

Lake Havasu City

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

February 9, 2015

Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room

2360 McCulloch Blvd.

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Summary Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Mark Talley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Jennifer Luzzi, Jim Rosensweet, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte, Aquatic/Recreation Manager Dan Keyes, Council Liaison Michelle Lin

Excused: Alexis Cooke, Robert Smith

Absent: Eric Demyan

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on December 15, 2014; Member Jim Rosensweet moved to approve as written; seconded by Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.

Recreation Operations:

Division Manager Dan Keyes introduced Recreation Supervisor, Donna Best Carlton and stated she will be giving an overview of the recreation divisions operations. Carlton provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining different programs offered as well as youth sporting programs, recreation special events, community assisted events, and contract classes.

Member Jim Rosensweet stated there are fees for the After School Program and asked if there are scholarships available. Carlton stated yes scholarships are available.

Chairman Talley asked Carlton about the Pat's Drop in Program. Carlton stated it is due to kick off February 17th and we are currently looking at the direction we want to go with it. It will be an after school program at the skate park where they still do their homework, get a healthy snack, and learn the fundamentals, safety and City ordinances of skateboarding.

ADA Paddle Launch:

Division Manager, Dan Keyes introduced Vicki Warner with the Lake Havasu Paddlers Social Paddling Group. This group would like everyone to have access to the water. Currently in Havasu it is very limited to anyone with ADA issues or physical limitations. Warner shared photos with the Board members of different areas and access points within parks that are of a concern. North of the skate park at Rotary is where this group is suggesting a hard surface could be placed

for paddlers to get closer to the water. They would like a safe launch away from motorized water traffic and Rotary is very popular and has been used for many years by paddlers. If you put an ADA launch somewhere away from Rotary you are limiting anyone with any type of physical limitation from being able to socialize with everyone else that is at Rotary now. The group is requesting parking for trailers and rig attached. There is definitely a need for exits and entries at various points. Paddling encourages more and more seniors with time for recreation who want to come here and spend money when they are here. Member Bart Wagner asked are the issues access to the water and getting in the kayak? Warner stated one is parking with the trailer and the other accessibility to water with any kind of limitations and the third is with the dock and getting in and out of the kayak. The further the parking is away from access the more difficult it is. The location near the skatepark also has restroom which is very convenient. Warner also suggested you could have hours that were allowed or days that were allowed in Rotary. Chairman Talley asked if the chained launch ramp area in Rotary Park would be feasible for your group. Warner stated yes. Talley mentioned that the recreation division has an agreement with the RC club that uses that area. Staff would need to form a committee and research it. A member with the paddler group spoke to a member from the RC club and they didn't seem to think it was going to be a problem. Chairman Talley stated there is a lot when considering this; there are City ordinances that will possibly have to change, the issue of trailers, definitions regarding watercraft and launching of watercraft. Talley stated we want to see this happen but it will be a process that we have to go through. Member Jim Rosensweet stated at Rotary it is an issue with the parking and mentioned the cove next to site six would have a lot of parking available. Warner stated you would be putting them in motorized traffic. Warner stated Thompson Bay off of Rotary is one of the safest areas because of the speed limit and it is shallow for a long ways out.

Use of City Parks for future Special Events:

Keyes introduced Special Events Coordinator Brian Allen. Allen gave the Board a history of why he is bringing this agenda item to the Board tonight. Over the last year there have been several phone calls in regards to events that we currently hold in the City and other events that want to come to Lake Havasu. Most of them want to use Rotary Park and they state they want to do something in Rotary Park just like Lucas Oil. He has received some phone calls during the Lucas Oil event from residents that have complaints the park is shut down. Some of the events that have approached him have requested use of the park closing it seven to ten days. Allen stated he wasn't about to make a decision to close the park down for that long of a period so he took it to upper management and discussed the different situations and let them know more and more groups were starting to request closing the parks. Several ideas were thrown around about finding other locations, limiting the number of days of per year, and it was suggested we bring this to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Allen stated he is here not to give a presentation but to pose the question and open dialog which will extend beyond tonight about the use of the parks and how we want to go about this. How do we move forward where do we go from here. Do we limit

first come first serve, limit the number of days, specific events, etc. Chairman Talley said it is going to be an interesting process. This is something that is really important there is cost, days, and schedules involved. A discussion took place amongst the Board. Currently the events requesting to use the park are not asking to close the park down so staff is continuing the normal process. Member Jim Rosensweet asked for a list of existing events that close the park down for a number of days and those that inquire about closing the park. Member Wagner stated one of the conflicts that he has seen in the past is the existing users like the ASA Girls Softball already have their schedule set and once you take so many days out of their schedule for an event can these organizations continuing playing with more and more days taken out of their schedule it just continues to grow every year. Wagner stated I know we will be discussing Athletic Field Assessment Study Update and maybe there would be an opportunity to remove those fields and put them someplace else and then you wouldn't have a lot of those conflicts. Luzzi stated not to necessarily remove those fields but have an alternative field they can be relocated to. Allen stated he would get the information to the Board members on how many events are requesting, and how many days, and approximate head counts per event.

