

Lake Havasu City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
May 23, 2016
Lake Havasu City Community Center, Room 155/156
100 Park Avenue
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: Logan Johnson, Jennifer Luzzi, Brett Miller, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on April 18, 2016; Member Jennifer Luzzi moved to approve as written; seconded by Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.

Call to Public:

Carolyn Kunick a 5 year resident that frequents the Dylan Dog Park (SARA Park). Kunick has concerns with the notice she received regarding the Temporary Dog Park Closures for Non-Maintenance and Turf Recovery that will result in over four weeks of closure for that park. She stated she spoke with Mark Clark with Maintenance Services and he explained they have a Hybrid Bermuda and they will be extensively watering that site in order to make the grass grow during the warm summer months. When she returned to Dylan Dog Park after the first closure she noticed the ground was bone dry and it did not look like it had been mowed, they did do a light aeration on the grounds which she said is not necessary during this time of year. Kunick went on to explain that Bermuda Hybrid is very hardy and is able to sustain a high level of activity.

Kunick stated when she visited Avalon that it was the worst of the parks. She felt the grass there was a very cheap Bermuda that was highly filtered with a lot of rocks and dirt.

Kunick gave recommendations which included:

- Maintain winter growth by applying nitrogen based fertilizer to keep grass active instead of going dormant being decimated by use, i.e. Milogranite.
- If worried about barren patches, lay tifdwarf or tifgreen hybrid Bermuda either in sod or plugs (during warm months)
- Stake and net area until established watering daily until growth is evident.
- Want access to the parks and don't care if there are patches of dirt
- Close the park for a day if needed; anything more is defeating the mission statement of the dogs parks
- Establish a second segregated park

- Keep the SARA Dog Park open from 6am-Noon during WinterBlast they can shoot fireworks after 1:00pm

Mary Van Rooy, Chairman of the Trails Advisory Committee stated they had a member that was on both TAC and PRAB that has since resigned. She would like to continue to have a member that is on both boards so they can continue to work together.

Van Rooy indicated a newspaper article in February stated the restrooms for SARA Park were tabled. She is concerned because that is a grant that needs to be completed by September.

A very respected individual in the community volunteered to do some excavation and work for a short trail. We have come across some road blocks and she is hoping that the City staff can actually do this same project because it is not worth having volunteers and she will not ask anyone again because it is too difficult.

Van Rooy is asking for public work sessions so that our two committees can work together.

Susan Stillwell moved here a year and a half ago. She really enjoys the SARA Dog Park and has to drive across town from where she lives. She would like to have the Avalon dog park separated into little dogs and big dogs separate areas.

William Hoose moved to Lake Havasu three years ago. He started taking his dogs to SARA Park and the grass was beautiful. Three years later I would not consider it grass. It is a safety factor and it is not the dogs fault but they get excited and run into the post. Something is biting his dog at the park, not sure if we treat the grass for bugs or what is up there but his dog has a bunch of red bites on his belly.

Staff Report:

Presentation on Bed Tax Funding

City Attorney Kelly Garry educated the board about bed tax history. Back in 1981 the food and beverage tax was established. In 1996, Council approved to increase the food and beverage tax 1% which was designated to economic development. In 2002, a 75/25 split between CVB and PED. Immediately following the increase, Prop 200 was adopted which prevents any tax increase unless increase goes to special election and must receive 2/3 vote. Lake Havasu City has not had a tax increase since 1996. In 2009, CVB started an initiative to increase the bed tax from 3% to 4% to help fund tourism related activities. This initiative was not passed by voters.

The initiative process is handled through the City Clerk's office. It involves a petition, the petition signatures being verified by Mohave County, and then going

to City Council and voters. Anyone can begin an initiative doesn't have to be an organization. There are other statutes that would provide limitations to certain tax increases. If an increase was approved, City Council typically specifies what tax will be used for. Don't have to designate where tax will go but increases may get more support if there is a specific purpose.

Lake Havasu City is going to begin to inform citizens of expenditure limitations. In 1980, legislature referred a constitution amendment to voters to limit annual expenditures of all Arizona cities and town by a formula based on residential population and inflation. Lake Havasu City hasn't had to worry about this for several reasons i.e. the sewer project, increases in population and the economy. Now we have to start worry about expenditure limitations. This means we may have money in the bank to spend on projects but we are going to reach our expenditure limitations which will prevent us from moving forward with projects. There are million dollar penalties for not abiding by our expenditure limitations.

