of other city mission statements. With the recent department name change, staff began discussing a possible chance to update mission statement change. Director Miller, mentioned that the mission statement does not currently speak to connectivity, parks, quality of life, or trails and open space.

Chairperson Wayne Turner and Charlie Woodland said they were good with the current mission statement. Charlie Woodland also said, we have world class facilities and awesome programs for the public, the mission statement applies. Bill Pupo said that the mission statement is broad based and applicable. Once the department obtains open space and trails this could be added.

Call to the Public:

Andy Cepon, Surprise resident: The Parks and Recreation Mission Statement needs to reflect the 2035 Plan, the mission statement should have something stating the connectivity to greater county/state system. The mission statement should also reflect the protection of wildlife corridors.

Item 6 – Update on Recreation Projects:

Director Miller provided an update on recreation projects and provided a powerpoint with pictures:

The Asante Branch Library is on track to be completed in December and the grand opening expected to be in January 2020.

Dick McComb Dog Park lighting project is completed and well received by users.

Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex lighting project has been completed which lit the eight remaining unlit courts.

Steve Berwald: asked the cost of the tennis project and if the lights are LED. Director Miller said she would get back to him with the final cost and yes they are LED lights. Wayne Turner asked if staff has seen an increase in play. Staff has not tracked additional use yet but will look into it for future reports.

Gaines Youth Ball Field, design architect has been hired, will include residents of the original town site during the process.

Raymond Grim asked the size of the field and who would be playing on it. Director Miller said she believes it is 200-210 and youth games would be played there. Ron Jensen asked if the city received the Diamondback grant for this. Director Miller stated that the city applied but did not receive the Diamondbacks funding.

Parks and Recreation Department lobby renovation project complete. Provides much needed security. Ron Jensen stated the glass does not seem as customer service friendly but understands that it needed to happen.

Surprise Stadium field renovation is complete and turf in growing in.

OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business and Future Agenda Items

Director Miller stated that the meeting will be held on Monday, October 28th and the FY 21 budget process and the 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting dates will be determined by the commission at that meeting.

Commission Member Raymond Grim, said he would like to see if discussion regarding trails in the area of 163rd Ave and Jomax could be included. Residents in the area are concerned about losing their horse trails. Director Miller mentioned that she will reach out to community development to come and discuss trail connectivity and multi-use as part of the master plan. Commission member Pupo asked if Parks and Recreation still receives all development applications, Director Miller said yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Charlie Woodland, 2nd by Steve Burwell, 6 yes votes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Donna Miller, Director
Parks & Recreation

CERTIFICATION:

I, Marla Babb, Recreation Division Manager for the City of Surprise Parks and Recreation Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting held on August 26, 2019.

Marla Babb, Recreation Division Manager

