

Lake Havasu City

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

December 19, 2011

Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room

2360 McCulloch Blvd.

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

### **Summary Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Dan Herron called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Jennifer Luzzi, Dan Herron, Tony Pomilia, Cynthia Salscheider, Mark Talley, , Mike Vedder, Parks and Recreation Director, Bart Wagner, Council Liaison Lee Barnes

Excused: Rosemary Tunnell, Robert Smith,

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of meeting November 2011: Member Mark Talley moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Jennifer Luzzi and unanimously carried by the Board.

#### **Chamber of Commerce Havasu Leadership Development Class Project Presentation:**

Shawn Irula with the Chamber of Commerce Havasu Leadership Development Class reported to the Board the status of their team project. The class decided to go with the epoxy coating surface; it will increase the slip resistance and appeal of the court for the public use. Another objective of the class is to enhance the drainage of adjacent grounds to decrease the amount of water runoff which occurs on and around the court. The Board had questions at the last meeting regarding the cost and the timeline. The class has a projected budget for completing the primary objective of \$3,500 for materials and preparation cost of the actual existing slab that is already there. The class will be using in-kind labor and the team leaders to do most of the actual work on the court. Funding for the project they will be looking for direct solicitations, they will be doing fundraising efforts at the balloon festival, raffles, and things of that nature so they will have all of the funding in place and the project completed prior to their graduation in May.

Member Jennifer Luzzi motioned for approval for the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development Class to resurface the basketball courts at London Bridge Beach; seconded by Cynthia Salscheider and unanimously carried by the Board.

## **Mainstreet Association Rotary Park Stage Presentation:**

Alex Ross with the Mainstreet Association presented to the Board a slide presentation on maximizing our community assets with a partnership between the parks, Mainstreet, and the community to collaborate for mutual opportunity. Mr. Ross showed throughout his slide presentation where existing power and access would be, what similar festivals would look like, and revenue generating ideas.

The business plan proposed would include a concrete staging area adjacent to the aquatic center that does not disturb the park, access for loading and unloading of equipment, provide electrical power and infrastructure, a secure gate, a contract with the City and Mainstreet, 3 to 5 weekend events on the parks schedule, revenue generated from a user fee and or ticket tax to pay incurred costs and revenue from events to fund and maintain Mainstreet events and promotions for the benefit of the entire community city wide.

The essentials that would need to be in place would be the ability to control the gate. Safety and a good festival experience are paramount to long term success. A long term fixed contract between the partners in the revenue asset maximization opportunity effort is needed for continuity and continue growth and development.

Mr. Ross provided an example of a potential revenue from a three day festival. He stated assets are all in place, the cost to enhance these assets are minimal, positive impacts are numerous, negative impacts minimal. He stated Mainstreet is ready to move forward with their decade's long partnership with the City.

Vice-Chairman Mark Talley stated he would like to see before we move onto this type of project why not propose to the Mainstreet association to prove to the community we can do this by having an event that holds 1,000 people at London Bridge Beach Stage. By proving to the community this is viable and it could work.

Chairman Herron stated he did not feel parking would be adequate for a large scale event that they are proposing at the Rotary Park location. He also stated State Parks is proposing to put in a stage at Windsor 4. He would suggest talking to State Parks and the City and see how we could put this altogether and see possible other locations instead of jumping into this right now.

Member Cynthia Salscheider asked Mr. Ross who is the Mainstreet person at this time. Mr. Ross stated it is currently running on volunteerism.

A discussion amongst Board members took place regarding parking, access, noise, fencing and location.

Director Wagner stated the stage would fit in the location the group is proposing. Electrical is available in the area, our department could use the stage for a lot of our events. His concerns are how it is mixed with current uses on those fields, and to really look at it; is Rotary Park the place for a special event area. The potential to bring this amount of people here is there. The City now has the

small stage under the London Bridge, a bigger stage at London Bridge Beach and a bigger venue would be great. Wagner stated we really need to determine where the right location is. Wagner also stated we have had discussion with the CVB this last week on this issue.