Chairman Mark Talley asked if a bed tax increase will help with expenditure limitations. City Attorney Kelly Garry responded you can bring in new revenue but the limitations are still there and are based on the formula. A few solutions are Alternate Expenditure Limitations and Permanent Based Adjustment. A lot of cities and towns have already had to deal with this problem. Lake Havasu City was just lucky not to have had to deal with this until now. Hopefully in the future Administrative Services will be able to meet with all boards to discuss and explain more about expenditure limitations and the available solutions.

City Attorney Kelly Garry did advise the board that seeking out funding and funding options is out of the scope of this board. Unless the City Council specifically asks the board to research funding options. She suggests they start with prioritizing Parks and Recreation projects and present that to City Council.

More information about expenditure limitations will be coming out in the next several months.

Staff Report

Director, Greg Froslic updated the Board on summer programs that are being offered by the Aquatic/Recreation Division.

The contract for the Marquee sign at the Aquatic Center has been executed with Golden Rule Signs out of Louisville, Kentucky. The sign will take approximately 6 weeks to build estimated installation will be shortly after the 4th of July Holiday.

Staff has solicited for bids for a new slide at the Aquatic Center. A PO will be issued this week for approximately \$190,000 for the company to begin construction of the slide. Parts should arrive in November and our MSD staff will assemble onsite which will save us a significant amount of money and should be operational sometime around Christmas.

Staff has a contract with a consulting engineer for construction of new Pickleball courts. They have completed a topographical survey of the area. They are currently doing the conceptual design for 16 Pickleball Courts. A detailed construction drawing is to be completed in August for the first 4 courts at Dick Samp Park.

SARA Park Trail Head that was just discussed at the call to the public is also at design. It is on schedule. The City has a grant to build a restroom at the trail head that is set to expire in September. We are confident we will meet that schedule.

The recruitment for the Recreation Services Manager is coming to conclusion. Interviews were conducted last week. We are hoping to make an offer the later part of this week.

Aquatic Center Study Update

The draft of the study was received today. We will put on the website for you to review and provide your comments. The consulting firm, the architect, and his team of engineers spent a significant amount of time with the aquatic, recreation and MSD staff evaluating the entire facility. The electrical, plumbing, facility uses, and schedules were all evaluated. The report addresses all of that and outlines exactly what they feel are options and it provides recommendations as well. Included in the proposed budget is 1.3 million this coming fiscal year and 1.2 million for the following fiscal year to implement the recommendations in this report. It is important that we all take the time to read this and make comments on it so we can finalize this.

Public Hearing:

Presentation by Students Working Against Tobacco (S.W.A.T)

(a.) Patrick Tinnell Memorial Skate Park Smoke Free/Vapor Free
Debra Levi with the Mohave County Department of Public Health Tobacco Control and Chronic Disease and students with the S.W.A.T presented to the Board. The mission of SWAT-LHC is to strive to improve the health of Lake Havasu City students, families and our community. The students spoke on Dangers of Tobacco Use, Harmful Effects of Second-hand Smoke, and Target Marketing. SWAT conducted a local Community Tobacco Survey with 112 people between October 2014 and June of 2015.

A tobacco free park policy would:

- Reduce butt litter at the parks
- Change the social norm around tobacco use so that youth don't see tobacco use as the "Social norm"
- Reduce second-hand smoke exposure

Chairman, Mark Talley asked what their goal was. Levi responded ultimately they would like all of the parks to be tobacco free but you have to start somewhere so this group would like to start at the skatepark to help decrease with some of the things going on down there. Levi stated she included in the packets a Model

Tobacco Free Policy that includes vapor. A copy of the Ordinance that the town of Parker passed last week is also included in your packet. Chairman Mark Talley recommend to the SWAT group to contact the Patrick Tinnell Memorial Sports Park committee. Member Brett Miller asked how successful is it to pick out one section of a park like you are proposing. Levi stated it is really up to the City what direction they would like to go. Talley reiterated to get together with the Tinnell Committee and formulate an idea of exactly what you want to do and come back to the Board and we will help you move it forward to Council.

Possible Creation of a Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Board Member Brett Miller motioned to table discussion until Division Manager Position is filled and more information is available. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jennifer Luzzi and unanimously carried by the Board.

Future Agenda Items:

Needs of the Dog Parks in town – Maintenance Services
Field Needs Assessment Update
20/20 Vision – James Gray PED

Call to the Public:

N/A

Adjournment:

There being no further business, member Jennifer Luzzi moved for adjournment 7:15 p.m.; seconded by member Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.