

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

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 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, Paul Frie and Marla Babb

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports:

Wayne Turner - Was unable to attend the Fiesta Event but did hear good things about the event and understands the location but also heard comments from residents that don't like the parking situation for the event. Wayne is concerned about parking in the future, since we are losing the parking lot that the public parks in due to relocation of the Gaines Ball Field. The event had approximately 9,000 people and not everyone used the shuttle. The event is a source of pride for original town site, however Mark Coronado Park was fenced for events such as this, the event could grow in this location and be controlled.

Charlie Woodland: Patrons are parking at Rio Salado Community College and being shuttled over for Fiesta Event. Charlie also commented on possible lack of parking along Bullard for spring training since Rangers facility has been built.

D. Staff Reports: Paul Frie, Assistant Director

Updates

- Currently recruiting for Administrative Specialist for the department, interviews being held this week and next.
- Tennis comparison evening participation with new lit courts – 100 or so more participants in evening compared to 1st quarter last year. Keep in mind lights didn't come on until mid – late July and this fall was warmer than last year.
- Ottawa Recreation Center – programming is being planned for January. Will be in the Winter/Spring Recreation Times.

Past/Current and upcoming activities

- Family Fun Day for 186 soccer and flag football teams on Saturday, October 26 at the Surprise Rec. Campus. Players and coaches all received a FREE bag of kettle corn after their game. The Cardinals mascot **Big Red** came out to visit our teams from 9-10am. Festivities included face painters, balloon artists and seven bounce houses.
- Special Olympics Swim competed in their Area Games on September 14th. The team events earned two gold medals and one 4th place award. The athletes who competed in the individual events earned a total of six gold medals, five silver medals, seven bronze, five 4th place awards, and two 6th place awards.
- Sundays in the Park resumed on September 15 with approximately 2,300 in attendance with live music by the band *Lane Change*. Sundays in the Park Food Truck Festival on October 20 had just over 5,000.
- A teen bubble soccer tournament was held at Mark Coronado Park on September 21 with 40 participants.
- Movie in the Park featuring “Wonder Park” was held on September 28 with approximately 1,200 in attendance at Mark Coronado Park.
- This fall 27 teams are using the Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex as their home courts, along with OUAZ Men’s and Women’s Teams.
- Staff implemented a new USA Quick Ball program which introduces youth to the game of baseball in a new innovative format.
- Surprise Fiesta Grande was held on October 12 in Original Town Site from 5-9pm – just under 9,000 visitors, over 70 cars in car show. Staff still compiling information and patron evaluations for final report. We know we need to address parking next year since we will lose parking area once ball field relocation is complete. Looking at old RV park area possible temporary event parking.
- Adaptive Family Fall Fest on October 26 from 5:30-7:30pm at Sierra Montana Rec Center 36 participants
- The Parks and Recreation Department hosted Laser Tag area during GAIN NIGHT event on October 26 at Mark Coronado Park.

Upcoming:

- Adaptive Family Fishing Derby – Nov 2nd
- Veterans Day – Monday, Nov 11th – Breakfast 7:30 am, Veterans Reflection Circle Ribbon cutting 8 am. Parade 10 am
- Fall youth baseball, softball, tee-ball and volleyball season kicks off this Saturday, Nov. 2 with over 1,900 participants on 180 teams. Teams will play a total of 720 games November 2-Dec. 14.
- Food Truck Fest – November 17th – 12 – 4 pm and Dec 15th 4-8 pm
- Surprise Party Dec 6th and 7th

Maintenance: Significant work completed at Community Dog park

- New fence with bottom rail added – fence line was moved enlarging small dog area.
- Amended irrigation stations to provide proper layout
- Trees thinned to help with turf thinning issues – some sissoos removed /damage to concrete

- Doggie stations amended to improve aesthetic and functionality.
- Added sod

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

John Yeager:

City of Surprise goes well beyond what is needed for ADA accessibility and is a wonderful place to live. I would like to see a wheelchair swing for all ages incorporated near Dreamcatcher Park, the Surprise Community Park or in a Surprise park. Mr. Yeager provided a handout with details and website on the swing.

Margaret Lieu:

Margaret is the Chair of the Arts Commission, however as a resident she would like to provide feedback for the Fiesta Grande Event. The stage with the mariachis in front of the business vendors was nice, as well as the business vendor area, however the business vendors or art area could not hear anything due to the mariachi stage. Would like to see one of those placed in a different location. She warns against moving the event from the Original Town Site as that area does not have many events. Would like to see more cultural elements added to the event so that there is more of a “Fiesta” feel to the event, maybe work with the arts commission or with area groups to elevate the event.

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 October 28, 2019.

Commission Member: Charlie Woodland made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2019 Commission meeting. Ron Jensen seconded the motion, 6 yes votes. Passed.

