

Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Lake Havasu City Police Council Chambers
2360 McCulloch Blvd N., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
www.lhcaz.gov

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chairperson Welte called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Welte led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Cheri Kowalski conducted a Roll Call of the Board members:

Regular Board Members Present: Chairperson Scott Welte, Vice-Chairperson Jason Keough, Rick Knotts, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Chuck Vaughn, Mark Zieff

Excused: Leo Biasiucci

Council Member Present: Michele Lin

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Mike Keane, Cheri Kowalski

4. CALL TO PUBLIC

Chairperson Welte requested a Call to the Public for any comments and issues to address. Seven people from the community in attendance.

- Doug Carr with the Pickleball Association brought a poster of the Master Plan at Dick Samp Park to share with the Board.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Approval of October 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes

- Member Keough made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 29, 2018 as written, seconded by member Pascual and carried by the following vote:

AYE: 7 – Welte, Keough, Knotts, Pascual, Smith, Vaughn, and Zieff

6. COMMUNICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PARKS & RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

6.1 Parks & Recreation Manager Report

Mike Keane provided updates to various items:

- Currently taking registration for Winter Break Camp which will be held at Smoketree Elementary School December 26, 27, 28 and January 2, 3, 4.
- Children’s Celebration on December 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m. at the Rotary Ballfields.
- Our Walk with Ease Program was featured by NRPA as a success story for the month of October as part of their Healthy Aging in Parks Campaign.
- Pool is closed for the next two weeks. (November 26 – December 9) for annual maintenance.
- Pool will be open Christmas Eve until 1:00 p.m. and closed Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve open until 1:00p.m. and closed New Year’s Day. Land exercise will be taking place during the closure.
- Additional open swims will be offered during holidays while the youth is out of school.
- Women’s Network Exchange Association (WNEA) shopping expo December 1 from 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. in the Relics and Rods Hall.
- Community Dinner December 14 in the Relics and Rods Hall with two seating’s one at 4:00p.m. and the other at 6:00p.m.
- Buddy the Elf is having a cookie decoration party in the Relics and Rods Hall on December 20 at 5:30p.m.
- AZ Collectibles and firearms Show December 29 and 30 at the Community Center in the Relics and Rods Hall.
- Christmas Boat Parade of Lights November 30 and December 1 in the Bridgewater Channel.
- Triple Crown Parade of Lights Baseball Tournament November 30 through December 2 at Rotary Park, SARA Park, ASU and Dick Samp Park.
- Jingle Bell Walk/Run on December 1 at the Grand Island Park Island Trail.
- 35th Annual River Riders Toy Run December 2 on Main street.
- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony December 2 at Wheeler Park.
- Teen Break surveys are coming back; we have received over 650 from Thunderbolt, Telesis, Calvary and HPA. Approximately 300 from the High School.
- Attended a CIP meeting and discussed projects and background of the projects. Administrative Services is now evaluating all projects as well as ability to fund them.
- A student member is on the agenda to be appointed at the City Council Meeting tomorrow evening.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7.1 Presentation and Discussion: Eagle Scout Project Presentation

Chairperson Welte introduced Lance Yearick.

- Lance Yearick introduced himself to the Board. He is a Life Scout at the Boy Scouts and current Assistant Leader with the Sea Scouts.
- Mr. Yearick explained to the Board what it means to be an Eagle Scout and what you have to do such as this project to become one.
- He described an Eagle Project is a service for the community to help the community out in one way and not just one person or one company. To do this you have to lead others in a project that truly shows what type of leader you are. You need to help the community and have a long lasting effect.

