

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

Monday, May 22, 2017  
Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room  
2360 McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

**Summary Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Ashley Pascual called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Jason Keough, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Chuck Vaughn, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte, Mark Zieff

**Call to Public:** N/A

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of meeting on April 24, 2017; Member Scott Welte moved to approve as written; seconded by Chuck Vaughn and unanimously carried by the Board.

**Staff Report:**

**Staff Report**

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane updated the Board; Recreation Division reported we have had 19 new summer volunteers ages 14 & 15 have completed the volunteer process and will be assisting with the summer programs. In the program last year we had 16 teen volunteers; 3 of them have returned to volunteer for a second summer and 6 were hired as staff. The Elks Youth Program provided a fun day with free pizza and dance party for the children from the After School Program on Thursday, April 27. All summer programs registrations began on Monday, May 15. The Starline camp is currently full at 225 and the other camps are 60% to 75% full at this time. The recreation staff is in the process of hiring 57 new part-time staff for the summer programs. Relics and Rods donated \$1750, for recreation programs. Staff training and camp site set-up will begin May 30.

The Aquatic Division reported the Jr. Lifeguard program will begin June 7 with 20 participants; they will work with the FD, AMR, and learn valuable lifesaving skills. The Pirate Swim team will begin June 5. Swim Lessons during June will be Monday through Thursday and there will be 2 sessions offered. Super Hero Training Camp is June 13 from 5:30-7:00pm. Summer Open swim schedule will begin May 30. The schedule will be Sunday through Friday, Noon - 4pm and Sunday, Noon - 5pm.

Events going on at the Community Center are the HPA Kindergarten Graduation May 25, Girl Scout Father Daughter Dance June 2, Association for Supportive Childcare Conference June 10, Havasu Community Health Foundation World

Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15, Veterans Court Family Day June 17, and PD Dispatch Graduation June 30.

### **Aquatic Center Assessment Update**

Keane reported the Ozone system is in the final stage; the Engineering Department is going back and forth with the designer of that system. The Engineers will be onsite for the HVAC study in late June.

### **Trails Subcommittee Report – Mike Keane**

Keane reported the trails subcommittee met May 10. They met earlier in the day with a John Holman and his wife that came down from the Lake Mead area. He was instrumental in developing the river mountain loop trail which is near Lake Mead. The trail is 34 miles with a 10ft wide paved trail through multiple jurisdictions. He explained ways he found funding for much of the trail. The concept the trails committee would like is to create something similar or a path heading up the old Hwy 95. The old Hwy 95 is currently in a discussion of whose right-of-way is it. Mary VanRooy met with Mychal Gordan regarding the Havasu Riviera Project and some of the trails that will be going through that property in hopes to eventually connect all the way through Rotary Park. Priorities that were presented to the Parks and Recreation Board last year were discussed and the progress on each of those. The next trails subcommittee meeting will be held Wednesday, June 14 at 4:00pm at the Aquatic Center.

### **Public Hearing:**

#### **Buddy Bench Presentation – Lee Ann Roberts**

Lee Ann Roberts with Girl Scout Troop #415 stated they are working on a special project which is their Bronze award. The Bronze award is the highest award a Girl Scout junior can earn. The girls presented their idea to the Board in hopes they will approve.

The Girl Scouts from Troop #415 presented to the Board what a Buddy Bench is. They explained when a person sees a person sitting on a Buddy Bench they can automatically tell someone needs a friend. The person that saw the person sitting on the Buddy Bench can go over to them and say “want to play with me and be my friend”. This troop would like to put a Buddy Bench at Jack Hardie Park by the playground. Once the bench is installed they plan to spread the word by placing a video on Facebook telling their teachers, principals and friends at school. They shared a couple of photos with the Board and a poster the girls made. They are partnering with the Kiwanis Club and the bench would be a Trex Bench just like all the other Kiwanis benches around town.

Myron Deschene with the Kiwanis Club stated their group has been very much involved with benches around town. They have a total of 55 benches around town. They have teamed up with the Girl Scouts to help them with this project. They are always looking for another place for a bench. Jack Hardie Park is coming up on 25 years next year. Kiwanis started that park 25 years ago and

would like to come up with something that they can contribute to that park that would be everlasting.

Member Bart Wagner asked if the current benches at Jack Hardie Park are being redone right now. Deschene responded they are Trex benches at Jack Hardie Park. When placing benches they like to put them in places with shade and if there is activity where parents can sit and watch their children. Wagner asked if the benches were already made. Deschene responded yes.

Member Chuck Vaughn asked if the Buddy Bench was a single bench and what the size was and how many kids can sit on it. Chairwomen Pascual stated the picture showed 4 children sitting on it with room for 1 or 2 more. Member Vaughn asked if the Kiwanis takes care of the cost of the bench and does the City install it. Deschene stated the bench is self-supporting and it is just a matter of getting the benches there. There is no cost to the City. The Kiwanis pay for the bench and maintain the benches.

