

**CITY OF SURPRISE
COMMUNITY & RECREATION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2009 / 6:30 PM
SURPRISE RECREATION CAMPUS
15960 N. BULLARD
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER: 6:36pm

A. Roll Call

CRS Board Members: Wayne Turner - Chair, Ron Jensen – Vice Chair, Mary Lou Youngblood, Lou Provenzano, Melissa Sturtevant, Mike Hawkins (absent), Mark Brown (absent)

Ex-Officio Tourism Board Members: None present

City Staff: Mark Coronado, Melissa Miller, Donna Miller, Joe Kennedy, Tara Combs, Dana Garr

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports – Ms. Youngblood shared a pamphlet from NYS that depicted “Surprise” sports programs that may give the perception that they are affiliated and produced by Surprise’s Community & Recreation Services. Mr. Coronado has noticed the aggressive national campaign by the for-profit recreation program. Some cities don’t provide recreation and allow third parties to come in. Surprise has chosen to offer programs and is challenged on the facility usage issue. Young Champions still distributes their flyers in the schools, but the city is not permitted to do the same. Ms. Sturtevant advised that Avondale’s little league is not run by the city. They were challenged as well since the quality of the program was an issue. Calls requesting information because of the perception that the 3rd parties are partnered with Surprise should be documented. Ms. Youngblood requested that the issue be forwarded to the city attorney for review of the use of “Surprise”, as it is confusing to residents. Mr. Coronado reiterated that the findings of the Moses Anshell study were that Surprise’s recreation programs were attractive and popular. As we grow, third parties will be able to find a niche in the overflow required to meet demand. The issue is when games and the pickup of uniforms and supplies are held outside of Surprise. It’s hard for residents to tell the difference until they are told they must travel to meet requirements and participate in some competitions at venues outside of Surprise. Ms. Youngblood inquired into the maintenance schedule of the community park and whether it was affected by budget cuts. She was concerned for the condition, especially on high traffic days and weekends. Mr. Coronado advised the recreation budget was cut by 1.3million. Facilities are now maintained by mostly part time and seasonal workers, which have had a reflection on the quality of care. Mr. Kennedy, Parks Maintenance Division Manager advised night shift was cut the most and weekend attendance is up. He is working to revise the schedule to accommodate the season and provide for more coverage. Mr. Turner requested an update on soccer and football registrations. Mr. Coronado advised we met our goals. Over 1900 player registrations; 1100 of which are soccer with 90% being residents. We have struggled to keep fees low. For Pop Warner, 11 facilities will be requested.

D. Staff Reports – The Cancer Treatment Centers of America Tennis Tournament returns to Surprise on Friday, October 9. We are up 110% in ticket sales as compared to this time last year – from 120 to 240+ and are at half capacity. The playing field will be held third week of September which will include Agassi and Courier via conference call. Gold packages (5 sessions) are selling across 216 zip codes, many from outside of Arizona. Two partners provide over six figures in sponsorship. Twenty vendors will be in vendor village as well as a CRS table. We are trying to make a regional event and reaching out to Trevor Brown and

Phoenix Union area high schools to serve as ambassadors. TV spots on Fox Sports and others have been finalized. Ms. Youngblood recommended additional sponsorship opportunities with Morgan Stanley, Smith Barney who will have over 2,000 new employees by this time next year. M. Coronado advised the Sundancers will serve as ambassadors this year.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. John Busuttill requested to speak on item one. See attached handouts provided by him as background for his position.

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 possible action to recommend a change to the ordinance regarding radio controlled or model airplanes in city parks.

