

Lake Havasu City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, February 27, 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, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte

Excused: Garrett McNerney, Rhonda Smolek

Call to Public:

Jason Henderson, a Lake Havasu City 20 year resident, Veteran, business owner approached the board regarding safety of the island trail. The trail is in disrepair, we have several events that take place on the trail to include marathons, Operations Wounded Warriors etc. That should be something we maintain not only for our residents but also visitors of Lake Havasu City. The bigger issue I have is safety. His granddaughter that sits on her small bicycle is not visible by any oncoming traffic besides the one municipal driveway entrance into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Henderson is asking for paint to be put down on those crosswalks to prevent a fatality. There are not too many other places they can ride for 3 miles on a bicycle and get exercise. Henderson asked if an engineer study has been done on the island to see why they were not put in or if it was just an oversight.

Lynn Weishart a Lake Havasu City resident stated she used to be able to rollerblade the island path without a care in the world. When the sub-divisions came in the path became too hazardous for rollerblading. I used to be able to walk the path trail then that became too hard on my joints so now I like to bicycle it but find myself not being able to ride on the north side of the path because it is very rough, it feels like I'm riding on a railroad tie. I choose to share the road with vehicles and motorhomes rather than have the jarring of riding that path. As we age our options get more narrow and she feels she is getting funneled out.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on January 23, 2017; Member Bart Wagner moved to approve as written; seconded by Mark Talley and unanimously carried by the Board.

Staff Report:

Staff Report

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane updated the Board; Recreation Division received from Western Welcome a donation of \$2,000 towards the After School Program Scholarships, to date \$9,800 has been donated by the

community to Teen Break. Teen Break registration begins on Monday, March 6, we are in need of City volunteers to work Teen Break March 21 thru 23. Chillin N Swillin donated \$4,350 towards After School Program Scholarships and a First Wilderness/Remote First Aid class was completed with a full roster and a second class will be offered March 2 thru 5.

The Aquatic Division reported Kinderswim begins this week and runs through the first week of May. Adult Archery classes will be held March 8 & 15. We will have Open Swim for Spring Break from Noon to 4pm, March 20 thru 24. Construction for the new slide will begin this month.

At the Community Center the Westwind Productions will be offering a Senior Connection trade show on February 28, Nova Graduation March 3, Art Guild Spring Show March 10 thru March 12, Western Welcome BUNCO March 16, ABBA Tribute Concert March 18, AZ Collectibles and Firearms Show March 25 & 26, Vietnam Veterans Breakfast March 29, LHC Neighborhood Watch March 29, and Home Show March 31 thru April 2.

An update on the Pump Track at BMX track; they are still working on getting the insurance to cover the additional property.

Keane reported he attended a symposium on Economic Community Benefits of Sports in Prescott Valley. A couple of the presentations were on the Prescott Valley Events Center, Cottonwood Recreation Center, and Future Colorado River Event Center in Bullhead City, Payson Rodeo, High Desert 66 BMX Track, and Youth Sporting Events in Prescott. The main themes were "How do you want people to feel when they leave your Community". Marketing for future residents and perspective businesses. Good experiences equal repeat visitors. Discussions on some of the tax revenues generated through tournaments. Some references were made from a study completed by Buddy Bordon, for the Bullhead City in 2014 regarding the economic impact. Keane has a copy of that study and is currently reviewing it. The figure that was used several times throughout the presentation was an average soccer tournament brings in about \$10,000 per team, per day.

Member Keough asked if the Board can receive a copy of the study.

Aquatic Center Assessment Update

Keane reported crates with a part of the new slide have been delivered. Staff is working on grinding off all the old clips that hold the support arms and new clips will be going on. Another shipment will be delivered on Wednesday. Whitewater the manufacture of the Waterslide will be onsite starting on March 6 for 2 weeks and during that process all of the assembly will be taking place. The slide tower has been painted and work within the slide tower to improve the ventilation has taken place. The entire system has been re-plumbed as well. We are working with Western Alarm on the Ozone and how to notify the fire department if there was an Ozone leak.

Architekton produced some preliminary drawings for the Aquatic/Community Center. Staff asked them to refine those and hopefully come up with some better plans than originally drawn. Keane will share with the Board if they are liked by staff.

Trails Subcommittee Report – Rhonda Smolek

Trails subcommittee liaison, Rhonda Smolek was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mike Keane reported the island trail was discussed at the last trails subcommittee meeting regarding crosswalks for the streets that cross the path and a request to widen the path when funds are available.