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- Mr. Yearick's project is to refurbish signs in the Bridgewater channel area that mark the area of where they are. He has worked with South Side Signs and created a sign that is more beautiful and shows people where they are and what they can do.
- Board member Vaughn asked if he thought of this project himself.
- Yearick replied he thought of the project himself. It originally started as marking every single area where a boat would go but eventually evolved into this project. It helps both the community and the City.
- Board member Knott ask what the timeline of the project is.
- Yearick stated through fund raising he has raised enough money to do all the signs instead of just four that he had originally planned on. He needs confirmation from the City that it is ok to do all of the signs and get the steel from the City for the inside part of the signs.
- Board member Knott commended Yearick on his project and stated it is something that is needed and congratulated him on his efforts in being an Eagle Scout.
- *Council member Linn asked what his budget is and who would be installing them.*
- *Yearick responded South Side Signs gave him a great deal and he has raised around \$300.00. He will be installing the signs himself and the people he brings with him.*
- *Board member asked if he is planning on refurbishing all of the signs.*
- *Yearick replied the plan is to repaint all of them and put the new designs in for the first ones. That is the current plan. If the City asked him to do all of them he has the money to do it.*
- *Board member Pascual stated it was a great presentation and thanked him for his volunteer service. She asked if the design displayed in the PowerPoint is that what the signs will look like.*
- *Yearick replied yes that is the current design he has.*
- *Board member Pascual asked if each sign will have the same image.*
- *Yearick stated yes the same image will go on the sign and they already have the numbers on them. There is no need to restate the number again.*
- *Board member Pascual asked what can the Board do to help you further your project.*
- *Yearick responded he is just looking for confirmation if he is doing four signs or will that be expanded to thirteen and once that is figured out the steel from the City and he is then pretty much done. He will then just need to get the paint, putting the stickers onto the actual steel and then install them.*
- *Parks and Recreation Manager Mike Keane wanted to let the Board know the numbering of the signs is used for several reasons; one that the public can use that as a reference if they call someone they can explain where they are, our public safety currently uses those numbers to alert where they may need to go during an emergency situation.*
- *Chairperson Welte thanked Yearick for his effort, his time, and consideration of our City and for this great project.*

7.2 Discussion Lifeguarding Swim Areas in City Parks

- Board member Zieff stated he had the idea of putting the existing Lifeguard program at the Aquatic Center in a rotation that will cover the designated swim areas at both Rotary Park and London Bridge Beach.
- *Board member Keough stated I believe the last time we talked about this we handed it off to the City to see about the feasibility of this and liability concerns.*

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- *Keane responded he did meet with our Risk Management department as well as our City Manager and Aquatic Supervisor. It is not as simple as adding a rotation. There is a complete different Open Water Certification that all of our staff that would work on the open water would need to obtain. The liability is huge; it changes the simple liability of the rest of the beaches. There would have to be conversation with many agencies. The water itself is not in our jurisdiction other than police monitoring.*
- *Board member Zieff stated if there is a question of ownership then there is a question of who's liability is. It wouldn't be the City if it's not City property its BLM land and he has noticed on certain maps he has looked at there is an extension of what the City is allowed to patrol and what they are not allowed to. He has also done research once you designate a swim area your liability right from that point regardless whether or not you are swimming, lifeguarding, or patrolling it. On that being said he also did research where it states once you put a sign up Lifeguard on Duty then the liability does become whoever is watching the area. That is where there is some confusion about the liability, the City Attorney or someone can look at that or square it up if they want to move forward with that. The main purpose of him bringing this discussion up is because he heard it is a great educational program. Ms. Swan Cooke is a leader, pioneer in leading the swimming division. She has 40 lifeguards on duty that cuts down to 25 in the winter. She sends her lifeguards to Santa Barbara for beach and kayaking canoe training. She has search and water rescue training in the lake not in the swimming pool. As he did his research he uncovered a lot very interesting information that can bleed over into events, Labor Day weekend, 4th of July, things maybe the City can look at and Lifeguarding assistant program with the Police Department on busy days. A further point this is 2018, there is a lot more swimming going on down there. We have a lot of accidents in the past. The accidents occurred mostly away from the beaches, they don't occur mostly in the swim area. So if it is a liability issue there are not that many drownings, it turns out to be why even have it. Then he turns to the point it is educational, it's a teaching moment for all of the kids that are in the program, its offered through the high school already. There is a big connection with lifeguarding already here in the City. He just thinks it runs hand in hand. By making a recommendation to have the City look forward in to it is something they could actually accomplish, because it is beyond land. Once again if we can patrol lifeguards without a sign we might be able to get around the liability issue. Just having them out there assisting. Once you put the sign, liability is yours. Once you have that designated swim area, the liability is yours just as well. When you have buoys marked off the beach and off that beach is where the water line moves, well when the water line moves down the City then becomes liable for everything on that shoreline. He found that out from the BLM office. If anyone else can correct him if he is wrong that is the research that he found this last week.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked if Mrs. Cooke runs our lifeguard program.*
- *Board member Zieff replied yes.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked if she sends them to Santa Barbara wouldn't that have the effect of having open water training certification.*
- *Keane responded we have not sent our lifeguards to CA in quite some time. They did as part of the Jr. Lifeguard program as a reward they would go to Surf Camp. We have not sent anyone to training any of our lifeguards in CA at all.*
- *Board member Zieff stated along that trip they would learn how to patrol beaches and how to do outriggering. This is an article I read, sure it's an old article from 2001 that I found on the website when I was searching in reference to lifeguards. In fact, that is what she did do when she first moved*