See attached exhibit as provided by Mr. Busuttill who presented a proposal to identify an area where radio controlled park flyers (Styrofoam, battery operated with 15min run time, speed less than 60mph), can be flown. He explained that the park flyer is not like the internal combustion gas propelled flyers that exceed 100mph and that they are no more dangerous than a baseball. Staff worked with Mr. Busuttill to understand how other jurisdictions handle these same requests. Mr. Coronado advised that he appreciated the work and appropriate request of Mr. Busuttill whose prudent participation in the process of approaching the board to make this recommendation is commended. To formally change ordinance, if the board so desires, staff would need to go to council. Mr. Kennedy advised it was hard to regulate and enforce this type of activity. Ms. Sturtevant advised she preferred the battery operated models over gas due to the damage to the turf. However, once one is allowed, the other group will want equal opportunity. A place, time and days of the week may need to be defined with perhaps an alternation location. The board requested staff move forward with issuing a temporary permit to conduct the activity with council request to follow at a later date.

Mr. Provenzano asked if there were clubs for this activity. Mr. Busuttill, believes there are 4-5 others but crowds will be drawn to the activity and will want to join. Mr. Coronado advised staff will contact Police and the ranger to advise CRS is issuing temporary permits.

MLY - Motion to approve temporary permit to fly park models in the 8-acres and at Surprise Farms with recommendation to request Mayor/Council approval for a permanent process. RJ – Second. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and possible action to recommend revision of municipal code pertaining to leash ordinances and park rules regarding animals in city parks.

Mr. Coronado advised staff is finding groups holding dog training camps and lessons in city parks. This use is not appropriate where kids and sports play. Staff is requesting board support for the creation of designated on-leash and off-leash areas and to look at modifying municipal code to reflect stronger language to require owners be in physical control of their animals while in designated park areas.

MLY – Motion to create designated on leash and off leash areas. Lou Provenzano – Second. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to identify a location for a temporary dog park in Surprise.

Mr. Coronado shared the current conditions of the dog park and that maintaining is especially tough this time of year due to germination. By providing a partial closure and moving to a temporary park staff would better be able to keep the area from deteriorating. Ms. Youngblood suggested woodchips or fake turf due to health issues as well, which staff will research. Joe Kennedy advised they have tried putting in a drain line and rotating two week regularly. Mr. Coronado advised that recommending this item may require staff to bring back a request to go before council to expend funds that were not anticipated for this project. Lou Provenzano moved to identify a temporary dog park facility in Surprise. Seconded by Ron Jensen. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to recommend development of a second dog park in Surprise.

Surprise Farms was discussed as a potential second dog park location. Mr. Coronado advised two residents were against a second location in the past, however, would like to recommend staff look into a second dog park that may use council contingency on a budget for next year. Approval of a concept is requested. Ms. Youngblood opposed the Surprise Farms option and believes the issue would be due to past lawsuits because of the noise, especially for home base businesses. Significant discussion regarding the merits and potential issues with the site ensued. Mr. Coronado offered that the board could recommend that staff contact the homeowners association to pole the neighborhood to see if a open to a dog park in their area. Ms. Youngblood motioned to recommend the City research alternatives to a second dog park in an area not highly residential. Second by Ron Jensen. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 5 – CITYWIDE – Report on the status of the IGA with Dysart Unified School District.

Mr. Coronado overviewed that the city is now requesting a meeting with the district governing board and council. The District advised the city to work things out amongst themselves. The district now wants to charge fees. The city's position is that it has given considerations (land, waived/paid development and impact fees) in lieu of the facility use charges. If an upcoming meeting goes to public forum, the CRS board may be requested to attend to reiterate the projects that the CRS board has recommended for approval in the past that has benefited the board.

Item 6 – CITYWIDE – Report on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the YMCA.

Mayor and council approved the MOU that requires staff to work with YMCA to conduct a feasibility study with details on land, funding, etc. to be determined within 18months. The study won't start until next fiscal year. Mr. Jensen was surprised to hear that one was being considered being that one is being built in El Mirage. He asked if it would be located in Surprise. Mr. Coronado advised perhaps in 10-15 years in Asante where they could program. Ms. Youngblood asked if this was cost saving measure. Mr. Coronado explained that as the city gets older, these partnerships will be more valuable and that building partnerships is part of the city's strategic plan. El Mirage has a tremendous debt service. YMCA is not necessarily a resident facility and may also serve Wittman, etc.

