

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

October 12, 2010 / 6:30 PM
SURPRISE RECREATION CAMPUS
15960 N. BULLARD
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER: 6:28pm

A. Roll Call

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

Ex-Officio Members: Skyler Heck

City Staff: Melissa Miller, Joe Kennedy, Dana Garr

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports – Staff provided names of the marquee tennis stars and announced the mixed doubles match between Anna Kournakova and Ashley Harkleroad for the CTCA Tournament.

D. Staff Reports – Staff advised budget goals for Football and Soccer were met. Chairman Turner asked about the scholarship process. Staff advised the criteria for award was revised and the number subsidized will be updated in a future report. All who have needed assistance have been accommodated. Ms. Youngblood asked why soccer was at 6:30pm, especially for the 4-6yo kids. Staff shared that the schedules and practice times are set by the volunteer coaches. The younger teams were given the choice of earliest schedules. Also, the number of teams versus the available fields is also an issue. Other parks are used in a joint effort with the coaches. Mr. Provenzano asked about CTCA ticket sales. Staff advised that Kournikova was draw but walk-up sales have not yet been accounted for, until after the tournament.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Public present requested to reserve comments until after the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Items were addressed out of order with consensus from the board to accommodate guest presenters and public wishing to speak on specific items.

Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Discussion on the public meeting held on September 14, 2010 regarding the potential for a second dog park located in Surprise Farms.

Melissa Miller provided an overview of the September 14, 2010 public meeting and reiterated that several amenities were identified as needed in Surprise Farms. The conceptual idea of another dog park in Surprise with two options for its amenities was presented; with fencing, shade and fountains and another with just fencing in a dog run.

Ms. Youngblood clarified that a dog run is all dogs together and not segregated by size.

Ms. Miller overviewed the comments received on September 14 and clarified that funding of construction is a onetime budget request and annual maintenance is an ongoing budget request. We can't build it if we can't maintain it. Per the board's direction, staff explored some options.

Examples of Fountain Hills' blended program where the city licenses was presented. An example of impact to Surprise for moving in the Fountain Hills direction was presented as was potential revenue ideas with the understanding that more research needs to be done.

Ms. Youngblood inquired about the homes directly across the street from the area directly impacted by a dog park. Her past experience in Huntington Beach, California was the city was sued. Mr. Jensen suggested direct, specific outreach to those homes.

Mr. Brown asked if a percentage of spring training revenues can be set aside to address the dog park. Ms. Miller advised there are joint team agreements that may make funding an amenity not at the campus hard to do.

Mr. Turner called to the public to speak on this agenda item.

Resident Andy Capon stated things didn't feel accurate. Doesn't account for Surprise already has animal control enforcement. \$157K in revenue potential exists. There could be 20-30,000 dogs licensed with proper enforcement, would bring \$300K in revenue. A 1/3 of this is what Fountain Hills pay. This is a sure funding method that accounts for penalty fees as well when aren't renewed if properly enforced. I have been at council meeting and coffee talks and many think this is not a bad idea. I anticipate city payback by next budget cycle if implemented timely. Additional revenue can be spent on other projects. Owners want spay/neuter programs, etc and can grow to stand along animal facility. It is user based and will provide a safer environment. Currently, dog park is closed for two weeks. All who are out are off leash which could incur a \$250 fine and class one misdemeanor. Adds amenity to parks. Everyone across the street should know this was in future plans. Fountain Hills considered the community service element when they did this.

Marylou: Did Fountain Hills upfront the money?

Andy: City did upfront the money. Here only 2/3 of people are violating the law. The purpose was to ensure rabies compliance.

Resident Ron Delveaux – I have a golden retriever. My dog gets excited when we go to the park. What is the current cost to maintain the park? Have there been any claims against the city?

Staff commented annual maintenance for the park cost \$15K and currently no claims have been filed against the city.

Ron Delveaux – Another park would be a relief and I want to see it happen soon. Would the new park be in a drainage area?

Staff stated drainage not in current plans.

Ron and Andy stated drainage needs to be added to the cost (an item both support). Staff commented we would grade better to the drywell areas for better drainage.

