

Lake Havasu City  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

April 29, 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 12:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Eric Demyan, Jennifer Luzzi, Brett Miller, Jim Rosensweet, Robert Smith, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte, Aquatic/Recreation Manager Dan Keyes and Council Liaison Michelle Lin

Excused: Alexis Cooke

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of meeting on March 23, 2015; Member Jennifer Luzzi moved to approve as written; seconded by Bart Wagner and unanimously carried by the Board.

**Welcome:**

Chairman Mark Talley welcomed new Board Member Brett Miller and asked Mr. Miller to tell the Board a little about himself. Member Miller stated he moved here in 2009. He works for Harley Davidson and has two children in the Soccer League. He visits the parks all the time and plays Disc Golf.

**PLAN\*et Presentation:**

Chairman Mark Talley introduced Leslie Dornfield with PLAN\*et. PLAN\*et is the consulting firm that is working on the Field Needs Assessment. Ms. Dornfield gave a presentation on the Scope of Work and Project Progress. They will be planning Focus User Group Interviews in May. PLAN\*et will also host an open house for the community. PLAN\*et will be back in front of the Advisory Board two more times; one with the recommendations to City Council and with the final study. Ms. Dornfield went over the schedule, benchmarking, focus groups, community engagement, and proposed economic assessment jurisdictions. Member Miller asked why Bullhead City was not on the list. Ms. Dornfield stated for no reason and we can add them; that is the type of feedback we are looking for. Member Robert Smith stated you should look at Kingman, AZ because they have ten times as many sports activities as Lake Havasu City does. They have a huge slow-pitch softball, fast-pitch softball community. Dornfield asked if the list she provided for local field users is missing any. Council Liaison Michelle Lin asked if they looked at Havasu Fire they are the former Heat. Member Brett Miller stated AZ Youth Soccer should be included in the focus groups. Dornfield

discussed the Community Engagement and stated you will be able to access this online public engagement site [lhcfIELDS.mindmixer.com](http://lhcfIELDS.mindmixer.com) from your smart phone.

Rick Merritt with PLAN\*et spoke to the Board on Economic Assessment Jurisdictions. Merritt explained this is a very important part of the study. It is a competitive analysis of how Lake Havasu City matches up against other communities that are holding tournaments. They will look at the demand for tournaments throughout the region, what type of facilities other communities have, how they are marketing themselves, how you market your tournament facilities here. PLAN\*et will look at a variety of cities and will add to this. We want to look at cities that are somewhat similar like Prescott, Prescott Valley, Surprise, Chandler, Yuma, and Henderson. A lot of these cities are very accessible if the teams need to fly in. Lake Havasu City is obviously lacking commercial airline service at this time we will figure out if that is a factor or not effecting activity here in this City. The last part we will look at is the economic impact; clearly that is one of the major reasons for wanting to develop the tournament business. That is what it means in terms of your hotels, restaurants and people coming and spending money in your City. If you have a certain type of facility and get more tournaments what that means in terms of dollars for the community, dollars for the City and how that will help support additional facilities and improvements to your existing parks.

Geoffrey Brady with PLAN\*et spoke to the Board on the data collected so far by City staff. Staff has been going out and collecting points of counts and quantities, some of those are values as what needs to be fixed and repaired, what type of condition is it in. This data allows us to take these parks and take those comprehensive evaluations of needs assessments and major improvements, minor improvements and quantify the parks needs whether it needs to have a major overhaul, minor overhaul and what types of things needs to be done. The other thing it allows us to do is look at the area of calculations, how big are these fields, how much parking area and then we can create information into the plan and the assessment. Then we can start calculating where the gaps are in our City.

Board Member Bob Smith stated you need to look at Bullhead City. Member Bart Wagner stated when you identified fields he doesn't believe Lake Havasu City has one Soccer field because they are shared fields. He believes it needs to be identified because some groups get pushed off because they are sharing these fields. Dornfield said they will be looking at that because it is a concern. That is part of the inventory exercise is to really clarify what is out there. Member Rosensweet asked if PLAN\*et will be giving an estimate of what it cost to build new fields and suggestions on how to finance it. Dornfield responded yes. Part of the focus groups is to determine if you want this, how we should pay for this. Member Bob Smith made a comment that tournament people don't care about lights; City people that have evening events care about lights. Smith would like to see in the assessment how much a field cost without lights and how much a field cost with lights. Member Brett Miller asked how you assess the quality of