Member Vaughn made a motion to approve the installation of the Buddy Bench at Jack Hardie Park; seconded by member Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.

Member Scott Welte thanked the Girl Scouts for a great presentation and a great idea and being involved in the community. Member Vaughn gave applause to the Girl Scouts as well.

### **FY 2017-2018 Proposed Budget Summary:**

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane explained to the Board the budget has been prepared and presented to Council and they have had an opportunity to respond to some areas and recommendations were taken into account and brought back to Council. Keane gave to the Board the proposed budget for the Community Services Department that was given to Council. Positive trends for FY 2017-2018 in the overall City budget; the Havasu Riviera development including a new State Park, the Downtown Catalyst Project, Vision 20/20 projects such as a new Eco Environmental Learning Center. As well as the City's investment for new playing fields and recreation facility and the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in the English Village and improvements. With a lot of our positive trends for the new year there are a few years obviously there also become some challenges. Tabatha Miller our Finance Director presented to the Board a few months ago the spending limitation which is a major hurdle for us to overcome. Employee Health Care increases, Minimum Wage law, and part-time sick leave, as well as the Public Safety Retirement System funding. We are running into some hurdles. The departments requested budgets they were asked to reduce a total of 3 million dollars. The budget was presented to Council as a balanced budget. There are some significant cutbacks within our budget in certain areas. Many of those areas were tightening up our budget; there were some budgeted programs in ours that we no longer offer like Spring Frenzy. Future projects that were to be funded were cut like new carpet in the Relics and Rods Hall we decided to

postpone for a couple of years. We are working with turning Teen Break back over to the public. We are working with an organization called Christian Youth Workers Roundtable currently to have them more involved. They were a founding partner in the program, they have also volunteered every year. We are in discussions with them actually running it and we will be there to assist. It does take a large sum out of our expenditures. With those savings during that Spring Break time we are proposing is we will run a youth camp for the kids that can't be left home alone and their parents still need to work. We found this is an area that we are missing.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if the City Council will approve the budget in June. Keane responded yes and that will be in effect July 1.

Member Bart Wagner asked if your part-time salaries increased because of hourly wages. Keane responded yes because of the new minimum wage going up that is the increase you see there. Member Wagner stated it looks like your biggest cut was outside contracts. Keane responded the main thing that included was our Teen Break contracts.

Member Chuck Vaughn asked if the private company you are going to have run Teen Break will they be hiring the staff to work. Keane responded that is correct, he stated I'm sure they will pay some staff as well as get as many volunteers as they can. How much of a savings are we going to utilize of that. Keane responded just from Teen Break it is about \$80,000. The total budget reduction from FY16/17 to FY 17/18 is approximately \$470,000 however there are several things in that some of the debt that was issued as well as the capital projects that were postponed.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if the Spring Break Camp idea would be similar to the Winter Break Camp. Keane responded yes.

Member Bart Wagner asked if the Island Jogging Path has been in any discussions. Keane responded it has been in several discussions. The City is currently in negotiations of that right-of-way and once we obtain that right-of-way then the possibilities of altering that path slightly so that all of it fits in the right-of-way.

### **Revenue Generating Ideas Discussion:**

Recreation Services Manager Mike Keane stated at our last meeting some ideas were discussed on ways on how to create revenue as well what are some of the limitations we have in creating that revenue. Keane explained the spending limitation does hold everything back for a couple of years. The idea is to take that to the voters in 2018 and if it was to pass it would take effect July of 2019. That would enable the City to spend more money and work on some different programs and ideas. With the bike rental idea we try not to compete with private entities within the City and there are several bike rental companies in town that

we would not want to be in competition with. Keane explained anytime anyone has an idea it doesn't necessarily have to go to the Board, you are welcome to bring it to him and research it and see if it is feasible for Lake Havasu City and then we can bring a more polished project to the Board if we want it to move forward.

Member Bart Wagner had a suggestion that some type of food/beach equipment concession be located at London Bridge Beach and Rotary Park and storage for paddle boards etc. Keane responded the Jet Ski rental place at London Bridge Beach is bringing in some food trucks that will be located where the old burger shack was. Staff's ultimate vision would be to have some at Rotary Park as well where the old RC car track was.

Member Chuck Vaughn asked if the City is in favor of or has an opinion of sponsorships like the stadiums have. Does any donations like that count against the spending limitation. Keane stated it depends on how it is donated; if it is through grants then it wouldn't necessarily be part of the spending limitation. The City is in conversations regarding naming rights and how they could go and would go and need to verify some of the language in offering those as far as time limits. It is in discussion.