Public Hearing:

Connectivity throughout the City – Presentation by Jean Knight

Jean Knight with the Metropolitan Planning Organization presented to the Board regarding connectivity throughout the city as it relates to pedestrian, trail and bicycle improvements. Knight handed out a portion of the Lake Havasu MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Final report that discussed mid-term recommended pedestrian and bicycle projects, and long-term recommended pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Capital Improvement Projects – Jeremy Abbott, Assistant City Engineer

a. Cypress Park

Jeremy Abbott, Assistant City Engineer updated the board on the Cypress Park Project. He presented the same presentation they presented to City Council on February 14. They were looking for direction from the Council and how staff should move forward with Cypress Park. Abbott showed a power-point presentation and pointed out what the Field Needs Assessment identified which was specific locations where park improvement could be made and what those parks could provide as far as fields needed in the community. The needs assessment was completed almost a year ago. We are lacking in the form of soccer fields. Cypress is a multi-use field park, but you will see through the concept is a lot of the design is geared towards soccer fields. Abbott displayed different concepts and cost of different components. There is a budget of 1.5 million and a potential of 3 million dollar park. The goal is to get the Councils support to move forward with building a park the right way or do we just want to irrigate some grass. Staff will be going back to Council on March 14 to discuss this project in more detail specifically the lighting and the effects of the neighborhood. A citizen Marvin Batten addressed the board and said he spoke to a majority of those residents in that area, none of them are against soccer fields, but everyone I spoke to is against the lighting. It is a nice dark neighborhood and once the lights are turned on and they will probably be on every night, there goes the nice night sky's that a lot of us moved to Lake Havasu City for. Abbott stated he does understand about the lights whether they will be on every night is depended on the schedule of use and he would assume if there is no use there is no need for lights. The lights they are identifying for the parking lot are LED solar powered and they dim. There is no use or movement they actually dim.

Musco a national provider of sports lights will be at the meeting in March. The system is controlled by login by a recreation staffs computer. They will be showing the spill of those lights, they are very specific with the technology and the directing and controlling where that light is. Chairwomen Pascual asked if that will be modeled live somehow in the area of Cypress. Abbott stated he is working with Musco to see if they can bring some actual renderings. Mr. Batten stated it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out any time you light up the ground it will glow into the sky. I understand the LED system and everything but it will still light the sky up no matter what you do. Member Scott Welte stated maybe Musco can bring some portable lighting to demonstrate. Abbott stated he will ask the question however some of the poles for that location will be anywhere from 50ft to 75ft. Chairwomen Pascual asked when you go back to City Council in March are you expecting a decision at that point. Abbott stated yes we will expect direction from the Council. He stated his goal is to bring all the information he can of what we are trying to do with the park and let the residents and the Council make the decision on the project moving forward.

b. SARA Park Sports Complex

Jeremy Abbott, Assistant City Engineer stated the SARA Park Sports Complex concept is a master planning effort. There is not as much detail. He showed a presentation as to what they are proposing for SARA Park. Phase one is currently estimated to the tune of 12.4 million. One thing to point out is in the current budget there is 14 million budgeted for that project. We are proposing to break it up into two phases mainly because of cost. With phase one building four multi-use ballfields and below that two soccer fields. With the addition of phase one based on the needs and the fields needs assessment plan that actually gets us out to a level of service thru 2035. It gives us some time to save and decide where the funding is going to come for phase two. Phase two is estimated at 9.3 million. Phase two is a high school sized baseball field and six soccer fields. That gets us to an average level of service that would take the City out to 2040. Staff is proposing to Council when we move forward with design we would design the park as a whole and when we go to construct phase one we would actually grade both phases. Chairwomen Pascual asked what is the time frame on phase one. Abbott responded next fiscal year we will be starting design. The majority of the funding doesn't come until the following year. We are looking at about two years before phase one would be under construction.

Trail System Maintenance Presentation – Mark Clark, MSD, Division Manager

Mark Clark addressed the board and stated he is here tonight to answer any questions you might have. Clark reported the Island Path was constructed in the late 80's and we have been trying to maintain it for the last 30 years. Over the last 6 or 7 years we have spent about \$72,000 on maintenance of that trail. At some point in time we will need to talk about a CIP project to replace it completely and at that time we will be discussing things like; do you need lighting, restrooms, and landscaping. The Island Path was the first path that Lake Havasu City had and then in the early 90's we received a grant for about 1

