

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

November 23, 2015  
Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room  
2360 McCulloch Blvd.  
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: Brett Miller, Jim Rosensweet, Robert Smith, Mark Talley, Vicki Warner, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte

Excused: Jennifer Luzzi, Logan Johnson

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of meeting on October 23, 2015; Member Jim Rosensweet moved to approve as written; seconded by Bart Wagner and unanimously carried by the Board.

**CSD Aquatic/Recreation Division back to Parks and Recreation:**

Board member Bart Wagner asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. Wagner stated the reason he brought this up is you always hear the paper, official meetings and everyone still referring to our Aquatic/Recreation Division as Parks and Recreation. Wagner sees Parks and Recreation as a brand and is a great marketing tool. He believes anyone coming into a new community usually asks what Parks and Recreation programs do you have. He believes there is an opportunity to have that brand and use it as marketing those programs. The recreation division does do all their recreation programs they schedule all of the parks. I think it would be appropriate to name it Parks and Recreation. Chairman Talley asked if anyone had any questions. After a discussion amongst Board members they would recommend Manager, Dan Keyes forward this suggestion on to the Community Services Director for consideration of renaming the division.

**Proposed use of Athletic School Fields:**

Board member Brett Miller presented to the Board a power point presentation on possible use of existing Lake Havasu School facilities. He came from Fullerton, CA where the City had an agreement with the School District that the City took over the maintenance of the fields. Miller stated a lot of our fields at the schools are off limits to the kids because of the holes and the school district is in financial restraints. Miller is proposing to have City staff take a look at what the options are as far as partnering with the school district to maintain those fields as parks. In the agreement they had in Fullerton is after 4pm every day the fields were turned over to the City. The City currently already waters the fields so they would then take over the maintenance of the fields as well and they already schedule the fields for sports organizations. I understand it would be adding a

little more on the City's plate and taking some off of the School District. Miller stated some of the proposals from the Field Needs Assessment were to build anywhere between nine to ten million dollar field complex's either at SARA Park or out by the Airport and a lot of them involved displacing other users at those locations. Miller's proposal is to use the fields that we already have in the City. The fields that are basically unused; we can make them playable and install lights there and allow use for any of the sports teams. The soccer league currently has approximately 700 youth in their league and essentially has one soccer field available to them. There are approximately 2200 people at the ASU field every Saturday and that is a lot of use for one field. Spreading out the use throughout town will help in alleviating some of the parking situations. It leverages some of the currently underutilized green spaces within the City, the City already manages the irrigation, and fields already have existing parking and restroom facilities. The fields would need to be made safe and playable, which would be filling in the holes and repairing the turf. The fields would need lights to be useable for practice during the week. Between the hours of 6am and 4pm Monday through Friday the fields would be under the management of the School District and all other hours would be under the management of the City. Miller said it might cost up to \$250,000 per site to light the fields but there are grants available. The Field Needs Assessment stated we were short six soccer fields to serve the children in the community right now. Miller believes we can get a long ways with the turf that we already have and serve the children of the community not necessarily worry about tournaments right now. Miller understands there is going to be up keep with these and there have been a couple of mechanisms discussed during the field needs assessment meeting and one of those was raising another bed tax for the hotels. It is a tax for people coming to our town and staying in our hotels, we have one of the lowest bed taxes around. A lot of those visitors do come here and use our parks as well and they are not paying into the system. It would be nice to allocate some of the bed tax to our park system. Miller indicated there is a piece of land available near the retail center that is currently in bankruptcy proceedings. One of the solutions offered by the Field Needs Assessment study was to purchase some state land out by the airport to build a sports complex and the price tag on that was just under 3 million for 40 acres. The property that is available out by the retail center is currently listed for \$980,000 and is 39.5 acres. It is already serviced by roads and utilities and would provide an economic benefit to our mall.