Draft Ordinance Trails Advisory Committee:

Keyes stated you should have two drafts in front of you. One of the drafts is the same with three amendments. Suggestions that led to the amendments were from Mr. Rosensweet. The ordinance will be creating an official Trails Advisory Committee that will answer to the Parks and Recreation Board and will make recommendations and suggestions for the development of trails in our community. One of the suggestions from Mr. Rosensweet was instead of having seven regular members he is recommending nine members. Another suggestion was to meet at least once a month instead if not more and to continue meeting throughout the summer months instead of taking off June, July and August. We feel it is necessary to make this committee official and to be able to provide information to the Council for their support. There is a lot of people out there that feel very strongly about this and the continued development of trails. Obviously money is a factor and we already are monitoring grant opportunities as well as working hand and hand with other agencies. The timing is right and hopefully this Board will approve moving this ordinance on to the City Council for approval. Chairman Talley asked how many people are currently on the committee now. Keyes stated there is not a committee right now. Talley asked how many people want to be involved. Keyes stated more than nine.

Member Wagner made a motion to accept this ordinance with the amendments seconded by Jim Rosensweet and unanimously carried by the Board.

Aquatic/Recreation Update:

A. Operation of Cost for Opening Sundays

Keyes provided the Board with a Revenue cost summary worksheet. This cost sheet indicates how much money we need to bring in on any given Open Swim period. The Cost recovery for an Open Swim is 57.67% and even with that percentage we still need to bring in \$1,300 a day or during

an Open Swim just to break even. In addition we have gathered information on Sunday attendance and you can see that the highest day was June 2014 we brought in \$857.00. So you can see when things started to get tough for the City and they needed to look at cut backs it was apparent that Sundays was a place to start. Keyes stated it doesn't mean that we can't go back to the City Council at the next budget cycle and ask for this funding to be reinstated. Simply what we are trying to do tonight is explain why the decision was made to close on Sundays. Chairman Talley asked if anyone had questions. Member Wagner asked if Keyes or the staff feel there is a need for Sundays. Keyes said as a recreation professional we would like our facilities open as much as possible what we need to do is find the balance between the need and the desire as well as be fiscally responsible. At this point we don't see if we were to put the funds back on the table and open on Sundays we don't see a measurable difference in the outcome. A suggestion is maybe we look at a limited access on Sundays; specific times of year. Member Rosensweet stated the figures that you have on attendance for June and July that would probably be a time you would get the lowest attendance what about opening during the winter when you have a much higher population. Keyes stated we are willing to try different times of the year. Chairman Talley suggested a survey to customers to see if they could or would use the facility on Sundays.

B. Budget Development Process

Keyes stated the Board has talked about being involved in the budget process and he is a strong advocate of the Board being involved with the budget development process. There are timelines involved that we need to adhere to. One of the handouts shows our CIP list that was submitted in December and you will note the ADA Paddlers launch did make the list for future consideration. The budget calendar is attached as well so you can see how things progress. Last week staff attended the first budget trainings. Departments submit preliminary operating budget request on February 27. Keyes asked the Board how would you like to be involved and at what point. Member Bart Wagner asked if the CIP list is in order of priority. Keyes stated no it is not. Member Jim Rosensweet asked what CIP is, Keyes responded Capital Improvement Projects and Rosensweet asked what Capital Outlay Projects are and Keyes explained Capital Outlay is repairs of the existing. Rosensweet asked if the Board could obtain rough numbers on what the new projects we are requesting and what was spent on CIP last year. Keyes explained we simply turn our list over to the project managers and they put the figures to the projects. Member Bart Wagner asked if the Board could prioritize that list, add to it, or name the top three. Keyes stated the Board members can email their priorities to Dan and when he meets with the project managers he can voice the priorities of the Board.

C. Athletic Field Assessment Study Update

Keyes reported staff had an opportunity to put out an RFQ and we have had six firms submit proposals. The committee interviewed three firms and is currently in negotiations with the final firm PLAN*et. Staff felt this firm did an excellent job at presenting information and feel that since they

are from the state of Arizona they understood what our needs were and will be able to address our concerns. Our top two concerns are fields for existing leagues and the development of facilities and complexes where we can host more tournaments and bring more people into town. The assessment study may take five to eight months. Member Bart Wagner asked will something be put in the budget for construction or will we miss this timeline. Keyes responded we will miss this budget cycle and that will come out of the study is how are we going to fund this; that will be part of their responsibility as well as give us a number of options to explore.

Department Update:

Keyes updated the Board on upcoming events for the Aquatics and Recreation Division for the month of February.

Future Agenda Items:

Pickleball Courts

Call to Public:

Tim Weaver with Pickleball Pals addressed the Board. Weaver and his wife started Pickleball here in Lake Havasu and they are in their third season. Weaver stated they started at the Aquatic Center with one court and now there are fourteen courts in Lake Havasu and are in need of a lot more. We are currently trying to borrow the LHHS Tennis Courts because with one tennis court they can make four Pickleball courts to pacify the players until Lake Havasu City can build more courts. Weaver has heard they want to build courts at Dick Samp Park and he would like to volunteer to help with a budget or help with his assistance in any way.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, member Jennifer Luzzi moved for adjournment at 7:20 p.m., seconded by member Jim Rosensweet and unanimously carried by the Board.