

**CITY OF SURPRISE
COMMUNITY AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2011 / 6:30 PM

**Community & Recreation Services
15960 North Bullard Avenue
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm

- A. Roll Call
CRS Board Members: Wayne Turner (Chair), Ronald Jensen (Vice Chair), Mary Lou Youngblood, Lou Provenzano, Mike Planeta, Mark Brown, Ramil Rivera
Ex-Officio Members: None present
City Staff: Mark Coronado, Donna Miller, Tara Combs, Heather Donaldson
Guest – Don Brubaker
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Current Events Reports – M. Coronado said that due to the length of the meeting current events will be sent to the Board electronically. If the board wishes to know what is going on in the department on a weekly basis, updates can be found on the city website every Thursday under Needs to Know. .
- D. Staff reports – Mr. Coronado introduced L. Provenzano who reported that Dan McCarthy with Surprise Today has agreed to give the City of Surprise a weekly half page advertisement equivalent to the Library section if we can put in copywriting material. The submission must be turned into the publication every Friday by the end of the day in order to be published in the following Wednesday's edition of Surprise Today. He suggested that we can start using this advertisement to advertise the tennis event and report good news pieces for the Community & Recreation Services Department within the next two weeks.

L. Provenzano also reported on the "Market on the Move" program beginning October 29th at the Quality Inn parking lot. This is a program wherein the public can purchase 60 pounds of fruits and vegetables for \$10.00. He said he thinks this program will outgrow the Quality Inn parking lot quickly, and he suggested the possibility of the City doing a co-op with this event and making it a true farmer's market, and further suggested that it could take place in the parking lot located adjacent to the Aquatic Center.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no requests to speak on nonagendized items. M. Coronado requested another Call to the Public be made after each individual agenda item has been presented as is done at the formal council meetings. There were no objections.

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 of the August meeting.

Motion to approve minutes - L. Provenzano. 2nd by R. Jensen. None opposed.

Item 2 – CITYWIDE – The City Clerk will swear in Mike Planeta.

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk, advised that Mr. Planeta was already sworn in at her office a few weeks ago and further advised this was a ceremonial swearing in. Swore in Mike Planeta.

Item 3 – CITYWIDE – The board will select a chair and vice chair to serve thru 2012.

W. Turner nominated as Chair by M. Youngblood and 2nd by R. Jensen. No discussion. Unanimous vote. Congratulations to re-elected Chair, W. Turner.

R. Jensen nominated as Vice Chair by M. Brown and 2nd by R. Rivera. L. Provenzano nominated as Vice Chair by M. Youngblood and 2nd by M. Planeta. No discussion. Roll call vote taken was a tie. Move to table the motion until next meeting with a ballet vote.

Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and possible action on Sports Village Concept/Academy Sports, Phase I and II.

M. Coronado advised that M. Planeta spoke with him regarding Phase I and II of a Sports Village Concept prior to this meeting. This concept would be based on a quality of life wellness opportunity benefit for the community but would also have benefits from the sports tourism industry. M. Planeta said there is a need to develop club sports such as baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, track, etc. in Surprise which will also benefit the Dysart School District. He introduced Don Brubaker, architect for the school district, as a guest speaker. Mr. Brubaker presented the Sport Village South Conceptual Plan consisting of 10 acres, leaving alone the existing water tanks. He advised this project could bring the City of Surprise four major events that could be used as a sports complex; skate park element, inline hockey arena element with spectator space, baseball element with infield practice area and batting cages and Support areas which could include the possibility of indoor batting, pitching, restrooms, storage, concessions, etc. He proposed a drive off of Greenway for ingress and egress with an isolated drop off for children. This plan would also consist of two new parking areas with approximately 250 parking spots. There could be additional access off of a drive that comes in from Countryside or other access that comes from Parkview. There would be a clear entrance for zoning. M. Planeta reported that the Sports Village would offer an additional practice facility as well as bring in club tournaments as a result of the availability of batting cages. This in turn would boost hotel vacancies, tourism, etc. He advised that if the water tanks were installed below ground this would open up additional space for more fields and parking. He reported that there is a large senior softball league who would also utilize the batting cages. M. Planeta said that at this time the City of Surprise has nothing to offer youth between the ages of 12–18 other than sports, and this Sports Village concept would offer the possibility for kids in this age group to have something to do on weekend nights with the Skate Park, inline hockey facilities and batting cages.

