

Lake Havasu City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday, January 22, 2018
Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room
2360 McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Summary Minutes

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

Roll Call: Present: Leo Biasiucci, Jason Keough, Rick Knotts, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Chuck Vaughn, Scott Welte, Mark Zieff,

Absent: Samantha Zilberman

Call to Public: June Vaughn addressed the Board regarding the No Smoking signs in Rotary Community Park. She would like to suggest more No Smoking signs be placed within the park and more signs regarding No Dogs. She would like to give kudos to the Parks and Recreation on how beautiful the parks look.

Jackie Leatherman, Director of Event Marketing with the Lake Havasu City Convention and Visitors Bureau. She would like the Board to know the Bureau completely supports the AZ Peace Trails development. They have been very active in facilitating a coordinated and well researched marketing and promotion plan among the three counties and also working with the Arizona Office of Tourism to support the tourism attraction that we believe the Arizona Peace Trail can bring to Western Arizona.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on November 27, 2017; Member Chuck Vaughn moved to approve as written; seconded by Leo Biasiucci and unanimously carried by the Board.

Introduction of New Board Members:

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane announced we have two new Board Members. Rick Knotts is present tonight. We have a new student member Samantha Zilberman as well.

Board member Knotts introduced himself. He is a former professional in the Parks and Recreation field. He is retired from the AZ State Parks with 31 years of service. He retired as the Chief Operations for the AZ State Parks System about three years ago. He was the Regional Manager which was located here in Lake Havasu for a 7-year period.

Staff Report:

Staff Report

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane updated the Board; Recreation Division reported boys and girls Youth Basketball games and practices continue

throughout February, with approximately 250 children participating in the program. Starline After School Program will host the Performing Arts Play the Wizard of Oz, February 9.

Program

The Aquatic Division reported the Kinderswim program starts in February with the elementary school kindergarteners running every week through the first week in May. NRPA Fit and Strong program will begin in February with two sessions running in the mornings. This is a grant funded program from the National Parks and Recreation Association to train our staff in for this program. The Lake Havasu City Police Department and the San Bernardino Sheriff Department Dive Teams will do a training in the pool on February 25. A Let's Go Fly a Kite program will be on February 22 giving kids an opportunity to make kites and use the air bounce. Nine new Water Safety Instructors will begin teaching this month after completing a 32-hour training course. We have added additional Arthritis Exercise classes to help with the needs of the community at this time of year.

Events going on at the Community Center are a Vaccination Clinic for pets January 27, Havasu Community Health Foundation Health Fair with a Heart Health Focus February 3, Western Welcome Garage Sale February 9, a Tree Dedication Ceremony February 10, LHC Neighborhood Watch event February 12, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) BUNCO Party February 21, and the Mark Hahn Dinner Banquet February 24. Our annual WPA Firework event is at SARA Park the weekend of February 16.

Trails Subcommittee Report – Mike Keane

Mike Keane reported the new members to the AZ State Committee on Trails will be appointed on February 16. Mary Van Rooy from our trails group has been recommended by the nominating committee to represent our area. Congratulations to Mary. On January 23 the MPO meeting will have an update on the progress of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and some of the survey results that they have been receiving through the website as well as the public comment sessions. The meeting will be held at 1:30pm at the City Maintenance Facility. January 25, the AZ State Parks and Trails will be presenting a Grant Workshop from 10am – 3pm at our local BLM office.

Public Hearing:

AZ Peace Trail – Presentation by Wayne Colebank, Logan Simpson Deign Inc.

Wayne Colebank, a Landscape Architect with Logan Simpson Design addressed the Board to share the latest planning activities for the AZ Peace Trail. They are assisting the AZ Peace Trail Inc. in the planning and development of the master plan. J.C. Sanders the President of the AZ Peace Trail was also present. Colebank provided a slide presentation to Board discussing the Planned Trail Route. Basic facts include the trails main loop is 675 miles long with future cross connections will equal 1,200 plus miles. Seventy percent of the trail will be on federal land. The AZ Peace Trail Inc. is a non-profit organization and is developed to promote

tourism in Western Arizona. The trail traverses three Counties; Mohave, LaPaz, and Yuma connecting the various communities Kingman, Bullhead, Lake Havasu, Parker, Quartzsite, Yuma, and Wikieup. They have crossed 13 different landowners and jurisdictions, there is 66 crossings on AZ State Land Parcels. The trail is primarily set-up for OHV's but is open to all user groups. The existing trail consist of some paved areas, dirt, unimproved surfaces with an easy to difficult rating. Vehicles need to be street legal to run on this because a portion of this is on existing streets or highways. Not shown on this masterplan is staging areas and future trailheads which will be developed or connected to the trail at a later time. The ultimate goal of this project is to have this designated at a National Recreation Trail.