Item 2 – Internal – Discussion, consideration and action on setting future Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission regular meeting dates for 2020.

Commission Member: Steve Berwald made a motion to set the 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meetings for **Jan 27, April 27, Aug 24, and Oct. 26**. Ray Grimm seconded the motion, 6 yes votes. Passed

Item 3 – Citywide – Update on Recreation Projects

Director Donna Miller presented a PowerPoint and provided an update on recreation projects. Project Updates were on: Asante Library, Shade Projects and Gaines Youth Baseball Field relocation.

The Asante library will be complete in December and grand opening will be Saturday, February 1st @ 10 am. Shade projects are scheduled for Community Park playground and Marley Park Splash pad.

Design consultant has been hired to complete design for relocating Gaines Ball field. There will be a special meeting in the original town site once 30% design is complete.

Charlie Woodland inquired about the Gaines family in regards to the project. Assistant Director Paul Frie reported that staff met with Jerry Gaines to provide an update on schedule and suggestions for a dedication and monument with information on his father Floyd Gaines. Director Miller also mentioned that historic pictures of the field will be displayed at the new community center in at the new Heritage at Surprise housing development.

Item 4 – Consideration and action regarding Library hours.

Director Donna Miller provided a PowerPoint on Hollyhock and Asante Library hours.

Hollyhock Library Hours:

- 6 months of expenses approved by city council Oct 1st
- New hours to go into effect January 2020.
- Will provide more access to resources and programming.
- Staff will monitor attendance reports and plan to submit budget package during the FY21 budget process to continue the hours.
- Current Hours (18hrs per week)
 - Tues and Thurs. 1-7pm
 - Saturday 9 am -3pm
- Proposed Hours (36hrs per week)
 - Mon –Tues. 1 – 7pm
 - Wed – Fri 11am – 5pm
 - Sat 9am – 3pm

Proposed hours are based on library staff recommendations after receiving input from Hollyhock library users as well as best practice to maximize hours for programming and usage.

Asante Library Hours:

- Proposed Hours (48hrs per week)
 - Mon – Wed 10 - 7pm
 - Thurs – Sat 10 am - 5pm
- Asante Library Grand Opening, Saturday, February 1, 2020

Discussion:

Bill Pupo: What does it cost per hour to run Hollyhock Library? What does this cost include? Would like to see the financial numbers, it is important to have fairness and parity between all the libraries. Factors that should be examined: staffing levels, collection, youth and education.

Director Miller: I don't have the hourly cost for each library I can definitely get that information to you. Keep in mind the three libraries are very different in square footage, capacity, collection size, staffing and programs.

The current hours suggested, do not include hours on Sunday, what is the strategy there?

Director Miller: The recommendations were provided by Maricopa County Library District, Sunday is not predominately a big traffic day for libraries.

What is the census count in the area of Hollyhock Library for K-12? For those that live south of Grand Ave; is Grand Ave a barrier for the library?

Director Miller: I don't have census count for the original town site with me today but I can get that information. I have heard from residents that state Grand Ave can be a barrier.

Bill Pupo: I know the Friends of the Library have provided funding for additional hours for Hollyhock Library, which is very much appreciated however I do not feel that it is their responsibility to provide this funding, this should come from the city.

Ray Grimm: Hollyhock Library: I believe library hours M - TH, should be open to 7pm, so it would be consistent. How will the city market the new hours of Hollyhock Library to the public?

Director Miller: social media, at events (such as Fiesta Grande) the school district will be notified, press releases, collateral with new hours will be printed and distributed.

Charlie Woodland: What is the senior traffic at Hollyhock Library? Suggestion shows no morning hours, perhaps that is a time senior would like.

Director Miller: The new hours will be monitored and based on feedback from the users, if they need to be adjusted, we can bring them back to the commission.

Steve Berwald: Did current library staff track hours of use by the public and is that what they are basing their recommendations on?

Director Miller: Library staff asked for feedback from users on what hours they prefer. The County operates a number of libraries in the valley and have recommendations based on maximizing the hours for programming and user requests.

Director Miller: Asante Library slide

Asante Library is slated to be open 48 hours. Times posted on the slide are similar to Goodyear Library which is the same size. Goodyear now has increased their hours to include Sunday.

Wayne Turner: Comment that Asante may need hours on Sunday in the future.

Ray Grimm, I move that the Hollyhock Library hours be Monday through Thursday 1-7pm, Fri. 11am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 3pm. And Asante Library, Mon – Wed 10am - 7pm, Thurs – Sat 10am - 5pm. Charlie Woodland, second the motion. Vote, 5-1 (Steve Berwald opposed).

Call to the public:

Skip Hall: I am interested in the cost per operating hour and comparing the three libraries. I understand it would be fixed costs. This could make a difference in increasing hours or staff.