M. Coronado reported that the number one reason for the failure of batting cages is a lack of synergy. He said we need something other than the batting cages to make them successful with traffic.

M. Youngblood asked if any of the additional fields proposed in Phase I and II of Sports Village would be softball fields as well as if any of the proposed Support areas used for batting and pitching would be large enough for indoor basketball courts. M. Coronado advised that there are currently six softball fields located in Surprise Farms, Bicentennial and Gaines Park. M. Planeta advised that the Support areas would not be able to house basketball courts.

M. Coronado advised that the process for this and City Manager Hillman's advice regarding projects needing funding is that generating ideas and developing concepts are great stepping stones to moving forward and improving our community, however everyone must understand that these are not budgeted items. This is a council initiative, if they wish to move it up or move it back. Moving forward we need to prepare this concept for the budget process in order for them to move forward during the priority stage of our fiscal year and at the favor of Mayor and Council.

M. Brown asked what the cost would be to facilitate the Sports Village concept. M. Coronado advised that the only monetary figure we have at this point is \$270,000 for the batting cages. We will not research the costs for the other phases until we get the favor of this Board to move on, spend more time and bring more concepts.

R. Rivera asked how this balances out with the regular Surprise sports programs. M. Coronado advised that this concept would actually enhance the Cal Ripken program as there would be no lack of practice facilities. We would blend the schedules of the club sports and regular Surprise sports programming in order to maximize the benefit. M. Planeta responded that the actual benefit of the concept would benefit the recreation programs more than the club programs. R. Rivera wants to be sure that this concept will complement the existing recreation programs. M. Coronado said this concept compliments all facets of our community.

W. Turner asked what would be the feasibility of getting a stoplight at the proposed new drive for ingress and egress. M. Coronado said that this is just a concept right now and that type of information would be addressed as we move forward through the zoning and development process.

L. Provenzano mentioned that El Mirage Park is packed every night while Surprise has nothing for kids to do between the ages of 12-18. This concept offers a perfect location for a skate park. M. Coronado also agreed that this location would be great for a skate park because there would be a lot of synergy all day long with the other elements offered in close proximity.

M. Coronado asked the Board to work together with the Tourism Advisory Board to prepare a wish list at this time to present to Mayor and Council.

Call to Public: Vice Mayor Hall commented that this concept is very exciting but commented on how to fund it. He agreed that Surprise needs something for kids over the age of 12 to do and expressed more excitement about the batting cages being enough of a money generator to help liquidate the expense. He is looking forward to a business timeline.

Glen Klitzka asked what families can do together at the Sports Village and suggested that miniature golf be considered as well. M. Planeta responded that families could participate at the Skate Park and inline hockey facilities together and said that the miniature golf would be a separate project. M. Youngblood responded that there could be birthday parties at these proposed facilities.

Councilmember Biundo said he would be interested of the possibilities of public-private partnerships as part of this whole concept which might be able to address some funding issues.

Eileen Provenzano asked what the size would be of the proposed skate park in comparison to the skate park which was researched two or three years ago. She asked if the previous research conducted could be used moving forward. W. Turner advised that the proposed skate park from a few years ago was 24,000 square feet and the previous research could be used moving forward with the current concept. M. Coronado advised that this would be the due diligence piece moving forward with this concept to see if all the pieces fit. He said that another idea would be a family golf course to address Mr. Klitzka's previous question regarding what families could do together at the Sports Village.

A member of the public asked if we had any idea of the funding needed to move forward with this Sports Village concept. M. Coronado advised that it is too early to get any numbers at this point and the only number we have is \$270,000 for the batting cages. He said that at this point we need to make sure the concept is accepted by the board, has partnership with the Tourism community and then take it to the Mayor and Council and see if they ask us to move forward.

Bill Lipscomb commended M. Planeta and the CRS Advisory Board for entertaining this concept. This is long overdue and will be a feather in the cap of this advisory board and the CRS Department because when this gets out to the public for review they will recognize the work being done by everyone involved. He commented on how fortunate we are to have Mr. Brubaker's involvement in this concept. He likes the idea of broadening this out for family opportunities and added the idea of including a Quick Start Tennis program.