Member Bart Wagner asked if part of the consultant's task is to look at funding. Keyes responded yes part of their task is to look at various funding options and present those to the City as well for further thought and review. One of those options City Bed Tax. Keyes indicated we have not seen that segment of the study yet. Keyes stated they are about 75% complete with the study and the last meeting we just had was crucial and they were hoping that specific decisions would be made so they could move forward. Keyes would imagine that the Bed Tax might be one of those options. The costs based on estimates from the PLAN\*et study and other publicly available studies Miller has put together three options. Option 1 would be Maximum Field Space (10 soccer fields) cost

\$6,055,000. Option 2 would be preserving the wash (8 soccer fields) cost \$4,580,000 and Option 3 Fill immediate local need (4 soccer fields Retail Center Dr.) make improvements to Island Ball Field and continue using ASU cost \$4,360,000. Miller is looking from the Board some feedback that is tangible that he can take to the City Council.

Chairman Talley appreciated Millers presentation and recognized that staff is working on this. Keyes stated he has met with the School District to discuss the possibilities and we will be meeting again with them to have more discussions. Staff is continuing to work with the consultant to come up with proposed site plans for both Cypress and Buena Vista that we can take to them that they can look at. Wagner suggested that the Retail Center plans be put in the study at least as part of that because it seems like it would be a viable option. Wagner stated as far as the school fields he believes there is that option there as well. You may be able to save a lot of that water cost if you reduce the size of turf at the school sites. Rosensweet stated we need to present to the City a more comprehensive plan before we raise the bed tax. Talley would like staff to get together with all the sports groups and get everyone involved. Staff has met with the Soccer group because they are the group with the most need at this time and we showed them the conceptual plan behind the Cypress property and they were really excited about that possibility. Keyes asked if the Park Board would like to be involved he needs to know when you are available to meet and he will set-up a meeting with the different sports groups.

Director Greg Froslic reminded the Board that the consultant that we are working with did go to Council and have received direction back. The scope of work for that project was to identify the field's needs which they did. They were focused on the overall sports complex to take care of all of our sporting needs. That was the original request from Economic Development Group; they first brought this project to us and received Council support. At this time there are no plans to go back to City Council. PLAN\*et is going to be doing an evaluation of both the airport site and also looking at SARA Park for the major sports complex. City staff early on identified the interim need and identified the lack of lights is what is prohibiting everyone from playing. We have been working with the School District to try and find interim relief for our immediate needs which could be fields at our local schools. Your recommendation here will be at the staff level. We will go back to City Council when we have identified projects that we have to propose to the Council. The final report from PLAN\*et will identify various funding sources. Staff needs to move forward meeting with the School District and see what they are agreeable to and what they are not. The Board should meet with the different user groups to identify Baseball fields how many, Soccer fields, and where they should be located.

Chairman Talley stated staff should look at setting up those meetings in January to start moving forward. Member Miller requested a recommendation from the Board that these options are aware to the City staff and to the consultant.

Chairman Talley recommended that staff take a look at the proposed options that Miller submitted are reviewed.

### **Pickleball Proposal at London Bridge Beach:**

David Rossing with the Lake Havasu City Pickleball Association addressed the Board to request that money designated for construction of Pickleball Courts at Dick Samp Park be redirected to Pickleball Courts at London Bridge Beach. The association currently has 117 Pickleball players on their roster. Because of input from members London Bridge Beach surfaced as a better location for Pickleball courts than development at Dick Samp Park. A list of pros and cons were provided to Board members. A subsequent examination of those pros and cons for both sites leads us to believe that London Bridge Beach would be a better place for development. London Bridge Beach is centrally located, highly visible to the general public. Rossing stated their mission as a Pickleball association is to promote Pickleball in Lake Havasu City and the location at London Bridge Beach lends itself to that mission. London Bridge Beach has an area that is currently unused and is an eyesore to the park itself. Construction of courts at that site will enhance the look of the park and provide a meaningful use of that area. The dimensions of the four proposed Pickleball courts fit the area being considered. The proposed site is away from the water's edge and would not interfere with other general area activities. Pickleball courts at London Bridge Beach invites additional recreational use by the public and its central location would be a boon to local resorts by providing them with an extra drawing card for their businesses.