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here. Whether or not they do it now, she has 40 some lifeguards. It's a small venue for that many lifeguards to continue constant education, CPR, beach rescue. To help and assist police; are police trained enough for all of that type of rescue. The police are not trained in water rescue, the lifeguards are. There is a lot of reasons to bleed it, there is not a big drowning effect but we did have 8 or 10 people pass away on the lake last year away from the swim area.

- Keane replied not on the shore.
- Board member Zieff stated I believe he had read somebody alcohol related in 2015 pass away in the channel correct.
- Keane responded according to the article he read in the paper as well, yes the County did state that there was one in the channel that was alcohol related.
- Board member Zieff stated when accidents start happening, we are trying to build a community that shows people safety, shows we have education, parks, ambulance, fire, police, we have designated swim areas with no lifeguards. He just felt it was something the City Council could look at with their professional reviews.
- Board member Vaughn stated I believe the gentleman that died was not by the swim area he was down in the channel by the boats. He asked if we have any signs by the swim areas. Can we put signs that say kids in water be a designated watcher?
- Keane responded yes, we do have signs posted no lifeguard on duty, swim at your own risk. They are alerting the patrons.
- Board member Pascual asked does the Fire Department have a crew on duty in the channel or along the beaches during summer weekends.
- Keane responded the County mainly patrols through the channel, we have our police officers patrol as well. We do have a fire boat for search and rescue.
- Chairperson Welte stated he believes San Bernardino's officers are water rescue trained.
- Board member Pascual stated maybe it is more of an educational campaign something we can promote, perhaps working with the hospitality industry to educate the folks that there are no lifeguards on duty maybe some information they can give when they check in.
- Board Member Zieff asked a question about the liability if someone does drown in the swim area what does happen. Who comes to respond, and who's liability is it anyway. Is it the cause or the effect and what happens after? He stated I don't even know what my question is it is more of a point than anything.
- Keane replied there is a certain inherited risk in all recreation. When you start changing that risk by lowering it by having staff, that changes completely the level of liability the City would actually lose the protections that are afforded to them through the government once we would start actually stepping in and lifeguarding an open water way.
- Chairperson Welte stated so at this point we are no longer going to pursue the lifeguarding issue. His thought is above our paygrade to deal with something like this.
- Keane responded that is the feeling I get by looking at all of your faces.
- Board member Zieff stated I guess just bringing it to your attention having it on future agendas that it is something that the Parks and Recreation could look into anytime it wants to in the future or not. It was just a talking point and a discussion more for the public.
- Chairperson Welte opened up to the public. No comments from the public.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- CIP Update
- Teen Break Survey Results

9. FUTURE MEETINGS (fourth Monday of each month)

- December 17, 2018
- January 28, 2019

10. ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.