

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

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

February 9, 2010 / 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, Mark Brown, Lou Provenzano, Melissa Sturtevant, Mike Brown, Mike Hawkins

**Ex-Officio Members:** None present

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports – none

D. Staff Reports –

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No requests to speak on non-agendised items. However, speakers were present for agenda Item #3, Budget update. The board opted to take the agenda items out of order to allow the public to address item #2 first.

**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 the minutes from December 8, 2009 meeting.**

Taken as item #4. Motion to approve minutes – Mary Lou Youngblood. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Jensen. 0 opposed.

**Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Update on the current FY2010 budget and potential impacts in FY2011.**

Taken as agenda item #1. Alvin David, Donald Black, Al Ramirez, Dahlia Guerrero, and Ana Diaz of Surprise, and Al Ramirez (Hollyhock Librarian) of Glendale all spoke in support of maintaining Hollyhock library services.

Comments included: Few libraries are embedded in a neighborhood like Hollyhock is. Closure no big deal for those with transportation, but that facility mostly serves kids without transportation. Facility is like a home to the neighborhood kids. Staff provides bilingual homework assistance.

Kids have been asking for longer hours since the library closes at 5pm and they get of school at 4pm.

Facility provides internet access to those who can't afford it.

Mr. Coronado advised that staff is working with the County and has a meeting scheduled in one week to explore alternatives. The City is sensitive to the high youth user rate at Hollyhock. However, after last year's cuts, over \$200,000 in cuts through June this year, and a much larger figure being considered in FY11, CRS is approaching almost 2.5 million in cuts over the last 18 months.

Ms. Youngblood inquired about changing the hours to accommodate school schedules, and if another funding source is such a low income and diverse area is available. Mr. Coronado advised grant opportunities are being explored, with sensitivity to hours. Resident user counts are being established. Having been tasked with finding another \$250,000-\$500,000, revitalizing facilities is hard to justify and high frequency areas will be prioritized. A meeting with Interfaith today explored ideas for multigenerational programs at the old Community Initiatives building. Having a public presence at this meeting provided a venue for advocates of keeping the library open to be heard.

Mark Brown requested staff take the public comments to the meeting with the County to advocate for the library. Need to establish how deep the cut back in hours will go. Why not service the after school population. Extend or adjust hours to maximize service days/times and emphasize the vitality of a library to the community.

Mr. Hawkins – Education is at the forefront of what I do and I hate to see library cuts.

Ms. Sturtevant – Agreed with trying to find creative ways to accommodate the children.

Mr. Provenzano – Is cutting hours the only cost cutting measure? Perhaps senior volunteers?

Ms. Youngblood – Review other ways to cut the fat. Friends of the Library may be an option.

Mr. Brown – Keep it open and work it out.

Mr. Jensen – Find a way to look at it to keep young minds going.

Mr. Turner – Do what we have to do – the public presence at today's meeting is evidence of what we need to do.

Mr. Coronado – we will report to the City Manager that there is consensus not to reduce services at the Hollyhock Library.

The board's comments established a consensus to review ways to maintain services at the library.

### **Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to approve the recreation pass program.**

Taken as item #2. Staff presented the draft brochure outlining the benefits of the recreation pass program, or S.C.O.R.E. Card.

- Provided discount over paying individually for classes, programs, open play, open swim, etc.
- Assist with attendance counts to programs and the pool.
- Limit the amount of time cardholders stand in line.
- Value and bonuses can be added throughout the year such as concessions coupons, and Spring Training promotions.

Staff will incorporate the board's suggested changes to the collateral for the program and resubmit for approval at the next meeting.

### **Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to approve changes to the City of Surprise Youth Scholarship program.**

Taken as item #3. Staff presented the current process for approving scholarships as well as a study of other valley cities' practices for vetting applications. Currently, proof of income OR participation in a DES or food lunch program allowed for program discounts of up to 80% or in many cases, only a \$2 charge. Surprise has seen the amount of scholarships subsidized significantly increase over the past two years. In FY08 and FY09, \$28,000 and \$39,000, respectively was subsidized. At the current rate, the scholarship program is on track to spend over \$80,000. Additionally, there is no cap on the amount of scholarships provided.

Proposed changes to the process included requiring current proof of income rather than accepting undated DES or food program participation paperwork. Research of this item uncovered the practice that many schools do not diligently check an applicant's qualifications before allowing them to participate in the free lunch program.

The board inquired into efforts to find other ways to fund the program. Discussions included some of the following options:

- Approaching the teams and Sundancers
- Creating incentive points towards discounts if a donation of time or money made to the program
- Suspend the program
- Cap and limit the program
- Provide incentives for volunteer coach's kids to play for free
- Find a charity to fund
- Drop subsidy to \$75 per family.
- Cancel the program
- Create a foundation to support the program
- Change the eligibility criteria

Ms. Youngblood - Motion to accept the recommended change to the scholarship program documentation criteria to provide proof of income and remove the lunch program as proof, reduce the subsidy from \$150 to \$75 per child, and for staff to work towards creating a foundation for the board to serve on that will create a nonprofit that can fundraise and accept donation to support youth programs, youth scholarships and other youth activities within one year.

Seconded by Mr. Provenzano. 0 opposed. Motion passed.

### **Item 5 – CITYWIDE – Update on the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Dysart Unified School District.**

Update on council's action to appoint Councilman Williams to represent the City of Surprise and Ms. Tanner to represent the district in future discussions.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Provenzano provided suggestions for increasing attendance at the Stadium and posting on website and billboards the current and upcoming activities in the stadium.

**ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. The next meeting will be April 13, 2010 at 6:30pm.**

Motion to adjourn by Lou Provenzano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa Sturtevant. 0 opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

**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 February 9, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.