

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

**Meeting Minutes**

November 28, 2011 / 6:00 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, Mark Brown, Mike Planeta, Ramil Rivera  
**City Staff:** Mark Coronado, Donna Miller, Tara Combs, Heather Donaldson, Nathan Ulliyot  
**Guests** – Brad Kuluris, Tara Tucker and Larry Brown
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Current Events Reports – Mark Coronado (M. Coronado) discussed the Winter/Spring edition of the Recreation Times highlighting that it has increased by ten pages and there are roughly 1000 programs for Surprise residents to participate in. He also presented the Surprise Party flyer and spoke about the event taking place this week.
- D. Staff reports – M. Coronado provided an update on the IGA with the Dysart Unified School District. He reported good news, that if there are out of pocket costs there will be reciprocal reimbursements as well as we have been able to keep language that a city sponsored program will be a city program. This should be taken to Mayor and Council in January or February. He also proposed having two meetings in January to prepare for the budget and get the board's input on our supplementals. M. Coronado reviewed the City's teen programming. He reviewed the programs offered: Teen Advisory Board, Youth Leadership Program, Youth Leadership Summit, Teen Volunteers (Jr. Sundancers), Teen Tournaments, Teen Talent Show, Teen Splash and Dance, Teen Lunch Program, Midnight Basketball, Battle of the Bands, Haunted House, Sierra Montana Open Recreation, Surprise Rec Parties, 5<sup>th</sup> Quarters and Teen Trips. He advised that when the first teen program started in FY 06/07 there were 10,000 participants and 0% recovery, and now there are a projected 27,000 participants for FY 11/12 and 85% recovery. The number of teen programs has grown from 23 to 90 in the last 5 years. Nathan Ulliyot (N. Ulliyot) commented that the challenge now is growth and revenue is increasing. Mary Lou Youngblood (M. Youngblood) asked if teens pay individually or annually to participate in the programs. N Ulliyot responded that the most successful events are paid individually however it is the city's philosophy to never turn a child/teen away who wants to participate. Vice Mayor Hall asked about the hours being reduced at Sierra Montana. L. Provenzano asked if a majority of the youth who use the Sierra Montana Recreation Center live around it. N. Ulliyot said that a large majority of the youth do live around the Recreation Center and that the biggest challenge for people who do not is transportation to and from the Recreation Center.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Anthony Chavez, Surprise Resident, presented a City of Surprise Skatepark proposal. He presented an estimated cost of \$200,000 and discussed light maintenance needed of trash pick-up, possible graffiti clean-up and patch and repair. He suggested that the City could be the fiscal sponsor which would allow for fundraising and for larger donations to be a tax write-off for outside sponsors. He proposed the location be somewhere near City Hall. M. Coronado advised that a skatepark proposal is included in the Sports Village concept coming back before council at a later date.

## **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 September 26, 2011 Recreation Advisory Board.**

Motion to approve minutes - L. Provenzano. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Jensen. None opposed.

### **Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Presentation by the Boys and Girls Club on a possible location in Surprise.**

M. Coronado introduced Brad Kuluris of the Boys and Girls Club and briefed the board of the Council's request for the Board to look into the possibility of having a YMCA or Boys and Girls Club in Surprise. Brad Kuluris (B. Kuluris) presented the history of the Boys and Girls Club who provides after school programming for youth in risky neighborhoods. Everything done in the clubs has two purposes; encourage academic success and help children be good citizens. Every Boys and Girls Club is under a charter of the national organization so a club in Surprise would be a part of the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Phoenix. Community support is a key factor in placement of new clubs. They don't go where they are an amenity but where there is nothing for youth to do. B. Kuluris toured the Hollyhock Street area where the city facilities are and said this neighborhood would be a good location for a Boys and Girls Club. The Hollyhock facility and Villanueva Recreation Center would be a good start for bringing in a Boys and Girls Club, however there would need to be an addition of 10,000 – 15,000 square feet of program space. They currently have an architect putting together a conceptual plan. The Boys and Girls Club's commitment to the communities they are in is to stay there regardless of budget cuts, etc. which requires a partnership between the city, schools, community, private corporations, etc. The average operating budget is \$428,000 per year, however roughly 10% of that is for the food program which they currently receive government reimbursement for. This brings the total operating budget down to approximately \$380,000. The Boys and Girls Club is the tenant so the City would be responsible for the utilities, janitorial, maintenance, etc. These expenses equal roughly \$70,000 per year for a total operating budget of approximately \$500,000. The Boys and Girls Club has a large group of fundraisers helping them out. If we can identify a partner in Surprise to help out with funding, then the Boys and Girls Club can help work with them to raise the money necessary for operation. The present status of the Boys and Girls Club right now is that they are not expanding; however they can help with fundraising. Tara Tucker (T. Tucker) an advocate for the Boys and Girls Club has worked with Councilman Williams, had a town hall meeting