Councilmember Woodard asked if Building A and Building B, the Support areas, could be used for indoor gymnasiums during the summertime. M. Planeta advised that this would not be possible, but Countryside Rec. Center as well as the High School gyms could be used during the summer. Councilmember Woodard said that we have to take into consideration before this concept could take form we would have to buy water tanks and bury them which will be very expensive, and we need to remember this prior to presenting this concept to the public.

M. Coronado advised that the private-public partnerships could also come from the professional baseball experiences we have here. He said this would be a great place for someone to have an academy which would run this for us. He said this concept would provide tremendous opportunities for private and public partnerships and the business plan would include sponsorships.

M. Coronado suggested the next step would be to entertain a motion for a joint meeting with the Tourism Advisory Board and then bring the City Manager's Office into this with W. Turner and another representative in attendance. Once that has happened, we can, through the process with the Tourism Advisory Board, get the business piece together and per the City Manager's direction, address Council.

M. Planeta motioned to request staff to continue working for potential internal or external stakeholders in developing a Sports Village Concept Phase I and Phase II in addition; organize a joint meeting with the Tourism Advisory Board to discuss this concept and request their support and partnership. 2nd by M. Youngblood. No further discussion. Unanimous vote.

Item 5 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and possible action on fencing the 8 acres to maximize programming and event opportunities, enhance participant safety and identify possible funding options.

M. Coronado presented a powerpoint showing three different options for a fence to be constructed around 8 acres. L. Provenzano said that he would like to see the proposed fencing in Option 1 as it matches the stadium and would look like an extension of it. He said that there are three main reasons to erect the fence around 8 acres. Reason # 1 is for safety to contain children within the field around two heavily travelled streets. Reason #2 would be that once this area is contained we can have events within the fenced area which would present unlimited activity and event possibilities. Reason #3 would be that once the area is fenced we could make sure the grass area stays up to par. This fenced area will help make Surprise a destination location bringing more activities to the City. This would also tie into the joint meeting with the Tourism Advisory Board to be scheduled. M. Planeta agrees that the safety issue is a powerful reason to put in a fence and M. Youngblood also believes there is a need for the fence for safety.

L. Provenzano advised that due to the current economic conditions we can have this fence built for half the cost brought forward three years ago. He said that Surprise needs to show that it is a City on the move and not afraid to be a visionary and this is a small step in that direction.

Call to Public: Vice Mayor Hall asked if the fence needs to be 8 feet tall and if it needs to match the stadium. M. Youngblood said that if the fence was only 6 feet tall kids would jump the fence.

M. Coronado advised that there are ways to negotiate the cost for the fence through sponsorships and naming the fields.

Vice Mayor Hall advised that the Board should look into whichever company is putting in the wrought iron fence around Community Garden as they are putting in a \$30,000 fence for \$12,000. He is also concerned for the safety of the residents using 8 acres and believes we could probably raise the money to cover the cost of the proposed fence. M. Coronado said that we would go through a bid process.

Glenn Klitzka thinks the fence would pay for itself with the events we could now use 8 acres for. M. Coronado said that if the area was fenced we could have concerts. He said that the only negative comments he has heard from the community are regarding the fence providing little access to the area. He said that we are not trying to lock the community out which is why there will be so many gates. We are trying to provide an opportunity with this area maximizing a return on the money spent to erect the fence. He asked the board what direction they want the CRS Department to take moving forward.

L. Provenzano motioned for the CRS staff to proceed in getting competitive bids based on the proposed preferred fencing and pursue funding options. 2nd by M. Youngblood. No further discussion. Unanimous vote.

Item 6 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and possible action on the development of a Recreation Foundation in partnership with the Surprise Sundancers.

L. Provenzano spoke of our need for funding. He wants to build a foundation, possibly called the Surprise Legacy Foundation. . He had a meeting with Bill Pupo, the Sundancer Board President, who informed him that the Sundancer Foundation wants to do more philanthropy this year. He suggested that our staff meet with the Board of the Sundancers, including Bill, to hammer out some of the basic facts of the proposed foundation partnership with the Sundancers and see if we can move it forward and finalize it. L. Provenzano said that the Foundation can fund some of the recreation opportunities and this could be kicked off with the proposed fencing around 8 acres. He said this project could be completed within a year. M. Planeta asked how much money the Sundancers

generate each year. M. Coronado stated they generate on an average about \$75,000 per year. L. Provenzano said this partnership with the Surprise Sundancers would be one more avenue we can work on with the Tourism Advisory Board during the proposed meeting to make Surprise a destination location.