Resident Dick Prescott moved to Bell West Ranch area 5 ½ years ago from CA. He saw great real estate activity in Surprise and as an AZ Broker. I welcome a new park and support Andy's efforts. If we can support two Discount Tires Companies in this city, we can probably use another dog park – will have to come to fruition in the future.

Resident Margaret Lieu – thanks for the quick action from the last meeting. Landscaping and top soil already is exciting and fountain painted blue. All owners know closure is necessary but now there is nowhere for dogs to exercise. Comments regarding letting you dogs run in your own yard is not enough due to size of yards. This keeps us active and our city active. We are not opposed to phasing if it doesn't stop at dog run. We are here to help. I see plenty of untagged and unaltered dogs frequently we can hold accountable thru our own licensing that will help. Dog owners spend money on their animals.

M. Miller stated this overview and feedback was to provide an update back to the board and is only one component in a large park. This item will need to fall in line with budget process - nothing promised tonight.

Mr. Cepon – when will this be decided on?

M. Miller stated staff will have to get direction on the next part of the process.

Chairman Turner thanked the public for coming and providing their input to the board. He shared that the board is not taking action at this time so as not to speak out of line in the process.

Mr. Brown commented that the last meeting minutes said staff will develop a timeline, etc – no definitive time period has been established. I understand the urgency but staff's point regarding all the considerations will take time to address.

M. Miller shared that the budget is typically addressed in June. Operational costs would go thru the process. Once we determine how we would fund the park, we will be able to bring forth the budget request for annual maintenance.

Some asked about support from the pet stores.

Mr. Provenzano thanked Mr. Cepon for a great presentation of his position. When real estate bubbles burst then this is a terrific plan. I think we go first class when we can.

Mr. Cepon – I'm really impatient. Years ago five residents complained and pickle ball took priority – I appreciate your time especially with all that is going on in the city.

Mr. Turner commented that several on the board understood as pet owners.

Mr. Brown – I don't think the need for a 2nd park is the question. It is how do we do it. It's a protracted process. Lou's comment regarding development of entire region. Lots of potential funding options. M. Miller is valid when she says if we don't do our homework the council may direct us to go back for more.

Ms. Youngblood. – What do other parks that are really nice have? Woodchips??

Mr. Kennedy – Mostly turf, but not always – I've seen wood chips on the east coast.

Doesn't that hurt their paws? No.

Is urine an issue? It will break down chips faster and there is a scorpion issue.

Mr. Cepon commented that he likes the conceptual.

Ms. Lieu requested developing web page better regarding agendas.

Ms. Youngblood asked about home based businesses in area.

Are there other areas to explore?

M. Miller stated another option is up north – Asante is 58 acres.

Resident Tom on Terra Lane – Is there a way to create a dog committee that we can help by going door to door petitions?

M. Miller stated support for a 2nd park is not an issue – however, it is just one amenity that is requested on Surprise Farms and funding is the issue. We could use help to get more people to attend the meetings regarding the location and amenities needed.

Public Comment – I live a stone's throw from the high school and marching band is noisier than a dog park would be.

#3 Consideration and action approve the minutes from the May 11, 2010 regular meeting.

Motion made by Board Member Jensen, 2nd by Board Member Provenzano to approve the meeting minutes from the May 11, 2010 regular meeting. Motion passed.

#2 Consideration and action to elect a chair and vice chair.

Board member Youngblood stated that Wayne Turner does a great job

Motion made by Board Member Youngblood, 2nd by Board Member Jensen to keep Chairman Turner as Board Chair. Motion passed.

M. Youngblood asked board members Jensen and Provenzano if both wanted to be Vice Chairs. Jensen stated he's open – he would like to do more. Provenzano stated he was happy to be nominated last time but withdrew due to being a rookie.

Motion by Board Member Youngblood, 2nd by Board Member Provenzano to keep Vice Chair Jensen as the Vice Chair. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board had additional questions staff advised information in packets and will bring back more in future meetings.

Next CRS Advisory Board meeting will be held on November 16th at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 7:44pm by Board Member Youngblood, second by Board Member Jensen. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Mark Coronado, Interim City Manager

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 May 11, 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.