Background on the trail includes in 2011 the Arizona Sun Riders suggested a loop trail in La Paz County. In 2013 there was meetings with the BLM and Arizona Game and Fish Department who came up with this idea from Yuma to Bullhead City Trail which was then picked up by the AZ Peace Trail Inc. There is thirteen different OHV rider groups that have all come together to take this idea and move it forward.

There have been several agencies involved in the planning of this trail. Some included are the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bullhead City, Arizona State Parks, BLM, City of Yuma, Lake Havasu City, City of Kingman, Town of Parker, Town of Quartzsite, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game & Fish and Reclamation Managing Water in the West.

Anticipated trail users are hikers, joggers, walkers, equestrian, and all forms of motorized vehicles, motorcycles, sleds or side-by-sides.

The trail travels on some existing roads and highways, goes through communities, as well takes advantage of farm roads and along canals. Through the back country the riders see a lot of historic components of old mining ranches and a lot of different historic things and beautiful landscape.

A survey was conducted on who are the riders using this trail. Over 500 people responded to the survey. The majority age demographic are individuals over the age of 65. This group of riders are from 22 states. The riding groups consist of 6 or more people at a time. The lengths of trips vary from four or more days to one day and two day trips. The average daily mileage is over 40 miles a day.

The things the riders need during their trips are hotels, areas to camp, fuel, restrooms, food, drinks, repair and tire shops. The users have showed an interest in having maps. Most user groups will be using a GPS unit so they can follow the trail and know where they are at all times and be able to know what is coming and where they are going and be able to access emergency information.

The economic benefits are difficult to pin down at the moment. There are no specific studies about off highway vehicles and how much the economic benefit

is here in Arizona. They do know generally the outdoor recreation is a \$21 billion business in Arizona. Western Arizona has abundant opportunities for this kind of outdoor recreation; logically this trail fits into many objectives for communities here. The general trend has been motorized use has increased since 2003 and is expected to continue at least until 2022 and beyond. The trend is now this riding activity is more a family activity when you have vehicles that can handle 4 people you have mom and dad and a couple of kids. The amenities and services needed for the Off Highway Vehicles will expand in these communities near the trails.

Currently there are some pieces of the trail that have opened. A slide showing a sign of the trail icon so you can recognize it if you are out on the trail. Presently they are finishing the trail master plan, still signing portions of the trail where they can. Where they can currently go is being limited because on the federal lands we don't have the environmental clearances. We are working on the marketing of the trail and selling merchandise. Continuing coordination with agencies and delivering of these types of awareness presentations.

In the future there will need to be staging areas and trailheads. This is where communities like Lake Havasu City will need to develop trailheads and areas that you prefer to have and then those connections will be made to the trail.

In the future there is also a map app that will have GPS components to it. It will be available on the AZ Peace Trails website and it will provide general information about the trail, where businesses and services are and rider information.

There is a challenge because there are 3 field offices of the BLM and there are 18 separate Travel Management Plans. A Travel Management Plan is deciding which trails that are out there in the desert that are going to be kept and which trails are going to be deleted and rehabilitated back to some natural condition. They are trying to manage the free for all of vehicles all over the place and limit the riding area. BLM has to go through public process to whittle down these trails and then do an environmental document to identify what the impact is of eliminating the other trails.

Long term goals for the project are to firm up connections to major communities. Define and map day loops, ensure trails are incorporated into BLM Travel Management Plans. In some point in time another agency is going to have to take over the trail; there has been some discussions with AZ State Parks but if this becomes a National Recreation Trail those are managed by BLM or the Forest Service. The discussions of who will ultimately own this trail are still out there to be determined. Looking to promote public and private investments. Establish new staging areas and cross connections. Ultimately we will need to get money for operations and maintenance. Many of the Off Highway Rider Groups have committed to adopt sections of the trails and maintain them. This trail plan

will continuously be updated. If the trail is designated a National Recreational Trail, we can then seek different funding sources.