Member Mike Vedder had a question on how many people are attending our events like the Fall Fun Fair. Wagner stated approximately 4,000 people. Vedder stated we are handling that many people with parking right now so there shouldn't be any issue with parking. He stated from a parks and recreation standpoint by putting a stage in the Rotary location it is going to enhance our events and probably save the City money by not having to put up portable stages for the events we are already holding. Vedder feels there is an advantage for placing it in Rotary Park. He does agree with Wagner we do need to make sure that is the proper place. It will help our park system; it will be an asset we will use. We would need to make sure it is the correct venue for the Mainstreet association so they can be successful.

Doug Traub with the CVB commented Mr. Ross has brought a great concept to light. He stated there is great potential with music events; they work at so many places. He spoke on operation cost, marketing cost and the idea of doing it on a limited scale like member Mark Talley had suggested. Member Mark Talley asked if Mr. Traub has spoke with the State Parks regarding Windsor Beach and their plans for a stage. Traub stated they are actively looking at building at some kind of concert or stage presence now. He stated they may also want to do a community partnership to look at who may do what to make it happen. As he understands it they probably don't have the entire capital cost or any of the cost to sink into a facility. The true maximum economic impact for this could be better realized as a City Park than as a State Park. We could stand to lose a lot of that income if this really took off the way Mr. Ross envisions. Mr. Traub's suggestion would be to get something on paper, do it as fast as you can, get dates looked at, and see if you can make it happen.

Chairman Herron asked what is stopping you of having a venue of this size and get a portable stage. He stated we don't have to pour a slab to have a venue in the park. Member Vedder disagreed with that statement and stated you can't put a portable stage on a hill. He stated the Windsor State Parks stage is irrelevant because we are a Lake Havasu City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. We have been asked by our community to make suggestions on enhancing our parks. We have heard from our Parks and Recreation Director saying that it is not going to be an eyesore that it could be used for us. Vedder believes we are getting way ahead of ourselves trying to determine if they are going to have successful events or not or if they have the money to build it. I believe that will all be determined with a contract that he would develop with the City. Vedder believes we have an opportunity to enhance a City park beyond that it would be a benefit to our parks system.

Mr. Traub stated when the bureau looks at what could we do to bring more people here. What type of event do we bring? Traub stated the number one thing on the list right now is music events. He believes there is something here

to this proposal. It is a matter of having something tangible to work from; right now it is a concept, it have viability to it and it needs to move forward.

Member Talley stated he doesn't believe anyone is against it or moving forward with it. He stated there is always what if's and it is difficult in planning these things. We all agree the venue for the community whether it will be the Fall Fun Fair, Children's Christmas Party, or Teen Break the stage will be used. Whether the music event will fall through would be a failure or success. He does agree it is an area that needs to be done but we still need to do a cost analysis and see who is going to pay for it and what is going to happen.

Director Wagner stated he can work with Mr. Ross on some of the questions that were brought up tonight.

Chairman Herron stated that would be his recommendation; working with Mr. Wagner and also getting with the State Parks and cover those basis.

#### **Discussion of Lake Havasu City Drag Strip- John Yolla/Bill Rozhon:**

Director Wagner reviewed where we are at with this item and the direction the City is going with at this time. Wagner stated many of you were on the Board at the time that we went through the process of approving the drag strip to be built out at SARA Park. The process consisted of several public meetings, and City Council approved that as a change to the City's Master Plan. Since that time the City has looked at a different location for a motorsports complex. Wagner stated that is 100 acres at the south end of the airport. The City is hoping that motocross, drag strip, race track and all motorsports type activities could be at one complex. That is the direction right now that we are hoping that someone will come forward and want to build that.