Item 7 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to endorse working with Special Olympics to extend the contract for the fall games thru 2010 and to enter into discussions to locate a west valley office in Surprise within two years.

Mr. Coronado advised that staff was working in good faith to extend the agreement with Special Olympics to hold the fall games in Surprise. The former executive director is no longer with the organization. This is a marquee event for the city but is subsidized by approximately \$20-\$30,000 each year. With a new executive director coming on board, staff is voicing that Surprise would like to negotiate for a west valley office in Surprise, perhaps with using existing office space. There is lots of competition for this. Details of the contract would come back to the board. Concept is that staff would be one person partially subsidized. Paul Frie and Joe Gladieux were complimented for doing a remarkable job and getting two national awards. This the 9th or 10th in just five years. Ron Jensen motioned to approve the contract negotiations, seconded by Melissa Sturtevant. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 8 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to endorse the Sundancers proposed Junior Sundancer volunteer program.

Mr. Coronado advised the intent of the program is to consolidate the various volunteer groups that support Buddy Ball, the recreation centers, and various other youth programs. This will create a contingent of teens under the Sundancers umbrella where the experience and qualifications of the senior group will service to mentor the juniors and formalize the volunteer program. No additional funding is required. Ages will be 13-17 and may help those students trying to earn service hours for National Honor Society or scholarships. An example would 5th quarter Friday night games where 9-10 teens will help monitor other teens. If done right, the program should receive valley wide recognition. Ms. Youngblood suggested having the senior Sundancer's present at the local schools. Motion to approve – Ms. Youngblood. Second Lou Provenzano. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 9 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to recommend council approve a modified fee structure for facility rentals and program fees.

The City Manager has requested that all fees go back before Mayor and Council. The ranges were recently updated by staff, and presented previously, and are already approved in the budget process. Staff has taken measures to try to keep costs down. Participants were surveyed to see if they want to drop certain items from the programs such as the NFL replica shirts. Feedback was no, parents want to pay for quality. Ms. Youngblood motioned to present the recommended fees to council. Lou Provenzano seconded. 5 yes/2 absent/0 opposed. Motion passed.

Item 10 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and possible action to place items on the next agenda.

Present City Attorneys recommendation regarding the use of "Surprise" on third party flyers.
Update the board on the park model airplane permit process.
Discuss board meeting times.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Youngblood complemented staff on their efforts on the Cancer Treatment Centers of America Tennis Tournament. Mr. Turner commented that Andre Agassi will bring tremendous exposure. Mr. Coronado advised the CRS board needs to be the voice of economic impact and perception. Media impact of 27 markets with 3-4 weeks of replays to follow will be significant. Mr. Agassi is looking forward playing in Surprise and will be staying in the west valley. Ms. Youngblood commented that the salary ranges of families with kids in golf and tennis are high. Mr. Coronado advised John Austin in researching tennis academies and a tennis school in Surprise would be huge. Courier is excited because it's the first time in awhile that Agassi has wanted to play competitively. Mr. Turner inquired if there were more large tournaments to come. Mr. Coronado replied that any tournament would need to be a dollar-for-dollar

recovery. Mr. Provenzano asked if the construction of a permanent facility is based solely on approval of the bond. Mr. Coronado advised that it was but will be hard to determine if a no vote means that citizens are not for building out tennis or if that a no vote is simply due to the economy.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be **Wednesday November 4, 2009 at 6:30pm.**

Motion to adjourn by Melissa Sturtevant, second Mary Lou Youngblood.

ATTEST:

Mark Coronado, Director

CERTIFICATION:

I, Dana Garr, Analyst for the City of Surprise Community and Recreation Services Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the CRS Board meeting held on September 15, 2009.