It is anticipated the Master Plan will be completed this Spring. NEPA clearance still needs to be approved on the BLM and we do cross some Bureau of Reclamation Land near Yuma and at Alamo Lake. The land around Alamo Lake is owned by the Corp of Engineers and you would have to go through their process. We still need to market the trail short-term and long-term. Ultimately we need to find who that entity is that is going to be managing that trail. One of the challenges is in other states OHVs do not have to be licensed and in Arizona they do.

JC Sanders, President of the AZ Peace Trail spoke to the Board regarding a Bill they introduced to the State Legislator just now beginning through this session to require all off highway stickers for all OHV's. Currently they are required for all OHV's licensed in the state of AZ. We have no requirements for out of state vehicles. Several states have already adopted a law of this nature which require stickers for all vehicles. It gives the law enforcement better control of who is out there legally. Currently if it is an out of state visitor we have a 30 days limit they can stay without having their vehicle registered here. We have a lot of long term winter visitors that stay more than 30 days. Some areas they cannot license them here because they cannot take them back home and license them again, like the Canadians. We are trying to make it possible for them to at least ride off highway on our trails. It will not necessarily make them street legal.

Board Member Leo Biasiucci asked when you talked about presenting to Legislation what way are you presenting it to them. Are you asking for a temporary permit that they will have to pay for? In the current markup of the Bill the existing Legislation is the out of state person to get the sticker when they come to our state and it would be valid for one year from the date of entry. Member Biasiucci asked if there would be a fee involved with that. Sanders stated yes. Currently the in state sticker is \$25 and it would logically be the same for an out of state resident. Member Biasiucci asked where would they get that sticker from. Sanders stated it would be provided by the Motor Vehicle Division, same as the current in state sticker. Chairwomen Pascual asked if this is citizen driven or are you working with a Legislator. We are working with Representative, Drew John from Safford.

Board Member Vaughn asked if La Paz County and Yuma County recognize the same licensing requirements that Mohave County does. Sanders responded yes it is recognized statewide. Vaughn asked if there is any part of the trail that does go down the interstate? Sanders responded no part of the trail goes down the interstate. Member Vaughn asked if there are maps available now that someone can pick up. Sanders responded at the present time we have not produced any paper maps because the trail is still flexible and we are still making some route changes. We are also depended on BLM finalizing their Travel Management Plan.

On the AZ Peace Trail website, we do have the trail resources PDF file can be taken to a printer.

Board Member Jason Keough asked if there were any indicators from the BLM NEPA surveys that there is any red flag items that they found that you might need to overt. Sanders responded the BLM worked with them really closely when they first started and they have avoided areas where they indicated that was not acceptable. They also worked with the AZ Game and Fish Department and they have identified some areas where we shouldn't be on. US Fish and Wildlife has put some areas off limits. We have worked with all of those agencies to try and make sure we are not encroaching any environmentally sensitive areas. Member Keough asked if there is a challenge with the AZ State Lands. Sanders responded they are working with the AZ State Parks in conjunction with the AZ State Lands to try and identify the actual right of way across State Lands. State Parks has verbally committed that the support to purchase those right of ways. Hopefully it will remain in the County names or the AZ State Parks names.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if there is any communication with Tribal entities or Governments. Sanders responded at the present time there has not been any interaction with the AZ Peace Trail and any Tribal entities within the area. He stated they have not encroached on any tribal lands. Pascual asked if they know what portion of the trail is paved. Colebank responded there is a fair amount in Mohave County that is. Sanders responded probably between 10% and 15%.

Member Leo Biasiucci stated the it is a very large trail if this was to go through would there be actual signage on the trail showing mileage or directions. Sanders responded currently La Paz County and Mohave County has signed most of their County roads. They are generally putting a sign at every intersection or every major change in the trail. The plan is once it is completed we will use BLM sign markers and coordinate with them to mark turns and mark the trails.

Member Vaughn asked if they are going to have in the system places that are ADA accessible on your website. Is there going to be a place showing the degree of difficulty and will they show a suggested speed for that area. Colebank responded the rating system that they have looked at will show an icon of what type of vehicle can get by in that area. For all of the new trailheads and staging areas any Federal money that is involved in that has to comply with all ADA requirements. In terms of the trail itself there are no real accessibility requirements, because you are experiencing the difficulties of it. The idea of the trail is everyone that is riding in a vehicle would have the same access to a lot of the same experiences that is the fundamental premise of the accessibility code.