the fields and what process you use. Dornfield responded there is a standard rating system and we sent the City staff a set of standards. There are five categories they go through. There is excellent, meet standards, minor attention, major attention and unsafe conditions. One example is if Soccer goals are not anchored then that is considered a major attention, minor attention would be a little bending on the goal frame or a tear in the Soccer net. Chairman Talley stated one of his concerns is the title is Ballfields Assessment and he believes the title should be Sports Fields. We are looking at the community first before the tournaments because currently groups are battling over field use. Dornfield displayed a list of communities and asked the Board this is for your community, your leagues, your teams, and your level of service. Are there communities on this list that Lake Havasu City should be like? Chairman Talley responded Avondale, Bullhead, Kingman Dornfield stated they will benchmark our level of service against these cities. To attract tournaments we should look at benchmarking the following cities; Dornfield suggested Chandler. Member Bob Smith stated Chandler is a big City surrounded by tons of teams and we cannot draw like that. Dornfield stated when we look at trying to bring in tournaments we look at what other communities may have that Lake Havasu could potentially consider. Member Luzzi stated one of the largest hurdles Lake Havasu City currently has when you have multiple children playing in a tournament the fields are spread all over town and it is difficult to see both of your children playing because the fields are not in one location. Chairman Talley asked when going through the inventory are we looking at ADA accessibility. Dornfield stated they will add that. Member Brett Miller asked when the Website will be up; Dornfield responded in one week.

### **London Bridge RC Model Boat Club:**

Jim Foster President of the London Bridge RC Model Boat Club addressed the Board and requested a small space behind the men's bathroom at the south side of Rotary Park near the Skate Park to put up a locked gated fence in which to keep their retrieval boat. The fence would be 3 sided against the bathroom wall approximately 5 foot by 5 foot. The storage would eliminate the need of the club members to have to back the boat down with a pickup truck to the water's edge. Member Jennifer Luzzi asked how big is the boat; Foster responded it is 12feet long. Member Rosensweet asked if there were any complications with staff; Keyes stated he can see the need from their standpoint, he can see by allowing this it could set precedence that other groups would want to take advantage of this and in the end if you let everyone by the end what are you going to have. Keyes stated what he is looking for is a recommendation and then he will take that recommendation up the chain of command and that way his boss and the City Manager would make the final decision. Mark Clark with MSD responded this has been tried before and there is a facility on the north side of the snack bar area that started off with the same sort of discussion and what typically happens is it works well for a year or so and someone forgets about it and it is not policed or management of a group changes. He suggested before we do anything he would be careful about the precedence and then having in place some kind of

agreement to keep everything looking uniform. Keyes added this group has been using Rotary Park for a long time and there is an agreement in place so if your recommendation was to move this forward and at least try it that we could amend the agreement that we currently have in place.

Member Jim Rosensweet made a motion to approve the request to put up a locked gate fence for storage of the London Bridge RC Model retrieval boat on a one year trial basis; member Bart Wagner seconded the motion and carried by the following vote

Aye: 1 – Jim Rosensweet

Nay: 7 – Eric Demyan, Jennifer Luzzi, Brett Miller, Robert Smith, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, and Scott Welte

### **Rotary Park Special Event Use:**

Manager Keyes stated Brian Allen, Special Events Coordinator is in a training and Greg Froslic, CSD Director will be presenting on his behalf. Froslic indicated this is an item that has been before the Board previously; it is a general discussion on Special Events in our City parks. Froslic would like to come to a consensus that the staff could use to approve or deny Special Event request in public parks. Certain requests require closure of public parks; we have approved these requests in the past and as a result we have fielded several complaints. To be consistent staff thought we could come before the Board and get a consensus that could assist in administering Special Events. Chairman Talley responded he believes one of the big events we are talking about is Lucas Oil and the footprint it has and that the park is not open in certain areas. He asked how important are events like Lucas Oil coming into our community, he believes one of the frustrations is the impact these events have on our community and they are only paying \$40 for their permit. Talley's question to City staff is why a developed fee is used on events like Softball tournaments but not on large Special Events like Lucas Oil. Froslic responded not only are some of our park use fees not used on large Special Events they are not being applied on smaller Special Events as well; it was a policy decision that was made by the City when we separated Special Events off from our zoning Temporary Use permits and created a position specifically to encourage Special Events in Lake Havasu City those fees were reduced to one application fee across the board. In an effort to be consistent what I'm hearing from you maybe it is not. Talley stated if you were to review the fee charges for facility use rates commercial use of the park there is a \$246 fee for a large park area. Froslic stated yes what you are reading is adopted by the City Code however the policy with the Special Events is not to apply those and I believe it was directly related to the discussion with the Lucas Oil event that it got to be so expensive that it was undesirable for them to be here and they made a decision not to apply those. Member Bart Wagner asked what are you asking for; Froslic stated I'm asking what is the Boards position on allowing special events in public parks when the event is requesting a closure to the public for a Special Event. The argument can be made that they are very good to