Dana Garr, Analyst

POSTED:

TIME:

Linda Stevens, Deputy City Clerk

SPECIAL NOTE: Individuals needing reasonable accommodations, such as large print materials and oral/ ASL interpreters, should contact the Disability Advocate at **623.222.3821** (Voice) or **623.222.3802** (TTY/VP) at least three (3) business days prior to the event so arrangements can be made.

August 24, 2009

Dear Sirs:

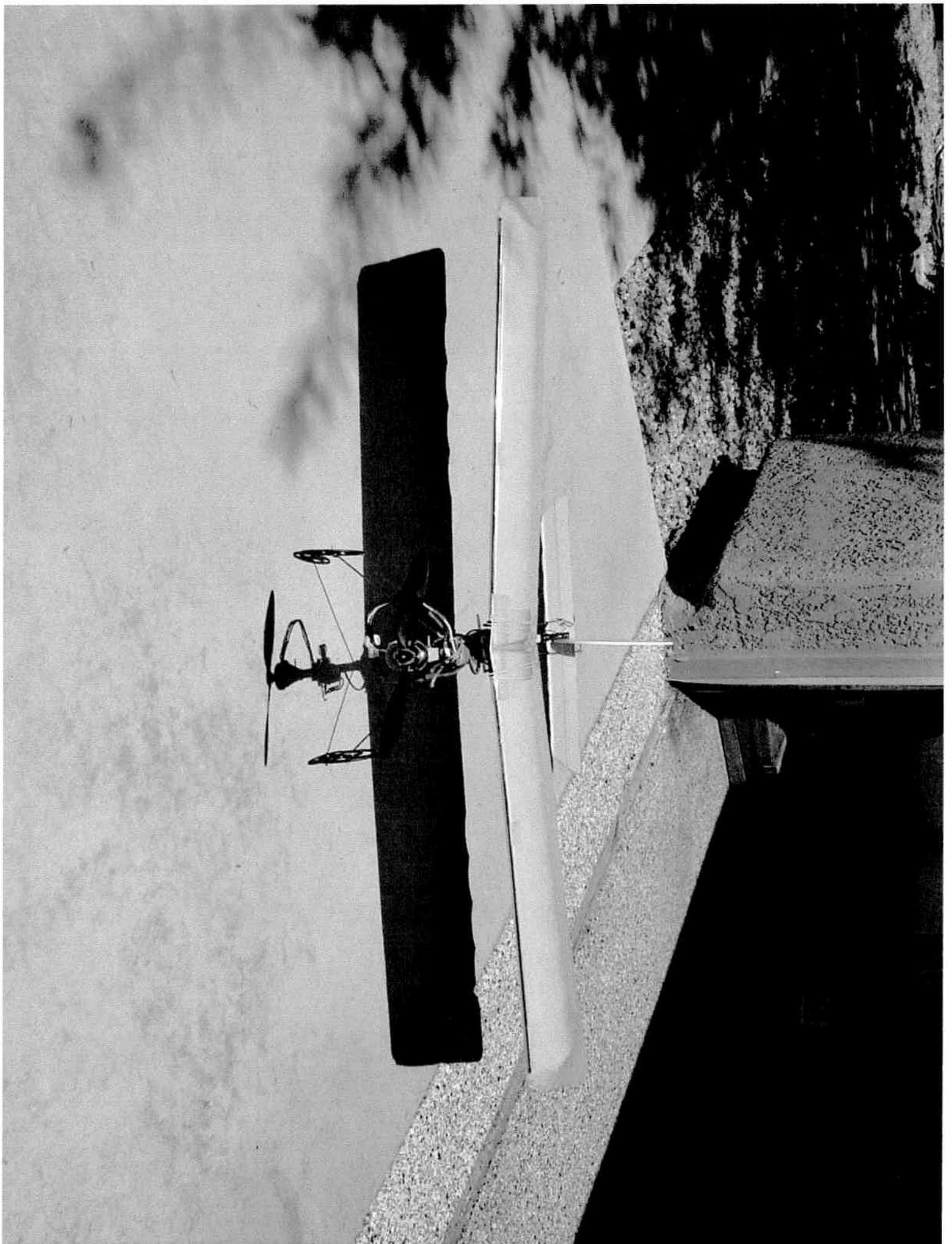
This proposal is to request that the town of Surprise provide an area where Park Flyer RC models are permitted to fly. The 8 acre park has a local Ordinance that prohibits RC models and it is all inclusive.

