

**City of Phoenix
Parks and Greenway Commission Meeting
Public Works Office
1000 S. 'B' Street
November 5, 2015
6:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by David VandeVelde

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

Members Absent: Laura Bellah (excused)

Visitors Present: Louis Junghans, Sarah Crawford, Alan Ringo and Chuck Smith

Staff Present: Theresa Syphers, Secretary

David reported that Pam Cooper had resigned from the Parks Commission. He said he was going to ask if she would continue to help with the Dog Days and Easter events.

Dempsey reported he had moved and wanted to make sure he was still able to serve on the Parks Commission. Theresa said the Parks Commission could have one member outside the city limits. The commissioners expressed their appreciation for Dempsey still wanting to serve on the commission.

Approval of Minutes

Lyla made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting as presented. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Citizen Comments

There were none.

New Business

a) Talent Show at Blue Heron Park

Dave asked Mr. Junghans to address the Commission. Mr. Junghans discussed his concern for the band shell not being used very often. He shared his idea of having a combined Phoenix and Talent talent show and discussed everything that would go into putting a talent show on. He said the Parks Commission could not do it alone and would need the help of the City Council, schools and local businesses. There was discussion. Mr. Junghans said he was also concerned with the lack of parking and lighting. Carolyn pointed out that more lights had been ordered to be placed in the park. There was continued discussion regarding parking. Carolyn shared with the commissioners the plan for temporary parking for Blue Heron Park and passed out maps showing where the temporary parking would be. Discussion continued. There was a general consensus that large events could not be planned at the band shell until the parking issue was addressed. Discussion continued. Carolyn said she would bring up the parking issue at the next City Council meeting.

Dave moved e) CRP Horseshoe Pits up on the agenda.

e) CRP Horseshoe Pits

Dave introduced Alan Ringo to the commissioners and asked him to address the commission. Mr. Ringo explained that he was a member of the Rogue Valley Pitchers and introduced Chuck Smith who was with him and is also a member of the Rogue Valley Pitchers. Mr. Ringo passed out a paper to each of the commissioners outlining what he was asking of the commission. He explained how the horseshoe pits at Colver Rd Park came to be, who built them and how often they were used. There was discussion. He went on to explain more about the Rogue Valley Pitchers. He continued with the safety improvements and maintenance that was needed at the horseshoe pits. He said some of the improvements needed were:

1. Replacement of the backboards in all the courts.
2. A 4-foot fence on the south side of the courts with 1-2 gates.
3. Fence in the east and west ends – leaving a drive through gate on the west end.
4. Add a second gate on the north side near the basketball courts.
5. Cement walkways redone in some or all courts.
6. Make all pits surrounded by cement with imbedded angle iron on the foul line.
7. Proper drainage and upgrade of the material covering the infield between pits.

There was discussion regarding the suggested improvements with the commissioners asking Mr. Ringo which improvements were most important. Mr. Ringo said items 2 and 4 were the improvements he would like to see first. There was discussion. Carolyn said she would talk to the City Manager and ask him to look into setting money aside in the next budget year for the improvements. Discussion continued with the commissioners thanking Mr. Ringo

b) Easter Egg Hunt Planning

Dave asked to have a sub-committee form and meet separately to begin the planning of the next years Easter egg hunt. The date for the event was set for Saturday, March 26th. There was discussion with Lyla agreeing to contact the principal of PES to confirm they wanted to help with the event and to contact the school district to confirm the date of the event. It was agreed that the sub-committee would meet after the date and place had been confirmed. Nancy, Lyla and Dave said they would serve on the sub-committee. Lyla said she would also contact the Iron Skillet to confirm they wanted to participate in the event again. Dave said he would contact Fire District 5 about them participating again. There was discussion with the commissioners each sharing what they thought went right and what needed to be changed at the last event. The commissioners all agreed a good sound system was needed to make the event more successful. Carolyn said that the city had purchased a new sound system that worked very well. Carolyn then shared some donations received from Karen Jones for next year's event. The commissioners were impressed with the items donated and excited for next year's Easter egg hunt. Discussion continued.

c) Beginning of Summer Event

The commissioners agreed that until the parking issue was resolved a Beginning of Summer event could not be planned. This item was tabled until the next Parks Commission meeting to learn more about the parking issue to see if a Beginning of Summer event would be planned this year.

d) BHP Community Stage Use

This item was discussed during the talent show discussion.

e) Proposed Park Projects – BHP Temporary Parking, Swings at CRP, Dog Park, Splash Pad.

As temporary parking had already been discussed the commissioners began the discussion with swings at CRP. There was discussion as to where in the CRP the swings could be placed. Carolyn showed on a map she passed out to the commissioners where she envisioned them being placed. There was discussion. The commissioners then discussed the idea of a dog park at CRP. After much discussion the commissioners agreed to discuss the idea more at the next meeting. The idea of a splash park was discussed next. Carolyn shared information she had received regarding splash parks in different cities. Sara Crawford expressed support for a splash pad in Phoenix, citing that

Talents splash pad get a lot of use. Discussion continued with the commissioners agreeing they needed more information to make an informed decision. Carolyn asked everyone to e-mail her questions they would like answered and she would get as much information as she could. Theresa said she would talk to the PW staff and forward their questions and concerns to her also. The commissioners agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

a) Dog Days of Summer Re-Cap

The commissioners discussed how the event went this year and what needed to be done differently next year. Discussion continued with the commissioners agreeing that due to the time this item would be held over to the next meeting.

b) Sprinkler Nights

Carolyn reported the sprinkler nights were well attended with a few regulars. It was noted that it was very smokey this summer and that may have affected attendance. Discussion continued with the commissioners agreeing to look at putting the sprinkler nights again closer to summer.

There was discussion as to how the parks budget works, how projects are funded and staffing available to maintain the parks.

Park Commission Member Comments/Reports

Lyla– Said she knows some retired teachers who would like to do nature activities in the park for children. The commissioners thought it was a great idea with Lyla saying she would have more information at the next meeting. Lyla also said that the Armadillo Tech School Board would like to address the Parks Commission with some ideas for use of the community stage.

Dempsey– Said he was glad he could stay on the Parks Commission after moving out of the city.

Nancy – Had no comments.

Carolyn – Reported she had heard there was going to be a “Fiesta Festival” on May 7th in Phoenix. There was discussion.

Dave – Asked Theresa to bring a report on park rentals to the next meeting. Theresa said she would. Dave reported the bulb planting had been cancelled until all the road construction was done. There was discussion. Dave reported there were two open positions on the Parks Commission. He also reported that Nancy and Laura’s terms were up this year and they would need to be re-appointed. There was discussion. Theresa said she would let Steve know whose terms were up so they could be on the next city council agenda for re-appointment.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.