with the community and has put a 12 person steering committee in place. She has also met with the Rangers and the Royals organizations who have expressed interest in being a part of a Boys and Girls Club in Surprise. W. Turner asked where the additional land necessary for the expansion would come from. B. Kuluris suggested the land to the South. M. Coronado reminded that we are in a conceptual process. The property to the South currently houses a public works and facility maintenance building and a parking lot area which is the only space that would be available. If we went west we would have to condemn or purchase property which we are trying not to do. B. Kuluris said that they will have a conceptual plan available within the week for our review. M. Planeta asked if their concept includes the use of the aquatics center and Gaines Park. B. Kuluris responded that they would be happy to use the pool, however they would not staff it. They are definitely interested in using any outdoor facilities adjacent to their location. Lou Provenzano (L. Provenzano) suggested that we would like to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Boys and Girls Club to service West Surprise youth. Mark Brown (M. Brown) asked if any of the sports programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club would duplicate the programs currently offered by the City. B. Kuluris responded that the challenge with youth is that you draw from a one or two mile radius from where they reside. Their programs would not conflict with Sierra Montana programs as they could not get over there to participate. The Boys and Girls Club will work with the school district to facilitate transportation. T. Tucker said she has already spoken to the Dysart School District's superintendent who is on board with helping out with transportation. M. Coronado advised that the next step is to wait for the conceptual plan from the Boys and Girls Club, City staff work with them on an operational budget, try to identify public and private partnerships and bring everyone together in a citizens group to discuss.

**Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and possible action regarding assigning a place for honoring and recognizing residents in Surprise for a significant achievement or contribution in serving our country and/or the Surprise community.**

M. Coronado introduced Assistant City Manager George Kolb (G. Kolb) to speak about this initiative. G. Kolb informed the Board that in September the City Council was approached regarding honoring and recognizing Sergeant Nick Bacon, who received the Medal of Honor. Upon further review of a potential process, he came up with additional questions that will need to be addressed prior to being able to facilitate this request. If we are going to honor one individual the chances are that we will need to honor additional individuals in the future for a significant achievement and/or contribution to the City. To date, we have no policy to do this. Council wants to get the Community and Recreation Advisory Board, Arts and Cultural Advisory Board and the Historical Society involved in this process. G. Kolb introduced Larry Brown (L. Brown) of the Order of Purple Hearts who initiated this project to honor Sergeant Nick Bacon. L. Brown gave a detailed history of Nick Bacon's life and military and civil accomplishments. L. Brown and other local veterans think the City should recognize Nick Bacon and honor him. The City has Luke Memorial near the Library. L. Brown has secured complete funding for this project as well as artwork for the memorial. He is asking the City for a place to house the memorial. He said an ideal location would be somewhere near the Luke Memorial as that is where all the veterans gather. He suggested that people who have died in the line of duty such as police officers and firemen could also be recognized. G. Kolb stated that decisions need to be made and issues addressed regarding where the location for the memorial should be, what it should look like and who should be included and honored as well as should veterans, city employees and prominent citizens within the community all be honored in one place or should they have separate locations. He is recommending that we engage a professional to help us think this through. W. Turner said he believes we are not in a position right now to take any action because there are still too many questions that need to be answered. He also mentioned that we have the Hall of Fame that

honors any major accomplishments as well as specific City employees that have done a great service for the City and were instrumental. M. Youngblood said she thinks the CRS staff should look into this project to determine a place for the monument to go. M. Coronado stated that staff looks to provide opportunities to honor residents, veterans, etc. He stated that he in the process of finding out what we need to do to follow a legal process/protocol to make this happen and will need the month of December to work with our attorney on a policy. Then in our January meeting we can come back with a recommendation of whether or not to move forward with this project. This project needs to be vetted out, moved through the Boards and Commissions and moved forward as a positive initiative, however there is quite a bit of work that needs to be done prior to presenting it to Mayor and Council.

Bill Lipscomb, Surprise resident, said he is excited about the opportunity to provide recognition for Nick Bacon, and he would be more than happy to help and assist with this project. He hopes that this committee will support the endeavor.

W. Turner motioned to table this item and requested staff to meet with the parties discussed and bring back a recommendation/draft policy at a later meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Jensen. Unanimous vote.

**Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and overview of the 2011 Memorial Day Parade, possible revisions to the parade’s rules, regulations, policies and discussion of “other” Memorial Day events to possibly replace the Memorial Day Parade.**

M. Coronado stated that the purpose of this discussion tonight is to start a process. The Memorial Day event is in its fifth year and it has become more of a community event that has lost focus on the patriotic/honor piece. We would like to talk about what the rules and regulations for the parade should be if we are going to continue to have a parade. M. Coronado presented an event overview of the current Memorial Day event. Moving forward we need a purpose statement of what the parade is all about which will help us define the criteria. A proposed purpose statement was presented to the Board as well as other cities’ rules and best practices regarding Memorial Day Parades. M. Coronado stated that the City Manager’s Office has requested that if we do hold the parade again, we need to have more rules and regulations that discuss what constitutes an inappropriate type of participation. The rules and regulations which have been presented are just examples, however we do need to discuss and bring this event back into perspective. R. Jensen said that he has attended the parade since it began and has seen an increase in attendance, however he believes adding these types of rules can make it better and keep the focus on a veterans memorial.

B. Lipscomb, Surprise resident, presented to the Board his thoughts on the current Memorial Day Parade and proposed a new Memorial Day event separate from the parade. He said Memorial Day is observed to commemorate, not celebrate, fallen soldiers. As a veteran of 33 years he was appalled by the celebration, politicking, etc. going on during the Memorial Day Parade last year. He proposed having a separate event in the stadium take place which would give a sense of honor and appreciation for fallen and wounded soldiers. He would greatly appreciate the endorsement of council and city staff to have a solemn, dignified, sacred event. He envisions having various veterans groups, guest speakers (family of fallen soldiers), a MASH unit depicting a war scenario scene, reenactment video on the big screen, etc. at this event. The event would let the people in attendance

know why they are there and would offer an opportunity to educate the attendees of what Memorial Day is really about. The suggested time for the event would be from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

John Cordoza, WWII Veteran, commented that he believes Memorial Day should be a solemn day and not pleasant, and he thinks Surprise should get rid of the Memorial Day Parade and should just have the event proposed by B. Lipscomb.

M. Coronado let the Board know that staff would like to work with veterans in our community and bring back a plan to create an event that either supplements or replaces the Memorial Day Parade (that decision will be made another time.) L. Provenzano stated that there needs to be an opportunity to bring children to an event, educate them and show them what commitments have been made for the freedoms they enjoy. It should not be a celebration, but there should be something held in addition to the proposed Memorial Day event to put the appreciation of the freedom in action. M. Coronado suggested that there was a consensus that the Board would like staff to re-evaluate what Memorial Day is to the City of Surprise from an event perspective. He informed the Board that staff will present the event alternatives at January's meeting and let the Board make a decision at that time if they wish to make a change.

**Item 5 – CITYWIDE – The board will select a vice chair to serve thru 2012.**

L. Provenzano nominated as Vice Chair by M. Planeta and 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Youngblood. R. Jensen nominated as Vice Chair by M. Brown and 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Planeta. No discussion. Roll call vote taken and L. Provenzano was selected as Vice Chair in a 5 to 2 vote. Congratulations were afforded to newly elected Vice Chair Provenzano and thank yous to R. Jensen for his dedicated service as Vice Chair for many years.

**Item 6 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and possible action to place items on future agendas.**

M. Brown suggested a future agenda item regarding creating a bike path in Surprise. M. Coronado stated that a gap study is currently in process which addresses, among other things, this issue. He suggested that in January we bring in representatives from both Community Development and Public Works to talk about how we can advocate the completion of the gap study.

W. Turner made a formal request to have staff bring the Memorial Day event back for the next meeting.

M. Coronado would like to have an item added to January's meeting agenda to prioritize the Board's wish list of items that they would like to be presented during the budget process. He suggested that the Board members bring their individual wish lists to the next meeting so the Board can develop its wish list at that time.

M. Planeta would like to discuss for the budget process:

- Fence around 8 acres
- Master IGA
- Summertime Weight Program
- Open gym for basketball during summer
- Batting cages

L. Provenzano would like to discuss for the budget process:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> location for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Boys and Girls Club in Surprise in the future

W. Turner requested that nominations for the 2012 Surprise Recreation Campus Hall of Fame be added to the next agenda. Staff will need to send out the criteria for this prior to January's meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

## ADJOURNMENT – 8:34 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by L. Provenzano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Brown. 0 opposed.

**ATTEST:**

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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 November 28, 2011.

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Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist

**POSTED:**

**TIME:**

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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.