

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

November 15, 2016 4:00p.m.  
Lake Havasu City Community/Aquatic Center  
100 Park Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

**Summary Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Brett Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Brett Miller, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Rhonda Smolek, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner

**Excused:** Jason Keough, Scott Welte

**Call to Public:**

N/A

**Public Hearing:**

**Discussion on Trails Subcommittee, Priorities, Tasks and Expectations**

Bill Bryan with Trails Advisory Subcommittee stated this committee would like a clarification from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of what is expected of the Trails Advisory Subcommittee. Bryan stated they have the direction and Ordinance from the City Council which they understand however there is some question between staff and the committee over the past year of who ran our meetings and how they were ran. Bryan asked if the PRAB has received the information the TAC has sent over the last year.

Bart Wagner PRAB member stated yes they have received what their goals were. Member Tally stated when the PRAB asked for a TAC to be formed they were under the impression it would be a group that had an interest in trails and a group that would get together to discuss items and then bring it back to the Board on what they are working on. The City decided to make it more of an official committee that has to follow the rules and guidelines of official business which tied your hands.

Bryan had some concerns with wanting their meetings on the City calendar so the public was notified. Committee wanted a certain day and time for meetings so the public would get used to their meeting times which we did but then we went dark. It defeated all of this time that we were trying to get organized so we could get public input for us so we could give the PRAB a wider range of information.

Bill Katen with the TASC stated it wasn't so much the committee but it was staff that told us how it was going to go how long the meetings were going to run. Katen got the feeling this group was the neglected group of all the committees

and that they were a burden to certain individuals. Our meetings were only held to an hour and our agenda reflected it. Katen feels maybe going to this type of subcommittee or informal group will be ok but it wasn't brought to any of us when we went dark. A lot of us are a little upset by that but all of us do want to move forward.

Mary Van Rooy with the TASC listed the six priorities that were presented to the Board which included; Update the 2006 Trail Plan, Get listed on the AZ State Trails or AZ 100 Premier Trails, Piccadilly Point Trail Spur, Bike Routes, Lakeshore Trail South to Contact Point, and Water Trails. Van Rooy touched on the AZ 100 Premier Trails. Jackie Leatherman, Director of Event Marketing with the CVB spoke to both groups and stated she will be working with Van Rooy with the writing and photography to submit to the AZ 100 Premier Trails.

Bill Bryan asked if the new subcommittee can still have their meetings listed on the City website and asked if they would be able to get items like digital overlays. Staff stated they will ask if the meetings will be listed on the website.

John Geyer with the TASC had staff hand out two proposals. The first proposal consists of Skateboard Park to Contact Point Trail and the second being Recreational Beltway Trail. Bryan stated they wanted to get permission to put in a primitive trail. Geyer stated a State Lands representative came and spoke to the committee and had a concern with the homeless that are on AZ State Land. He would like to clean that up according to him. Geyer would like to finish a trail from State Trust Lands end down to Bill Williams he has met with BLM and they were excited about that proposal and have some existing trails already. Would like to see if the PRAB and the City has enthusiasm to do this and move this forward. This proposal is a way to get the dialog started. Where does it go after this?

Board member Brett Miller stated this is exactly what he is looking for as a Board member. A proposal that is actionable by them; member Mark Talley and Ashley Pascual agree.

Board member Bart Wagner asked the question what did State Lands say about doing a trail on their property. Van Rooy stated Richard Spencer is the policing one and he had asked her to get in touch with the different jurisdictions and looking for someone to call when something happens on their land. Wagner confirmed that Mr. Spencer does not have the authority then to give permission to build a trail through this area.

Dale Bailey TASC asked the question do we have affirmation from BLM or State Lands to go on those properties to build trails or are we asking them to move forward with that. What objections can stop us from going on that property and do what we are proposing. Recreation Services Manager Mike Keane stated that is the first step we need to take care of before we could move forward with any proposal.

Bill Bryan stated what we heard back on is that Piccadilly Point with the City's old drawing saying no we cannot move forward with that trail. Piccadilly Point is just part of that State Trust Lands and we were just pushing the fact that we wanted to start a primitive trail. That has not been followed up on as far as we know.