million dollars for the Pima Wash project. The multi-use path along Hwy 95 was put in by the State with enhancement funds in 2001. The Hwy 95 path is about 7.4 miles. Those are the three major paths that we need to maintain. We have spent about \$50,000 on maintenance of the Hwy 95 trail and will need to have more maintenance in the near future. The Grand Island walking path is the connection between the jogging path and to the Grand Island Park. That path is a little over a mile and we have spent about \$20,000 last year to seal that for the first time. Just between those three areas we have about \$120,000 of expenditures and that is not something that goes away, we need to spend that money every 4 to 5 years. Clark noted that does not include striping, or sweeping. Clark stated he can guarantee the original path on the Island was not engineered it was just placed there. The path has been cracked filled recently and it will be fogged sealed again this year. It is something at some point in time over the next couple of years we will need to develop a CIP project to improve it which would include a milling and re-pavement or you can do some heavier duty chip sealing and slurring sealing which will not make the skateboarders or inline skaters happy. Clark also spoke on crosswalk safety and he believes the safest for everyone's children is the way the driveway areas are striped right now. The reason he does that is because he does not want anyone to have false sense of security about the crosswalks. Crosswalk lines do not stop cars, they do not alert impaired drivers, they do not alert people who are not paying attention. One of the difficulties of the intersections out on the island is the vast majority of the people are turning into those locations and they are not watching for people on the path. The best thing as a user or your children as a user can do is to do exactly what the signs say and you yield to the cars. We may want to discuss putting out extra warning pedestrian signs in that area.

Citizen Jason Henderson wanted to thank Clark for the bike path because there are thousands of cyclists that come here annually and use that. Henderson also stated if the City has any assets to communicate to a five year old about what you said. A five year old is in between the white lines and they are riding there bicycle. A possibility of some placards on the roadways that makes the driver of a 40 Prevost Motorhome not whip in there with limited stopping distance would be great. Clark stated we can look at some tubular markers or things in the roadway to slow the drivers down.

Mrs. Henderson mentioned the cracks were easier on a person's back than it is now with the repairs. Clark stated the chip and slurry seal would help with that. Clark stated when he walked the path he did notice several of the driveway connections are in atrocious shape so those areas need to be treated.

A visitor from Canada and has traveled several places and is very impressed with the island path trail that we have here. He asked why the Grand Island part of the trail does not connect on that one side. Clark said currently there is no signage that directs you to the Grand Island trail from the jogging path.

Member Bart Wagner asked if trail maintenance has been placed in the budget or are we not ready to do that. It seems like if we are having issues with the maintenance of our trails the City Council should be making those decisions. Clark stated they give direction through the City Manager related to what level of service you want to provide and it is a balancing act. If this group says trails is a high priority then within the operations budget we would clean less restrooms and mow less grass and fix more trails. Wagner stated if they need repair and they need more maintenance because of high use I think that should be something that should be in the budget. If the Council does not know that is an issue we will be here forever. Clark stated we are trying to keep the roadway from falling apart not necessarily raising that maintenance to the level of where every time I go out there it has been swept and it has been cleaned. We are spending about \$120,000 a year on non-roadway maintenance for parking lots and park areas and trails.

Non-Lit Park Hours Discussion

Mike Keane, Recreation Services Manager reported we had previous discussions on Grand Island Park and the hour request for that. A request to discuss all non-lit parks was placed on this agenda. Keane was asked to look to see if there were other user groups in the parks at night besides the Frisbee Golf, he was unable to find any organized groups that utilize the parks after dark. Feedback from the public was there are a lot of people who utilize the parks at night to star gaze as well as to walk their dog before bed. The parks are somewhat utilized after dark. Keane met with the Human Resources Risk Manager regarding the liability concern; is there any additional liability with the parks being open that late and not being lit. There is not, the only obligation is if we were negligent say if we were to dig a hole during the day and didn't mark it at night. Keane also did some research as far as other Cities and we are right in the same time frame. Flagstaff, and Prescott Valley 10pm, Bullhead is 11pm and one park they keep open until Midnight, and Yuma is 11pm. It did not seem to matter whether they were lit or not. Keane also met with the City Manager, City Attorney and the Planning and Zoning administrator. Staff does not see the need to change the hours of the parks currently. Keane stated for the Grand Island community they can still install a gate however the gates would need to remain open during the hours of the park. Member Scott Welte stated he agrees, if we are not having any problems and no liability issues there is no reason to close the parks. Chairwomen Pascual asked if during Keane's research he found any other parks in this similar situation as what the Grand Island homeowners were requesting. Keane stated it is really hard to find a public park behind private gates, he did not find a single one. A citizen spoke and stated she manages the HOA on the Island and she feels the residents are very reasonable and they do not want to take anything away from anybody and I think even if it ends up being 11pm she believes they will be ok with that the gates will just have to close at 11pm. She stated one of the things that has been really frustrating is they have never been provided any documentation showing the easement. They have asked for it and it was referenced during the last meeting but we have never been provided it. Does the City Attorney have something

showing what this easement is and who signed it the terms; it would be nice to have. Keane responded he assumes she does and Stuart Schmeling was the one referencing it; he is the zoning administrator he should be able to produce that. The manager of the HOA responded and stated everything she has received from Stuart has not been signed or recorded. Keane responded he would start with Stuart.

Future Agenda Items:

Spending Limitation Presentation
Formal recommendation to prioritize trails

Future Meetings:

March 27, 2017 at the Aquatic Center

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Member Talley moved for adjournment 8:02 p.m.; seconded by Member Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.