Another big plus for the location at London Bridge Beach is the fact that the infrastructure needed to accommodate Pickleball play; restrooms, parking, trees, landscaping is currently in place and adequate. Any money spent would be directly applied to actual court construction. This is not the case at Dick Samp Park where money would first go into the infrastructure cost with little or no money left for construction of the courts.

Rossing stated there is a unique noise factor as part of Pickleball play; it isn't the general vocalization of people and cars movement it is a distinct sound of the ball hitting the paddle which is an impact noise. The fact that noise can be a problem for us can be a financial issue as well as a public relations issue. There is considerable awareness and concern being raised by communities elsewhere that Pickleball courts located near residential areas are not a good fit. There has been noise level studies initiated because of this concern and some court actions have been started and some of been threatened because of the noise of Pickleball. We are sensitive to this issue. Location of courts at London Bridge Beach would eliminate noise as a factor and head off possible problems with the community one might anticipate if courts were located at Dick Samp Park.

Rossing also stated the importance of landscaping and wind abatement procedures cannot be overlooked as part of our consideration. In the last month we have had a number of days with elevated wind conditions with 25-35 mph wind. Because of the trees and other landscaping that already exists at London

Bridge Beach we have been able to play Pickleball on temporary courts in those windy conditions where it would have been impossible to do at Dick Samp Park. In closing Rossing believes the cost related to construction, and the concern for noise levels in a residential area, along with isolated location and exposure to the elements at Dick Samp Park are significant negatives to consider, making spending the funds for planning and construction at London Bridge Beach the most compelling decision. A reminder the funds for planning and construction for Pickleball courts have already been approved by the Council we are asking this Board not for additional funding but to redirect those funds to a more appropriate location that being London Bridge Beach.

Chairman Talley asked when they want this project finished. Rossing stated as soon as we can accommodate the planning and funding. Talley asked how long do you think this will take. Rossing responded depending how long construction would take to begin.

Member Bart Wagner asked where is the City at with the process for the construction at Dick Samp Park and what is the cost estimate there. Director Froslic responded several years ago while working with the Pickleball community staff was able to get funds placed in the budget. At that time the request was for Pickleball courts in an area that could expand up to 16 courts so they could host tournaments which this area that we are discussing tonight would not limit itself to that. With this budget year courts are currently under design for Dick Samp Park. Chairman Talley asked what other amenities are being done at Dick Samp Park in addition to the design of the Pickleball courts. Froslic stated none at this time however Dick Samp Park does have all of the same amenities already in place that they referred to at London Bridge Beach. Froslic stated when this was approved it was specifically approved for Dick Samp Park. This would take Council action and this point the City's position would not be in favor of the proposed location simply because this is a public park and would be developed for all of the public rather than one specific organization.

Member Bart Wager asked is not having a large amount of courts at London Bridge Beach for tournaments not a priority anymore. Rossing stated not at this time they are a recreational community of Pickleball players. They have had tournaments on four courts for the last few years. Right now they would just like to play Pickleball as a recreational community. They are not looking for tournaments and bringing people in to play tournaments they can have them with their own little community. Rossing stated Pickleball down on the island is a great thing; it is not just going to be ours it is going to be for the public. We are just looking for 4 courts in that area; if we go to more courts than that where is that funding going to come from. Rossing figures it will cost \$107,000 to build some really nice courts and that is what we should have and it would showcase Lake Havasu as a Pickleball place to come. We have had so much response from the people walking the channel and walking their dogs. Wagner stated I think your proposal is great and I thank you for putting that together but I'm concerned that London Bridge Beach and Rotary Park has some very valuable

property and is available for a lot of uses. To say this is the best use for that location I don't know that we are in the position to say that without a more formal process. Rossing stated we were told to come to the Board and we are coming to the Board for your recommendation to move forward on this.