Michelle Lin, Councilwomen and Liaison with the PRAB stated she was at an agenda setting meeting this morning with the City Attorney, City Manager and Mayor and she brought up the conversation of both this Committee and Board. She told them she felt both the TAC and the PRAB do not have the direction they need and that they are volunteer people and they were thrown in to something and they are being criticized for not doing the right thing. There are some things you are overstepping your boundaries as a Board that is why you went dark. That had nothing to do with the Parks and Recreation Department. That had to do with staff. Mike Keane is brand new and is learning what is going on with these dynamics. Lin discussed this with them this morning and you will not be an official committee you will be a subcommittee. You as a subcommittee will come back to the PRAB. As far as the PRAB they are really going to discuss with you and maybe send some of you to some training because what is happening is that you are throwing stuff at Council and telling us to do something with it and it is not going to go anywhere. There are a few steps that are being missed and that is why the City is on your case. Lin indicated you should not be upset about becoming a subcommittee because you are going to have more free rein than anybody.

Dale Bailey went back to discussion on the proposals that Mr. Geyer handed out and stated if we are handing this over to the PRAB and it cannot move forward than that is wasting your time and the TASC time. On this particular proposal Bailey stated we need clarity with someone telling us yes you can move forward or no it is impossible and then move on to another project. Lin stated correct that is something that staff should be contacting BLM and State Lands not this committee. Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane stated to the TACS you would deliver the ideas to him and then his job would be to determine what the first step is in getting the permission from the land owner. He also wanted to make it clear things do not happen overnight. As for State Lands there are a number of projects that have taken priority over the Piccadilly Point project. When you go to Council you need to have everything in place in order and ready to present.

Jeff Smolek with the TASC wanted to bring up the homeless problem in the Body Beach and Piccadilly Point area. He has tried to come up with a way to bring it to the City Councils attention because it is so bad and is part of the drug situation at the skate park. He doesn't believe that the City is half aware of what is in those bushes. Our officers were asked to go check on something on AZ State Lands that was outside of their boundaries and they refused to go into that area unless someone is dying or there is a shooting. At some point the homeless is going to be a big problem for the City.

Mary Van Rooy brought up the subject of break-ins at the SARA Park Trail head parking lot and she isn't sure why the newspaper is not covering that. Member Bob Smith stated you need to bring it to Dan Doyle's attention.

A discussion took place amongst both the TASC and PRAB and they want to make sure if they give something to staff that they receive information back on the status of what they asked for. Dale Bailey wanted to confirm they go directly to Mike Keane not to the PRAB. Bill Bryan with TASC recited the ordinance from the TAC committee and stated no they are to bring it to the PRAB. Other members spoke up and stated that is with the official TAC that is now dark and not the new subcommittee we are working on now.

Ronda Smolek brought up the question if you are an unofficial committee why can't they talk to people they know at BLM or AZ State Lands. Recreation Services Manager Mike Keane stated you can have those conversations you are just not representing the City and that needs to be made very clear. Ronda Smolek confirmed you can still talk to these people and say we have an agenda item coming up on our PRAB and we would like you to be there.

Mary Van Rooy brought back up the AZ 100 Premier trails again and she found out we now have until the end of the year to submit trails to. Van Rooy is really excited about working with Jackie Leatherman with the CVB. They would like to submit the trail from the London Bridge through Rotary Park to the Skate park and the SARA's Crack trail. She would like to look into the water trail that starts at Mesquite Bay and a Mountain Bike trail that is at SARA Park.

Bill Bryan mentioned that Ronda Smolek has the copies of the Havasu Refuge and Bill Williams Refuge water trails that are already laid out by the Feds. So that is something so far as helping our area that can be promoted for us. The Sunset trail from Windsor State Park would be a continuation to the London Bridge trail. Bryan stated the overall name from Refuge to Refuge is the Bluewater Trail System. Bryan also brought up the concern with road crossing in our town. This was brought up last year with the people using these trails in our town. It would have been nice to have it in our trail systems to look at whenever a bridge or culvert is being put across the wash that is a designated trail to have it as an underpass for the trail that goes down that wash. By having these in our plan than hopefully engineering anytime they do any of these crossing they would consider the trail going underneath it.

