

City of Phoenix
Parks and Greenway Commission Meeting
Public Works Office
1000 S. 'B' Street
June 18, 2014
6:30pm

Members Present: Nancy Peterson, David VandeVelde, Pam Cooper, Dempsey Haller,
Lyla Heigl and Carolyn Bartell.

Members Absent: Laura Bellah – absence was excused
Visitors Present:

Staff Present: Theresa Syphers

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Nancy Peterson

Approval of Minutes

Dave made a motion with the motion seconded by Lyla to approve the March 26, 2014 minutes. The motion passed with Pam and Dempsey abstaining.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

New Business

a) Blue Heron Park Master Plan

Nancy gave Kevin Caldwell, PW Superintendent, the floor. Kevin explained he had previously spoken with Carolyn about creating a master plan for Blue Heron Park. There was discussion as to what the Rotary had done in Blue Heron Park and what their future plans were. The commissioners questioned whether the Master Plan was just for Blue Heron Park or if it would include all the city parks. Kevin clarified the Master Plan would include all the parks in the city. Carolyn suggested going to Urban Renewal to put together a list of short term projects they could accomplish. There was discussion as to working with Urban Renewal and what they would require from the Parks Commission. Nancy brought the commissioners back to the original issue, support of a Parks Master Plan. The commissioners made a formal recommendation stating they encourage and support the Council to assess and develop a Master Plan for parks within the City of Phoenix. Theresa said she would type the recommendation up and get it to the City Manager. There was more discussion regarding Urban Renewal and the parks. Kevin said he would work with Steffen in planning to put together a map of Blue Heron Park showing what short term projects the Parks Commission was thinking of. There was discussion regarding the second pavilion the rotary was working on, with Kevin stating there were still flood plain issues to be worked through.

Kevin reported to the commissioners that Grabowski Paving had donated about \$6,000.00 worth of asphalt patching on the Colver Rd Park parking lot. The commissioners were very appreciative and said they would be sending a thank you note to Grabowski Paving.

Kevin reported that Pete Cislo with Leave Your Mark was donating the engraving on the boulder for the Darrel Paxson memorial at Blue Heron Park. He said it would be about two weeks before it would be completed. Carolyn said she would call the family and let them know so a date for the dedication could be set.

Kevin reported he was working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to pick an area in Phoenix to do a stream restoration project that would begin in the fall. There was discussion. There was discussion as to the lighting issues at Blue Heron Park. Kevin reported he was looking at ordering solar led lights to try out at Blue Heron Park.

Carolyn reported the Council is looking at more funding for parks by way of a parks fee, but noted that fee would be dependent on water rates. There was discussion.

Unfinished Business

a) New PGC Members – Pam Cooper and Dempsey Haller - Nancy

Nancy welcomed Pam and Dempsey to the Parks Commission. There was discussion about the length of their terms. Theresa said Pam was filling a two year term that expired the end of 2014 and Dempsey was filling a four year term that expired the end of 2016. There was discussion.

b) Blue Heron Park Darrel Paxson sign – Carolyn.

There was no discussion as this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

c) Parks Commission Survey – Nancy

Nancy explained how the survey came to be for the benefit of the new members. There was discussion about the results of the surveys. Nancy said she would e-mail the Mayor and see if he would thank those that filled out the survey in his next Mayors Newsletter. There was discussion.

d) Dog Days of Summer Report - Lyla

Lyla reported the Dog Days of Summer event would take place on Saturday, July 26th at Colver Rd Park from 10:00am to 1:00pm. There was discussion as to what the event would include and if there should be food for the event. Theresa said she would talk to Jackson County Fire District 5 to see if they would cook hot dogs. It was agreed by the committee to sell hot dogs, chips and water for \$1.00 if possible. Theresa said she would report back to the commissioners if JCFD5 would be able to help. There was discussion. Carolyn said she would talk to Dogs for the Deaf to see if they could participate in the event also. Discussion continued. Dave made a motion to spend up to \$150.00 on supplies needed for the event. The motion was seconded by Pam. The motion passed unanimously. Theresa said she would purchase the items. There was discussion regarding the flyer Pam was putting together. The commissioners agreed to meet again before the event to go over last minute things. They also agreed to share any other information they had regarding the event via e-mail. There was discussion.

e) Community dinner at Blue Heron Park Evaluation

Nancy opened the floor for discussion.

Lyla said she was impressed with how well people worked together on the community dinner event and she loved the entertainment that was there.

Dempsey said he ran the soundboard and agreed the event was well planned with a lot of people in attendance.

Nancy said she noticed people leaving due to no parking. There was discussion.

Carolyn said that although she wasn't at the community dinner it sounded like more help setting up and taking down was needed. There was discussion.

Pam said she also enjoyed the community dinner and was in agreement that more help was needed. There was discussion. Theresa mentioned it might be helpful to attend the next meeting of the community kitchen to get their feedback and see how we could help better next year. There was discussion. Lyla said she would find out and let Theresa know if they would like the commissioners be at their meeting if or if they would prefer to come to a parks meeting.

Park Commission Member Comments/Reports

Pam – discussed with the commissioners her idea for a Blue Grass Festival to be held at Blue Heron Park this coming September. She said she had already presented her idea to the City Council and they were in favor of the event. There was continued discussion.

Lyla – said she was excited for all the ideas coming from the commissioners.

Dempsey – said he like to see events planned at the parks.

Pam – brought up the idea of having a vet at the dog days of summer event. There was discussion.

Dave – said he was glad we had new members and commented that we were a very proactive group.

Nancy – told Theresa she had talked to someone at the high school and they might be contacting her regarding senior projects and Eagle Scout projects.

Carolyn – updated the commissioners on the home coming parade and the possibility of a Halloween parade. There was discussion.

The commissioners discussed the flags and flowers put up in the city and the possibility of banners.

Set Next Meeting Date

Two meeting dates were set. The first meeting date was set for July 9, 2014 to discuss the Dog Days of Summer event. The second meeting was set for August 6th with agenda items to include Parks Master Plan, Community Kitchen and Dog Days of Summer re-cap.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.