the City with revenues and the argument can be made on the other side that you are restricting access to a public park. How does the Board feel about that, Froslic is not asking for a formal recommendation we are asking for a general consensus that he can use every day when he administers permits. We have to determine what is best for the City; we decided to bring it to the Board and have an open discussion and allow for some public input and hopefully we can come to a general consensus from the Board for how they would like staff to administer those specific cases where a Special Event has requested closure of a public park. Member Bart Wagner stated we live in a community that we have these types of events and another issue is most of them are weekend events and there is usually set-up of events and clean-up time. It can become an issue for certain leagues if they have to shut down four or five times a season then it becomes an issue for that league. Board Member Wagner's question is how many times can you shut down a park and affect the community use that is occurring. Board member Luzzi stated if we had a sports complex that wouldn't be an issue. Chairman Talley stated I understand there is a community event that is scheduled at the same time Lucas Oil is slated to be here again and that there is a conflict and the park is not available to them this year and that is a concern. Manager Dan Keyes stated one of the problems that Lucas Oil is that winds keep coming up and they are trying to compensate and they are trying to start earlier in the morning which closes that trail down which that group would normally take. He feels that Lucas did a great job this last year by keeping the walking path open in the morning for the public; where is the balance. Froslic stated this discussion has been motivated by the Lucas Oil event but really what we are trying to do is develop a general policy for all events that would like to come here and put a gate up and restrict public access for a Special Event. Board member Welte stated he doesn't see a problem with Special Events on a limited basis, two to three events a year. Board Member Robert Smith stated we have fifty two weekends a year I think if we had twelve events it wouldn't be a problem; economically is what we have to look at the cost of maintaining these beautiful parks. Board member Rosensweet felt it should be on a case by case basis and when you are talking about shutting down any of the parks the Advisory Board should be consulted. Froslic stated we are consulting you now and I'm not too sure the Advisory Board should be involved in the permitting approval process which would be cumbersome and timely which would lead not getting permits approved prior to the scheduled events. Staff is consulting you now to get an idea how you would like the staff to administer the program. Member Luzzi stated there are only a handful of weekends we are looking at the park being utilized to its max like Lucas Oil. It is a marketing point for Lake Havasu City we are blessed to live here and we do have fifty two weekends and there are other parks. Froslic suggested without Mr. Allen being here it is difficult for me to provide answers. Froslic would like to discuss some specific concerns the Board has and we can take those back and start to develop a policy that we could apply to those applications that request a park closure. Member Miller stated he has come across a lot of people that he associates in town with that are surprised when the park is closed and if we could come up with a way to get more notification out there if we had a marquee that could state the park will be

closed. Froslic stated we do have a new Marquee slated for this budget year. Board member Eric Demyan asked; is there a problem with the parks being shut down too much or not enough. Froslic stated there is not necessarily a problem except for the fact that people are asking very pointed questions and we need to explore because these parks are for the public; Special Events like Lucas Oil come in and put an application in to put a fence around the public park and close it down for a week and charge people to come in; when we say approve that is great it brings revenue to the City then when the public pushes back we need to have a process. Froslic stated his point he is trying to make is if one person ask the question as a City official you should ask yourself is it proper to restrict access to a public park for a for profit venue. Member Rosensweet stated if there is a request to close the park then that could come before the Board; it would give the public a lot of notice and we could discuss it. Froslic responded we don't have an issue we can bring anything and everything before the Board it could just be a timing issue. Froslic suggested we can put that on the regular agenda. Chairman Talley and Board member Wagner agreed that one of the issues is when a larger event comes in and pushes a smaller community event out that has already been scheduled that is not fair. We also need to address the fee schedule, there is an event going on and they only pay \$40 and the parks department doesn't benefit until they destroy something.

Froslic recapped and stated the Board suggested limiting the amount of closures per year and limiting the footprint, we will look at all of those things and try and develop a policy.

#### **Aquatic/Recreation Update:**

Keyes provided the Board a report to include budget development schedule, Trails Advisory Committee Ordinance, Athletic Field Assessment Study, ADA Paddlers Access, Lifeguard Apprentice Program, Program Planning Forms, Annual User Group Meeting, and Pickleball.

#### **Department Update:**

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

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

N/A

#### **Call to Public:**

Lisa Krueger with Chamber of Commerce addressed the Board regarding background on the Havasu Leadership Development Class Project. Each year the Havasu Leadership Class Development determines their own class project, based on a needs assessment in the community and they determine what their project will be. A fundraising limit set between \$10,000 and \$12,000 can only be raised per class project. The Chamber of Commerce has been doing projects in this community for the last 15 years. Nine out of the fifteen projects which amounts approximately to \$210,000 in community improvements have been in partnership with the City in some form. As far as the class project related to the basketball

court at London Bridge Beach completed by the 2012 class in the amount of about \$12,000 not all in cash but a great deal of that was donated in-kind. We can't dictate or tell you not to re-stripe the courts so it is available for Pickleball but certainly we would very much appreciate you take into consideration that folks and business put money into that project for it to be a basketball court and that is what we would like to see it remain as.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, member Jennifer Luzzi moved for adjournment at 2:15 p.m., seconded by member Bart Wagner and unanimously carried by the Board.