Bryan also brought up the discussion on marking the trails. A sign should be put up stating "Future Chemehuevi Trail " and then you can just take off the future part of the sign when the trail is complete and it reminds people they are working on it. That is a positive thing for the City and it helps people find the trails going from street to street. We are trying to progress and make up for 4-5 months of being dark and bring all these things to you. You need to know what happen why it happened and we weren't told it was staff that wanted to disband us. Mark Talley referred to the PRAB as the Parks and Recreation Surprisery

Board because a lot of things come to us as a surprise. Talley stated the TAC has had some major accomplishments of what you have done and who you have contacted. Talley stated the entire Board is behind your committee and you guys have a problem with your hands being tied. You have to get something that is easy and get it accomplished. You need to get the community behind you and to support you. They are talking about bringing in a different demographic of younger kids that are mountain bikers, trail hikers and kayakers. They are not going to be buying 280 homes that is going to be expensive for them. If you want to get them here you need to give them something to do.

Jeff Smolek stated our committee did bring up advertising, being on a calendar and getting something going. Getting people in this community aware of what we are doing.

Chairwomen Ashely Pascual asked for the list of the six priorities. Van Rooy listed the six priorities as; Update to the 2006 Trails Plan, get listed on the AZ State Trails System/ AZ 100 Premier Trails. Piccadilly Point Trail Spur, Bike Routes, Lakeshore S. to Contact Point and Water Trails.

A discussion took place regarding AZ State Trails System and Board member Bart Wagner stated we are listed on that trail system. If you look on the AZ State Parks site which lists all the trails and Lake Havasu City is listed as the HWY 95 trail. He also stated any trails connected to that trail is eligible for grant money.

John Geyer TASC member stated the BLM has a map with trail numbers on it however the problem is there is no coordination in making a map that is usable that matches everything. His club is putting up markers all over the place for them and is working on creating a map that will eventually line up and match where you are.

A discussion took place regarding the status of their committee. Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane stated the suggestion that was made to him and then he brought to several of the TAC members and brought it to the PRAB was to turn this into an informal subcommittee so it takes the handcuffs off. We will keep the TAC that was formed under the City Ordinance dark allowing you guys to operate for a few months to see some things get done like the AZ 100 Premier trails which would be a great accomplishment, showing that it is working. If this is working then we have a possibility of going back to Council and having that Ordinance removed of that group so there isn't ever a question again. If it is not working in that realm then we would go back to the drawing board and possibly bring that other Committee back.

Bart Wagner PRAB member stated you should find one goal that you work towards and when that is completed then you go onto the next one. I think that will work and you are focused on where you want to be. That is what needs to be determined is what that goal is and how you want to get there. As a member of the TASC like Mary Van Rooy has made a lot of good contacts and that is what

it takes. Lake Havasu City doesn't own any of that property that you want to put trails on. That is what is hard for staff is to have the time to make those contacts and it is your type of groups that can do that. On the staff's side of it they don't like to be blindsided when they go talk to State Lands and they say this group was doing this.

Brett Miller PRAB member stated we need to know what direction you want to go as a committee. You need to know what the path is as to how to get it to their Board, how to get it to Council. Ronda Smolek reminded the TASC they have a spot on the PRAB agenda every month. She was selected as the liaison between the two groups.

Chairwomen Ashley Pascual asked if the six priorities are prioritized. Mary Van Rooy stated no hopefully the PRAB would tell them which ones they want done first. Pascual stated that would be good to hear from the TASC group. Pascual thinks going forward with the AZ 100 Premier Trails would be an immediate project they could accomplish now. Member Bart Wagner had another suggestion on working on an amendment to the 2006 Trails Plan. Member Mark Talley stated your priority should be to prioritize your goals. Talley also mentioned while prioritizing make sure you can finish it, can you fund it and finish it.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, member Robert Smith moved for adjournment 5:45 p.m.; seconded by member Ashley Pascual and unanimously carried by the Board.