Alyson Cline:

I am the President of Friends of the Surprise Libraries. Thank you for adding hours to Hollyhock Library. The area around Hollyhock Library is the most underserved area of the City of Surprise. The Friends of the Library donated \$15,000 last year so that Hollyhock Library could be open on Saturdays until 5pm. This was done in hopes that kids could do their homework and have access to the internet. Councilman Remley helped to get the library opened on Saturdays and Maricopa County accommodated. Regarding additional hours, kids need to be able to have access during the week, after 5pm to do their homework and have internet access (most do not have in their homes), so they would then access this from the library. This would be a huge benefit to the community.

Item 5 –Citywide- Parks and Recreation Master Plan update

Director Donna Miller provided a PowerPoint and overview of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that was approved by Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council in 2015.

Bill Pupo: Does the city Planning and Zoning Department support the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

Director Miller: Yes, in fact maps from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are incorporated in the General Plan. The General Plan and the Master Plan were being updated at the same time, which provided the opportunity for them to support one another.

Ray Grimm: The presentation said there is currently no open space in Surprise, what does that mean?

Director Miller: Surprise city limits really do not have much open space but there are opportunities to partner with entities. These include White Tanks, the McMicken Dam area, wildlife corridors, CAP, and Bradshaw Mountains. These areas are owned by other entities, and most are outside current city limits. Partnering to utilize the area for future recreation and conservation purposes such as trailheads and hiking trails, picnic areas.

Bill Pupo: Rancho Mercado Park donation is smaller than originally planned and if not donated to the city will it become commercial?

Director Miller: No it will not. Staff is working with the developer on a plan for the park.

Ray Grimm: the Master Plan is showing park land listed on the map, where in the city is this?

Director Miller: It is not specific; it is just specifying it would be a good general area for park land.

Bill Pupo: Are these city parks or HOA parks. A city park and an HOA park are not equal. There is talk about HOA pools being built rather than city pools, an HOA pool is not comparable to a city aquatic center. Are the parks that developers are donating drainage swells? In my opinion those are not worth it, the city should be investing in good property for parks use.

Donna: The potential developed parks identified in the master plan are city operated parks.

Call to the Public:

Andy Cepon: I am extremely disappointed, there is no park south of Grand Ave. In the past the city had 5 to 6 dog parks planned, there was a plan for one in Marley Park and Asante Park. We are 5 to 6 dog parks behind now. I know pools and splash pads are needed but we are far behind in dog parks. Previous master plan had more dog parks listed. Dog Park is an inexpensive amenity. Peoria has dog parks at Sunnyslope, Parkridge, Alta Vista, Scotland and Pioneer Park for 168,000 people. In Calgary there are 15 dog parks per 100,000 people. National Parks and Recreation 2015, dog parks are the fastest growing segment in city parks, an increase of 34%. In 2018 there was a 40% increase in dog parks.

Item 6 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion related to the preliminary FY 2021 Parks and Recreation Department budget process.

Director Miller provided a power point for this item.

Bill Pupo: What is the issue with part time staff pay?

Director Miller: We are having a hard time hiring staff for minimum wage when other places are paying more. There is also an issue with compression in pay rates, some of the part time position pay, are getting close to starting full time hourly pay. Staff is working with HR on a plan.

Steve Berwald: The lights on the old pickleball courts need to be replaced, how can we add that as a budget package? Surprise Pickleball Association is willing to kick in money. The lighting on those courts is horrible and we are losing tournaments due to them.

Director Miller: They would be an asset replacement item and I am not sure what year they are scheduled for replacement. Typically items that are critical or safety related are prioritized first.

Bill Pupo: Recreation amenities remain the same since 2003, Dick McComb Park was the last amenities added. The MAG lists the City of Surprise growth to be 650K, Maricopa County is to increase by 4 million, and other cities have positioned themselves with regional parks and preparing. Recently, the Arizona Republic, said Surprise keeping with reputation as an older city by having apartments for 55+. How are we going to attract young families when recreation amenities are not being added or funded? I would like the City Manager or the CFO to come to a future meeting and discuss future budgeting in regards to recreation and planning. I would like to know how much the city is carrying in reserves and considerations to address recreational needs. Recreation was cut out of the last bond but recreation amenities are still needed. How is the city going to be diverse? How is

the city going to support or fund the master plan? Buckeye and Goodyear have done a good job preparing. Developers will continue to turn land into money. I am not criticizing, but I would like to know what direction the city is going. The city needs to be inclusive and diverse, conversation should be going on now or we are going to be behind.

Item 7. Citywide- Consideration and action pertaining to future agenda items.

Budget information and possible discussion on how to fund future parks and recreation needs.

Discussion regarding accessible swing.

Hall of Fame inductees

OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business and Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

Charlie Woodland made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ron Jensen seconded it, 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