Board Member Knotts asked if down the road a community put in a staging area campground would they be allowed to charge user fees for that area. Sanders responded yes.

Jackie Leatherman with the CVB stated from the AZ Office of Tourism our Grand Canyon is a promotional point but often too what we find here in Western AZ is there is a focus on Tucson, Phoenix, Sedona, and Flagstaff so this is a great chance for us to come together cohesively really stand up and say "Hey" look what we have. Here locally we are seeing a lot of interest on the back-end of their website in off-roading and they are amazing and an important aspect of what they did not touch on is the experience. What this trail does is forces you to stop and appreciate our desert environment how much it does dramatically change in a small portion of time. There is a lot of gorgeous natural points of interest out there some historical points of interest, some manmade amenities. This is going to be great to highlight for us.

Mary Van Rooy wanted to encourage everyone to attend the grant workshop. You can put in your name ahead of time so they have a head count. She has attended a grant workshop in Phoenix and that is how she was able to work with the Friends of the Fair to get the grant for Horizon Six. She highly recommends these grant workshops.

Discussion and Possible Direction: Non-Motorized Watercraft Launch at London Bridge Beach

Recreation Manager, Mike Keane reported we had left this item a couple months ago with sending out questions to each of the Board members to comment on the idea of sending out these questions on a survey for public input. We are prepared to send this out on Survey Monkey, and a link to our Facebook, as well as our website. The question to the Board is now the ideal time to do that or when would you like to survey people to get the best response. Chairwomen Pascual asked that a question be added to the survey asking if the person filling out the survey is a fulltime resident or a part-time resident or a visitor. Board Member Keough stated he initially had some concerns that the survey would just target one group of people. His concern is if it goes out on the website we are in essence targeting one group of people and it may not be the group of people we are looking for. While I don't think we ought to hand out the survey to everyone with a kayak, I also don't know if making it available to everyone. I think if it is sent out at the wrong time we may get a lot of negative response that isn't necessarily valid. Keane responded as part of the public process every citizen would have the right to their tax money going to fund the project so they would have the right to voice their opinion. Member Vaughn asked if it was determined what it would cost for this project. Keane stated no he does not have those figures. A discussion took place amongst the Board and it was determined the survey would start in February and will be continuous throughout the spring and summer on the Survey Monkey and the website.

Capital Improvement Projects Update:

a. Cypress Park

Mike Keane presented to the Board some pictures of the progress of the construction. Statistics on the development; sod installation is scheduled for next week, the tree installation is 65% complete, the curb and gutter is approximately 70% complete, sidewalks are approximately 80% complete, retaining walls are approximately 90% complete, restroom building is 75% complete, lighting is 60% complete, storm drains are complete, irrigation line placement is complete, and overall the project is approximately 70% complete. Construction is still expected to be substantially complete in late February with punch list items addressed by March 2nd. Six weeks is the turf time that we want to give it before we begin play and that leads us into the beginning of April.

Member Vaughn asked if the park was going to have permanent goals. Keane responded no they will be moveable because the field can be lined for any different type of activities. Chairwomen Pascual asked if the City will be supplying goals. Keane responded yes they will be provided.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if you have heard any feedback since the light poles were erected. Keane responded they have not heard anything at this point. They are anticipating that there will be some comments the first time the lights are turned on. They will have to get dialed in and shaped perfectly. Musco is anticipating a few nights of work to get them dialed in to where they need to be. Engineering was going to work with the community surrounding the park letting them know that to try and cut down on some of those comments.

Jackie Leatherman with the CVB addressed the Board during the public comment. She stated a lot of the people think part of her position is to support area events they have in Havasu and to also recruit new events. She stated you will start seeing more of her since these projects are coming to completion so she can stay on top of them and get them going once they are ready to go.

Future Agenda Items:

- Add more NO DOG SIGNS and NO SMOKING in Rotary Park
- Channel Lights Sample Project
- Update on SARA Park Timeline
- Update on Study of Aquatic Center Improvements
- Update on Field Needs Assessment

Future Meetings:

February 26, 2018

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Member Chuck Vaughn moved for adjournment 7:40 p.m.; seconded by Member Jason Keough and unanimously carried by the Board.