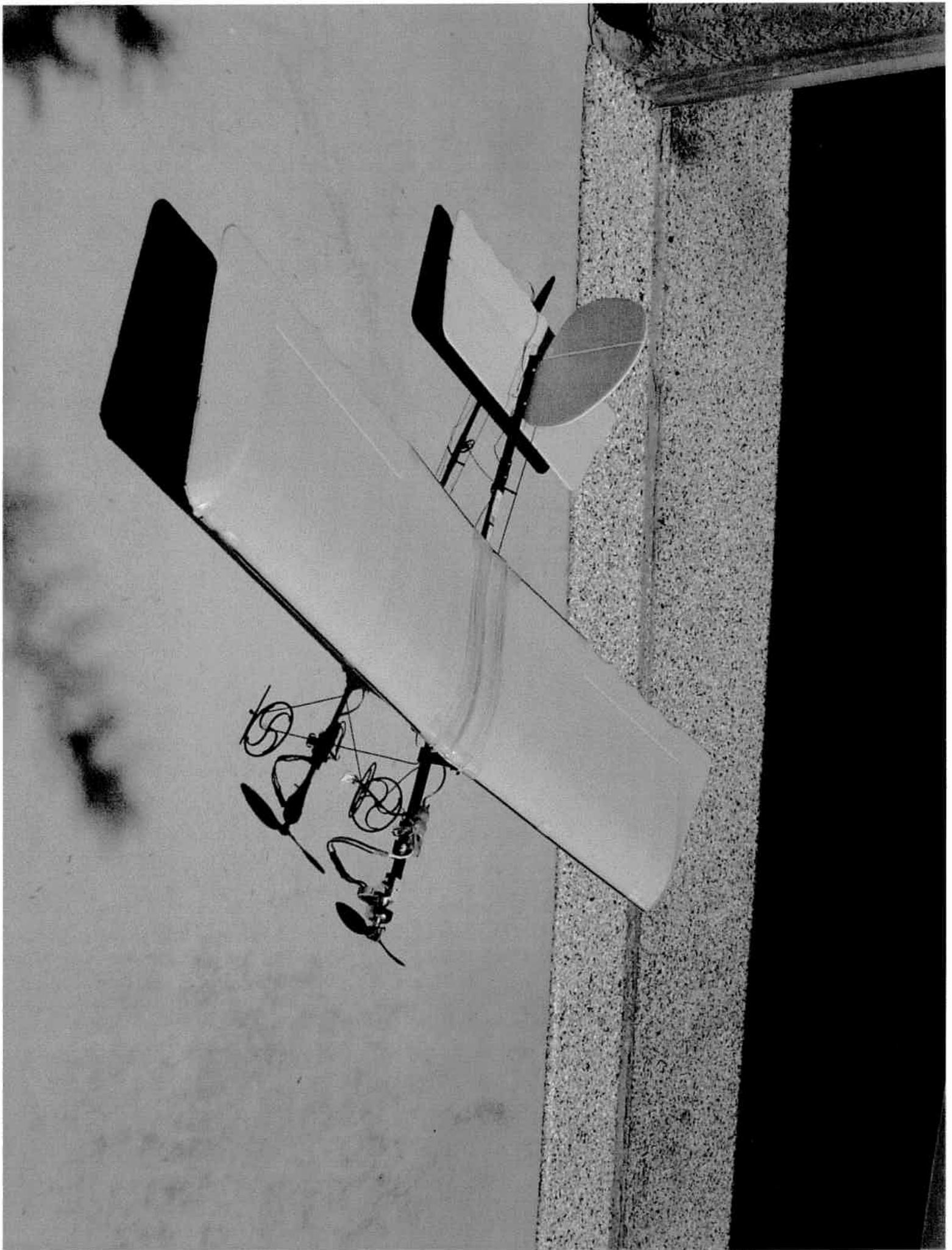
There is a very large difference between RC model airplanes and park flyers. The regular RC models mostly use internal combustion engines and can weigh much more than 2 lbs. They are able to travel at speeds greater than 100 mph. They need a dedicated flying area. The park flyer by definition is quite different at less than 2 lbs and a maximum allowable speed of 60 mph. Their construction is mostly of Styrofoam They are battery powered and have only 15 minutes at best before the battery will not have sufficient power to run the small propelling electric motor however, enough to control the plane to a safe landing. They, in my opinion, are no more dangerous than a baseball, football or soccer ball. The 8 Acre Park may be ideal for this purpose, except for the light poles which are the only obstructions, when not in use with another activity and used responsibly by the park flyers. There may be other town property that would also be suitable. In Bethel, Washington the park flyers are allowed to use most any dedicated soccer or football field when they are not in use. There are many other park flyers in this area who would appreciate a place to fly. Why not in Surprise and get more use of the 8 Acre Park or any other recreational area of sufficient size?