Member Mark Zieff stated some of these ideas he has for revenue generating ideas like Kayak, Paddleboard Storage down at Rotary and London Bridge Beach he believes would be really affordable to put in and something we can go to outside enterprises for donations. People are out there every weekend looking for concessions which can double as amenities, not only food concessions but lockers and storage for kayaks. If you had a ten paddleboard system and you charged the average person \$50 a month they can pay the recreation department directly for a code or lock. The people could buy that annually or bi-annually so it obligates them to a year or month to month. Keane suggested Mr. Zieff come down and meet with him to see if that is something we could work on and then we could bring back to the Board an actual plan. Member Zieff stated he agrees with the bike rental idea we wouldn't want to compete with the local businesses. Another idea member Zieff had was a recreational sports pass that you could transform some of the things Lake Havasu City offers for free that cost us money to maintain you could charge for. The Ballpark, Bocce ball, Frisbee Golf, cheap affordable things you could purchase with that pass. Keane responded lets have that conversation as well. Zieff thought it would be neat to have a SARA Park Gondola ride or a chairlift ride from the bathrooms to the top for the people that cannot access it for the people that cannot walk anymore. We need to show respect to our elders and give them handicap access to the top of SARA Park something that people would come and visit and if done right could generate millions of dollars. Keane stated there are some hurdles with that request, one being the spending limitation and the second being we do not own that part of SARA Park. That would be putting something on BLM land and he is not sure they would be open to that idea. Keane appreciates the enthusiasm and would like to get together with member Zieff to discuss some of his ideas.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if after their meeting and if they bring something back to the Board if they can explain to the Board how that would work within the spending limitation. Is that considered generating revenue that then we would not be able to use or is there a fee for service that goes into the maintenance of that area. Keane stated currently if we increased our revenue those funds would sit, we cannot spend that until the spending limitation is lifted. As part of that plan I would want to bring back what are our true dollars of what is it going to cost.

Member Zieff stated the more he looks at the situation the City is in with not being able to spend its money he is wondering if we split up into a Parks and Recreation District on its own it could free up the ability to spend its own money is that correct. Keane responded there are ways to create special districts, there are a lot of other restrictions you run into. That would have to be a voter initiative and it would be a long process to get that created. You would have to have a separate board and a lot of other details however it is a possibility. The City has talked about several different ways to create something similar to the IDD, irrigation and drainage district. Member Zieff feels we should have more discussions on this and like the Island Bike Path it would ultimately free up money, having its own district it would be able to spend its own budget. Keane responded it would also remove a lot of subsidies and we would have to be taxing the public at a higher rate on that portion. Zieff stated maybe we can step up to the future and look at some other City's that have fantastic programs. He doesn't think it is a bad idea, hearing that the City has its hands tied to spend all this money and you might not have an answer for a year that pushes every single thing Parks and Rec wants to do for two more years. Keane stated we are actually doing a lot; we are creating Cypress Park, and renovating SARA Park for the tune of almost 19 million dollars. There are projects moving forward. Member Zieff wanted to remind the Board that most of the people that come to Lake Havasu don't go to Cypress Park spending money where it needs to be spent is better in his opinion for the future of City.

Citizen Mary VanRooy stated at their trail meeting these are the type of things they talk about public/private partnerships. She offered to send out emails to the Board regarding Coconino County where they were able to develop a sales tax where they purchase lands, and wet lands. She is working with the County on the old Hwy 95. The City would be part of it, Desert Hills, ADOT, BLM; we are not sure of what it is but we are working on it. It was abandoned in 1980; we have the paperwork but no one is taking responsibility for it. We can find ways to get some projects done hopefully in the next few years.

Member Chuck Vaughn stated he would like to see a few more things utilized like the 6 acre parcel we bought for the new bridge. He stated the new bridge is not going to go in for years. We could use that piece of land to do tethered balloon rides from that point. A year to year lease could be drawn up and the City could

get a percentage of that. Hours could be limited. Keane responded to member Vaughn he is welcome to stop by and discuss those ideas.

### **Capital Improvement Projects Update:**

#### **a. Cypress Park**

Keane reported he attended a mandatory pre-bid meeting for Cypress Park this morning. There were 15 in attendance and approximately 8 different companies. It was good to see that much interest in bidding for that project. The bids are due June 16 and will be awarded by Council in July with construction starting shortly after.

#### **b. Sports Complex**

Keane reported the scope is in negotiating for design and that the budget for doing the design for that project is actually in the FY 17/18 budget so we will not be moving forward a lot until July 1.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

- Dog Park near Rotary Park
- Trails Priority List and what has been completed
- Presentation on how we collaborate with other entities
- Contact Point Walking Area

### **Future Meetings:**

June 26, 2017 at the PD Meeting Room

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Member Chuck Vaughn moved for adjournment 7:05 p.m.; seconded by Member Jason Keough and unanimously carried by the Board.