Call to Public: Glenn Klitzka asked what the material of the fence would be. L. Provenzano said it is powder coated steel.

M. Coronado confirmed that L. Provenzano is requesting that the CRS Staff initiate a meeting with the Surprise Sundancer Board to discuss the concept and to also put on the next agenda for the Tourism Advisory Board a presentation by the CRS Recreation Advisory Board for possible partnership.

L. Provenzano motioned to move forward and set up a joint meeting with the Sundancer Board to discuss the foundation, suggestions and options and also put the fence out to a bid process and see if we can get a more competitive bid. 2nd by R. Jensen. No discussion. Unanimous vote.

Item 7 – CITYWIDE – Preliminary discussion on the feasibility of locating a Boys & Girls Club and/or a YMCA in Surprise.

M. Coronado stated that the City Manager asked him to join in a meeting with several Councilmembers to discuss the options and the feasibility of potentially partnering with the Boys & Girls Club and/or the YMCA. Councilmember Biundo advised he was speaking on behalf of himself and not the council. He has a primary interest in Surprise's youth oriented activities for the city addressed to the pre-teen and early teen group. Surprise has a first class recreation program and he does not want anything to compete with that. He reported that in mid-August there was a meeting called to pin down what the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club have in mind regarding partnering with the City of Surprise. Tara Tucker represented the Boys and Girls Club and Julie Starkey represented the YMCA at this meeting. This was an information gathering meeting. The YMCA has a long range perspective on the possibility of partnering with the City of Surprise. The Boys & Girls Club could actually start having activities now out of a temporary facility. El Mirage is in the process of doing a bond for the YMCA so the City of Surprise has stepped back and is in a holding pattern until we see what happens with the El Mirage initiative regarding the YMCA. Councilmember Biundo said he was strictly at this meeting to brief the board about what has been transpiring with their discussions and hopefully after the board has had a chance to discuss everything they could come forward with a recommendation which Council could consider as things develop.

W. Turner expressed that his biggest concern in these economic times is that these organizations want a few million dollars from the City. He thinks this money would be better spent on building something of our own. Councilmember Biundo advised that nothing of that nature came forward during their meetings. He said the YMCA would be partnering with the City of Surprise possibly for land.

M. Coronado said that what he took from the meeting was that the Boys & Girls Club is ready to move now and they need the City of Surprise to identify one or two fundraising chairmen to help them get the money to build a facility. They are interested in a temporary site, the Villanueva Rec. Center which lends itself to some of the demographic that they so successfully serve and they do not need any money from the City of Surprise. The YMCA was candid enough to know that they have an opportunity in El Mirage. They look at Surprise as a tremendous opportunity which is 10-15 miles from the El Mirage site which would create synergy. Ms. Starkey said that Surprise is on their radar screen but they are not in a position right now for a fundraising campaign as they have some things going on in the East Valley. M. Coronado suggested that we have Ms. Tucker of the Boys & Girls Club attend our next meeting and have her give the board a presentation on how they can endorse

her campaign and give some possible solutions. He proposed that after the El Mirage situation is complete we bring in the YMCA to a meeting to discuss a short range plan and long range plan to make it a reality and how do we get there. He reiterated that nobody was asking for money at this point during the meeting.

M. Youngblood was surprised to hear that the YMCA wants to come into a smaller city. She said that the Boys & Girls Club typically comes into lower income areas. She feels the YMCA is a non-profit organization which makes a lot of money, and she thinks we should just build on our own existing recreation plan as far as the YMCA is concerned. She does agree that the Boys & Girls Club would be beneficial for lower income families which we do not reach now. Councilmember Biundo agrees with M. Youngblood that Boys & Girls Club is on target. M. Planeta also agrees with M. Youngblood and believes that a possible partnership with YMCA like in Goodyear with Olympic size pool could be good for the City.