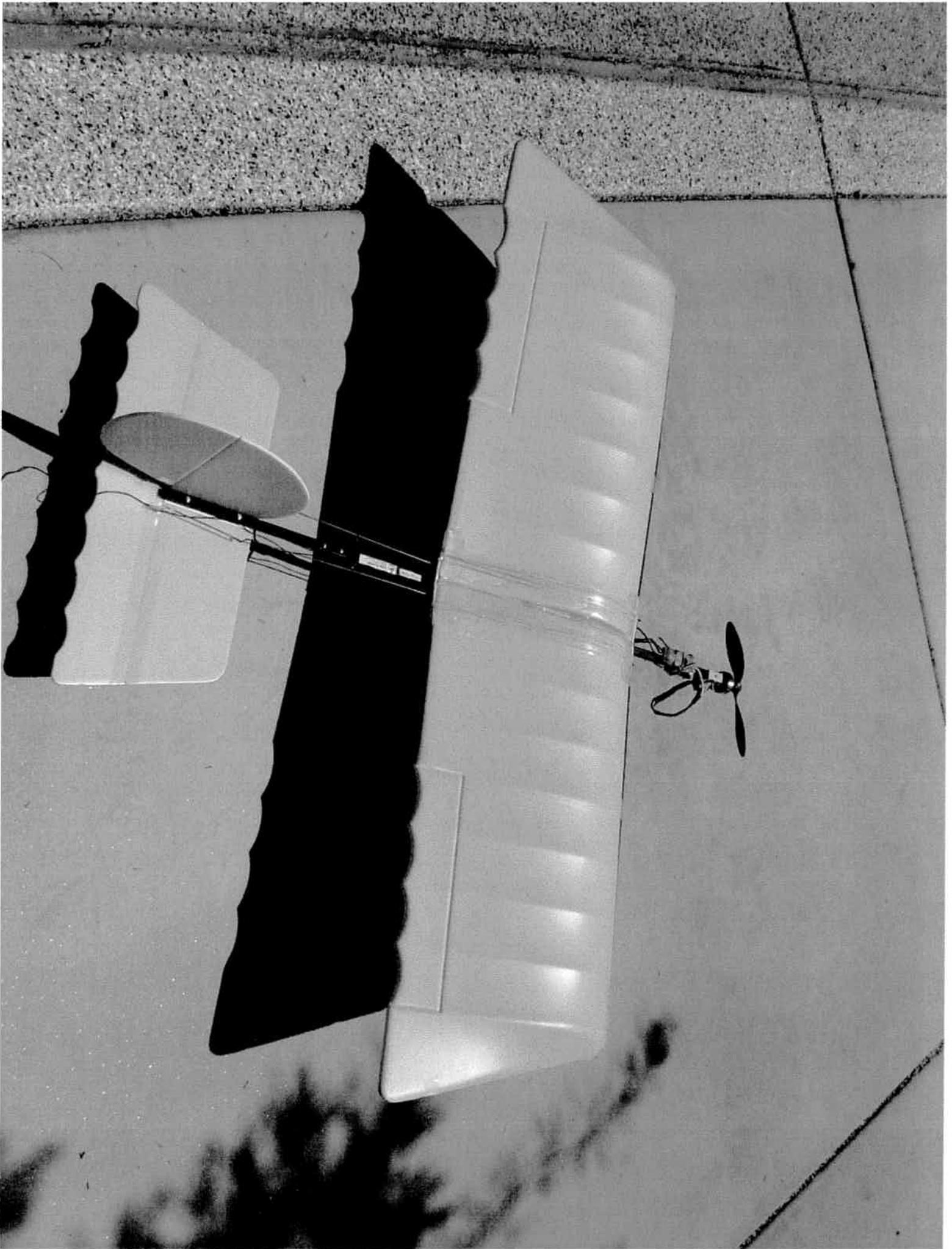
Attached are pictures of a typical park flyer trainer and is the one I fly. Also included is a listing of other towns in the area and their position on RC models provided by the Parks Maintenance Division Manager.