John Yolla, 30 year resident of Lake Havasu stated he brought this back for discussion because there is a lot of people that wants to see this happen and it has been floundering and he believes we need a direction. He would like anyone who could contribute by driving a backhoe or money to put your email address down for him so he could start organizing and bring this together. His opinion is if we are looking at the airport area that is fine but that is a 5 year plan down the road. He stated we have been chomping at the bit for years to get something going, we feel we could get something together because of the existing race track in under a year. It doesn't have to be a top notch 2 million dollar deal. Havasu is one of the biggest automotive towns in the country. He would like to put this together right now and start in this direction.

Bill Rozhon stated he runs Havasu 95 Speedway and would like to clear some information up. He stated he was not prepared for this tonight. Rozhon said they were approved a year and a half ago in September. Lucas Oil was approved an off-road site right next to the drag strip at the same time. Rozhon had drawings he presented to the City, Lucas Oil took his drawings and modified them a little to try and get us to tie in the drag strip with their off-road facility to use as their hospitality. The City offered us this 100 acres on the north end of town by the

airport. That stopped us in our tracks. Lucas responded to the City about three months ago and met with the City Manager and the Mayor and put us on hold for about two years. The controller of Lucas said they are regrouping and is going to hold off for a while. Rozhon stated he met with the City Manager and Mayor and discussed the north side site and SARA Park. After some thought he requested to have another meeting with the City Manager and stated he want to move forward with the original plans at SARA Park with his original drawings. Rozhon stated that is where we are at right now.

The following individuals addressed the Board in favor of the drag strip at SARA Park:

Mr. John Yolla  
Mr. Lynn Bailey  
Mr. Rick Zirges  
Mrs. St. Claire  
Pat McCorval  
Ross Buhler  
John Scofield  
Larry Jones

The following individuals addressed the Board in opposition of the drag strip at SARA Park:

Daryl McBride  
Mike Hunter  
Tom Wools

#### **Beaches:**

Member Cynthia Salscheider stated she passed out a letter she received from a consulting firm regarding our beaches. She stated in this letter they have found a way to work on our beaches. It will be a long process, it may mean we will have to have Jill (Himes Consulting) help us with it but there are ways to do it. Salscheider stated on the list of things that people do come to Havasu for is to come and see are beaches. She would love to see them cleaned up and she will continue to work on them.

Director Wagner stated we would like to address the issue of what we could do on our beaches. In doing that hopefully we can look for people that are interested in what our beaches want to be and do a swat analysis and look for what our strengths and weaknesses, what opportunities we have on the beaches, what we can do better and really look at what activities we want, how we want them maintained and what we need to do to do that. This is the group that we want to put together. Wagner stated the CVB has even discussed getting involved in future looking at a consultant down the road. Taking the information from this committee a little farther to identify these issues.

#### **Batting Cage Update:**

Director Wagner updated the Board on the status of the batting cages and stated they are up and running. If you call our office they can give the hours of operation. They have several machines working and new customers.

**Directors Update:**

Director Wagner recapped events and activities going on in our parks and at our community/aquatic center.

Wagner stated at Rotary Park in December we had the Triple Crown Tournament, Parade of Lights, and the Children's Christmas Party. In January we have the New Years Jam at the Skatepark and ASA Girls Softball Clinic.

The Community Center has been extremely busy in December we had the Employee Mielstone Breakfast, Jehovah Witness Conference, MCC Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Havasu Regional Hospital Christmas Party, AZ Childrens Christmas Party, P&R Afterschool Program Hoop Shoot, Community Christmas Dinner, Fabulous Faces Beauty Pageant, Winter Break Camp, and Hagglers Outpost Gun Show. In January the second week of the Winter Break Camp, and the Blood Drive will be held.

In aquatics and recreation this month we held a Winter Potluck Party, Jingle Bell Dash, Holiday Trolley Ride & Cookie Exchange, and Christmas Tree Lighting. In January the Havasu Stingrays are having a three day swim meet and the Little Dribblers basketball will begin.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Doug Traub – Destination of Development  
Friends of SARA Park

**Call to Public:**

None

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, member Mark Talley moved for adjournment at 7:45p.m., seconded by member Jennifer Luzzi and unanimously carried by the Board.