R. Rivera said that he believes it would benefit both the Board and the public to bring the representatives from both organizations to a meeting to discuss the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club. He feels that we need to move forward and be proactive in finding out the information they are proposing. M. Brown agrees with R. Rivera and says we are in agreement with the concept of partnerships with these organizations but we need to zero in on programs with both organizations. Councilmember Biundo agrees.

M. Coronado advised that he is not against having the YMCA and/or the Boys & Girls Club in Surprise. He said we need to be creative with how we help these organizations for funding and put a concept together where we are enhancing the community. He said it behooves us to listen to both representatives from the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club so we can make a recommendation to council.

Call to Public: Glenn Klitzka believes it is a good idea to invite the two representatives to the next meeting.

Bill Lipscomb brought up our partnership with the Dysart Unified School District and asked to what degree would the duplication of activities offered through these organizations be of concern as the duplication of activities is a source of contention. He suggested that we also bring in a representative from the Dysart Unified School District Community Education Dept to attend the meeting with the two organization representatives.

M. Coronado said that we will bring in the representative from the Boys & Girls Club to the next meeting and the representative from the YMCA around January 1, 2012.

Item 8 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action on a facility use agreement with the National Pickleball Association for the temporary closing of the community park basketball courts and tennis courts for the First Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament October 28-30.

M. Coronado reported that the Pickleball Association understands the City's funding issues and wants to present to Mayor and Council the proposed conversion of two City tennis courts into eight pickleball courts while requesting no City funds for the first phase. They have requested a special permit to close down the basketball courts at the community park so they can create 14-16 temporary pickleball courts from October 27-31 for the First Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament taking place October 28-30. M. Coronado stated that he is bringing this before the Board today to formalize the special use permit even though the director has the right to approve. He felt the public should be

aware so that just in case someone ever comes and asks about it he can say that we discussed the pros and cons. M. Youngblood thinks hosting the Pickleball Tournament is a great idea and will expose more people to pickleball. M. Planeta agrees. R. Rivera asked who is responsible for notifying the community that the basketball courts will be closed during this time. M. Coronado said we will post signage advertising this information, and we will open Countryside gymnasium for basketball during that time. We will also hand out flyers giving alternative basketball facilities available for use. M. Youngblood wanted to be sure that during this time we will let people who are renting ramadas know that the basketball courts will be closed and also asked who will be responsible for the temporary pickleball courts and parking for the tournament. M. Coronado advised that the Pickleball Association will be responsible for both the courts and the parking.

M. Youngblood motioned to close the basketball and tennis courts from October 27-31 for the Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament. Second from L. Provenzano. No further discussion. Unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Lipscomb proposed an agenda item for the next meeting to form an ad hoc committee as part of the advisory board for a Memorial Day event as he had some concerns over the last Memorial Day. He believes we could have a unique and hallmark event that would take place in the stadium. He will throw out more concepts during the next meeting. This event would be a separate event from the parade. M. Coronado advised that there will be research available by the next meeting regarding the Memorial Day Parade with respect to how it is or is not politicized.

Eileen Provenzano asked where the advertising for the pickleball tournament will come from as well as what the age group will be for the tournament. She also wanted to know if we will be making accommodations at the Tennis Center for people who use the free tennis courts now once they have been converted to pickleball courts. M. Coronado advised that the tournament is focused towards youth and we will be co-partnering with the pickleball association and will advertize this tournament on our website. He also advised that we have tracked the tennis usage and there is very little however if there are any issues regarding losing the two free tennis courts some kind of arrangement could be made with the tennis center to accommodate anyone who used the free courts prior to their conversion.

M. Planeta wants to have a discussion on the Dysart IGA placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting with history and background.

Vice Mayor Hall expressed that he is very impressed with this Board and thanked everyone for the time spent to make this a better city. He complimented everyone on their professionalism and brain power.

L. Provenzano thanked the members of the public and councilmember's for attending the meeting.

A member of the public, who is a retired navy seal, thanked everyone for the work done and asked what our perimeters are for fundraising. M. Coronado said he could discuss that with him one on one and that there is an open process for fundraising.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:34 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by L. Provenzano, 2nd by M. Youngblood. 0 opposed.

ATTEST:

Donna Miller, Assistant Director
Community & Recreation Services

CERTIFICATION:

I, Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist 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 26, 2011.

Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist

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.