Sincerely,

John Busuttil







Model/ Radio Controlled Airplanes Survey Information

Model/Radio Controlled Airplanes	Glendale	Peoria	Phoenix	Scottsdale	Mesa	Surprise
Flying permitted in city parks?	No	No	No	No	No	No
Are there designated areas for flying?	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Allow permits outside of designated areas?	No	No	No	No	No	No
City Code/Ordinance/Municipal Code	Article 3 Div 2 Sec. 27-51	Chap 18 Sec. 18-62	Chap 24 Sec 24-49	Article 3 Sec. 20-31	Chap 10 Sec. 6-10-3	Chap 38 Sec. 38-20, 30

Glendale - Although their ordinance states that radio controlled airplanes can be flown in city parks designated for them, there are currently no parks dedicated to this activity. They also do not have any designated areas outside of parks allowing radio controlled airplanes. The City of Glendale does not allow radio controlled airplanes to be flown on city property, nor do they have a permit process in place to allow this activity.

Peoria's municipal code states that model airplane flying is a "regulated activity" and only permitted in parks and recreation areas allowing it, but currently there are no delegated areas for this activity. Peoria does not issue permits to fly model airplanes anywhere on city property.

Phoenix has eight parks designated for the flying model airplanes. These parks are open to the public and do not require a permit for flying.

An individual can only fly in these designated parks and cannot receive a permit to fly anywhere outside the areas.

Scottsdale prohibits the use of model airplanes to be flown in any city park, and at this time they do not have any areas designated for this activity. They also do not have permit process to allow the flying of the radio controlled air planes.

Mesa allows individuals that are members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics to fly radio controlled airplanes in one Basin in East Mesa.

The airplanes are not allowed to be flown in city parks and an individual cannot receive a separate permit to fly outside of East Mesa.

Surprise Code [Chapter 38, Sec. 38-20, (2)] does not allow or provide permits for model airplane flying, rocket launching, or model boat sailing.

Primary reasons for Surprise not allowing the activity fall under Sec. 38-30. Permits. (3) (a) and (b):

Model/ Radio Controlled Airplanes Survey Information

- That the proposed activity or use of the park and recreation area will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the general public's enjoyment of the park and recreation area.
- That the proposed activity and use will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the promotion of public health, welfare, safety, and recreation.