Chairman Talley asked you have been given the opportunity to have these Pickleball courts built for you with no funding out of your pocket constructed at Dick Samp Park and it is already in the budget and is already in motion so now that you have put a stop on it what is going to happen. Rossing stated a couple months is well worth saving where we would like to have Pickleball. We have been playing at London Bridge Beach with no nets on the basketball courts with 30 mph winds. We could not do that at Dick Samp Park.

Member Brett Miller asked Director Froslic if there is something currently in the plan for this area at London Bridge Beach. Froslic responded no.

Member Rosensweet asked staff if we support London Bridge Beach will City staff stop construction at Dick Samp and move it to London Bridge Beach. Director Froslic responded we have a contract with a consultant to develop these plans and we can stop that if the Council was to give us other direction. Froslic stated we have worked very hard to accommodate this group a few years ago when the request was to build a tournament facility with multiple courts. We budgeted for 8 courts and evaluated all of our parks and it was determined at that time Dick Samp Park was best suited for this.

Member Vicki Warner has spoken with Mr. Rossing regarding several things and one of her concerns with the courts being constructed at London Bridge Beach is the parking and the ADA accessibility.

Chairman Talley opened this item to the public. Mike Christianson a 12 month resident of Lake Havasu, and an Exercise Physiologist and Physical Education teacher and a Master's Degree holder. Exercise is his training and as a senior athlete and advanced Pickleball player and one that has studied the motivation behind continuing of sports, he sees some greater advantages to London Bridge Beach as the place where people want to come to play. Most of these people here do not want to go to Dick Samp Park to play Pickleball. Why would you build a facility where people do not want to go? Who are you listening to? If you are smart you should be listening to the people that this facility is to serve and that would be most of these people in this room tonight and the other 60 or so that are on our list. It is too windy; you're going to have a noise issue with those residents around that area where those courts are going to be built. Why would you put yourselves into a position to get into those financial and legal situations? If you build them at Dick Samp Park you are going to have a dramatically lower participation rate and some of these recreational players cannot play in wind. If you build these courts at Dick Samp Park you are going to have additional cost for wind abatement that is just the nature of the beast. At London Bridge Beach you will not require that.

Chairman Talley stated the City has already started moving forward it is already in the budget for Dick Samp Park. It is not saying that it is not going to happen at London Bridge Beach but you are getting a park built and being able to use it and prove the fact that you can use it. Talley brought up the Roller Hockey Rink at SARA Park. The fact is that organization came up with \$100,000 to match funds for the City to build that. The Pickleball community has been given an amount to have the courts built, let them be built, use them show us and then show us we proved you wrong we need more facilities. Member Miller stated if it involves a two month pause to take a look at do we have a plan for this area, is this something we can do, is this all that they really need he thinks it's worth it.

Froslic wanted to point out years ago when the City did budget for this money we were working with the Pickleball group and everyone was satisfied with that location because it did meet their needs. There is a Master Plan for Dick Samp Park that includes Tennis Courts, there doesn't appear to be a demand for Tennis Courts at this time so it is a perfect spot to lay out this tournament facility. Froslic stated Mr. Rossing had met with the City Manager and the issue of wind came up and it was suggested that the abandoned Roller Rink on McCulloch might be a prime location to purchase and develop a Pickleball facility.

Doug Carr stated a couple years ago there was not an association. Carr asked where are you going to come up with funds to build the 8 courts if it takes almost \$100,000 to build 4 courts so then you are going to ask the Pickleball Association to come up with more money. He stated they could come up with \$20,000 or they could do in-kind work for that on those courts. Carr stated there is no design to this date that he knows of on Pickleball Courts at Dick Samp Park. Froslic responded that is correct staff is just getting started; we do have a contract based on the approved budget of \$80,000 to build 8 courts at Dick Samp Park. If you make a recommendation to stop design on this \$80,000 complex he can contact the consultant and stop all work; having said that we would have to go to Council to ask for a change in location.

Member Warner asked if there has been an estimate done as to what it would cost to build at London Bridge Beach. Carr stated just his own personal estimates. He is not sure how the City is going to build 8 courts on \$80,000. Carr stated we are just asking for a chance to build something where I think all of Lake Havasu City would be proud.

Member Rosensweet stated he likes the London Bridge Beach site for tourism. It adds something else for the City and I think you need to give them a chance. Froslic clarified to Chairman Talley he is not against Pickleball he is pro Pickleball. He is happy to take any recommendation the Board puts forth tonight.

Member Wagner stated our shoreline parks are very important to this community and I don't know if Pickleball is the best thing to be at London Bridge Beach. I believe it needs to go back to a public Master Planning process for London Bridge

Beach to determine the best use for that property. Wagner's recommendation would be to get behind the construction at Dick Samp Park and maybe someday in the future there could be courts built at London Bridge Beach. Carr stated his understanding is there is no Master Planning for Pickleball at Dick Samp park. Wagner stated you are correct Pickleball is not, Tennis Courts are and they are a very similar sport. Carr said you could possibly put three or four soccer fields at Dick Samp Park. Carr stated as a Pickleball Association we are looking for your recommendation to move this forward.

Member Warner asked if this project is not approved to move to the London Bridge Beach and the holdup prevents moving forward what is the possibility of losing the funding that is there. Froslic responded the funding has already been approved, we are under contract, and we can stop the design while we work this out. The funding is secure if it is not spent in the current year we can carry that forward to the following year.

Member Wagner asked if this Board decided to look at London Bridge Beach as a possible site and take it to the Council. If we make a recommendation sometimes it still doesn't go to the Council. Froslic responded staff would write a report that would likely recommend against moving Pickleball to London Bridge Beach simply because there is no Master Plan associated with Pickleball. That doesn't kill the project by any means that is staff does not feel that putting Pickleball in London Bridge Beach would be a fully vetted process that involves the entire community and would benefit a very specific group. That is not something we could recommend without the Master Planning Process. Member Miller stated as part of the vetting process they are a newly formed group and deserve a chance to clarify their views in front of the City Council. Wagner still believes that Pickleball courts at London Bridge Beach need to go through a bigger process and I think that would be the outcome if it makes it to Council.

Board Member Brett Miller made a motion to recommend that this item be placed on a future agenda for the City Council to reallocate funds for a different purpose seconded by Scott Welte, and carried with members Brett Miller, Jim Rosensweet, Robert Smith, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte voting "aye" and members Mark Talley and Vicki Warner voting "nay".

### **Program Planning Recommendation:**

Manager Keyes asked the Board to review the Program Planning Forms for Knockerballs, and Little Chefs. The Board made a recommendation to move forward.

### **Aquatic/Recreation Division Update:**

Manager Dan Keyes provided the Board a report to include Trails Advisory Committee, Athletic Field Assessment Study, Pickleball Courts, Aquatic Center Marque, Cost for Services, and APRA Western Representative.



Special Events update included; Turkey Trot, Dirty Turkey, LHC Professional Fire Fighters Association Christmas Party, Havasu Jets, Jingle Bell Walk, Christmas Tree Lighting.

Recreation Update included; Youth Basketball League Registration, Free Children's Community Party, Community Dinner, After School Program Elks Hoop Shoot, and Winter Break Camp.

Aquatic Update included; Spring Frenzy, Frozen Beach Party, Annual Facility Maintenance, and Dog Swim.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Discussion for a Comprehensive Plan

**Call to the Public:**

N/A

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, member Jim Rosensweet moved for adjournment at 7:25 p.m.; seconded by member Bart Wagner and unanimously carried by the Board.