

**City of Phoenix  
Parks and Greenway Commission Meeting  
Public Works Office  
1000 S. 'B' Street  
January 21, 2015  
6:30pm**

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

Members Present: David VandeVelde, Laura Bella, Nancy Peterson, Carolyn Bartell and Lyla Heigl.

Members Absent: Dempsey Haller (excused)

Visitors Present: Sharon Schmidt, Chair of Phoenix Bee City USA Committee, Mandy Engler, teacher at Armadillo Technical Institute (ATI) in Phoenix, Patty Clark, parent of child at ATI and Dawn, parent of a child at ATI.

Staff Present: Theresa Syphers, Secretary, Matt Brinkley, Planning Director

**Approval of Minutes**

David said he remembered talking about a dog park at the last meeting, but did not see that discussion in the minutes. Theresa said she would correct the minutes to add the dog park discussion.

Nancy made a motion to accept the November 5, 2015 minutes with corrections. Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: The November 5, 2015 minutes did include the discussion on dog parks so no correction was made.

**Citizen Comments**

There were none.

There was discussion as to the length of the meetings with Dave saying he would like to limit agenda item discussions to 10 minutes and try to end the meetings by 8:00pm. There was discussion with the committee agreeing to try to limit discussions to 10 minutes.

Dave moved agenda item 4 b) Bee City USA up on the agenda.

**New Business**

b) Bee City USA – Sharon Schmidt

Sharon thanked the commission for allowing her to address them. She reported that Bee City signs had been placed at each end of the City. She briefly explained the Bee City USA mission and purpose and reported the Bee City USA Pollinator week is June 20<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> this year. She explained the Bee City USA committee's idea of the committee facilitating 10 pollinator gardens in the city. She explained how they envisioned the program would work. There was discussion. Sharon discussed the budget process with the commissioners. Sharon also encouraged pollinator friendly plantings done by businesses. There was discussion with the commissioners suggesting Bee City USA members go door to door to talk with businesses and talking with the Planning Director regarding pollinator friendly planting in the new "gateway" area and public spaces in Phoenix. Discussion returned to the budget

requested for the pollinator garden project discussed earlier. The commissioners were concerned with the budget for the project. Carolyn said she would talk to the City Manager about the budget and report back to Sharon. Discussion ended with the commissioners thanking Sharon for addressing the commission.

e) ATI Project

Dave explained that Armadillo Technical Institute (ATI), a charter school in Phoenix, was looking to partner with the City of Phoenix to provide summer programs at the parks. He introduced Mandy Engler, a teacher with ATI and Patty Clark and Dawn who have students at ATI and asked them to explain their ideas for the program. Ms. Engler explained that the teachers and parents at ATI were interested in holding one activity a month for a cost with the funds collected split between the city and the school. There was discussion. The commissioners questioned whether or not the city could waive the fees for using the facilities at the parks. Lyla said she had an upcoming meeting with the City Manager and would talk to him about the questions the commissioners had and report back at the next meeting. The commissioners all agreed they would like to see one event a month at the parks and asked Ms. Engler to come back to the commission with the dates they would like so they could be put on the calendar. Ms. Engler also said the school kids would be willing to help fill Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Lyla said she would work with ATI on filling the Easter Eggs. There was discussion. The commissioners thanked Ms. Engler, Ms. Clark and Ms. Dawn for coming to the Parks Commission and their willingness to put the summer program on.

Dave reminded the commissioners there was still 2 vacancies on the Parks Commission. There was discussion.

Dave introduced Matt Brinkley and asked him to talk about the Parks Master Plan. Mr. Brinkley explained that the City had been awarded a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the preparation of a Parks Master Plan. He explained what the Parks Master Plan would entail. There was discussion. Mr. Brinkley said that the city received two bids to prepare the Parks Master plan and who the city chose. He went over the timeline for the preparation of the Plan. There was discussion. The commissioners thanked Mr. Brinkley for his presentation.

Mr. Brinkley also reported the City had formed an Arts Council. He explained what the duties of the Phoenix Art Council would be and invited the commissioners to apply if interested. There was discussion.

**Unfinished Business**

a) BHP Parking

Mr. Brinkley said that the Planning Department looked into temporary parking at Blue Heron Park and the cost to prepare the area in question for temporary parking was \$55,000.00. There was discussion. The commissioners agreed that temporary parking at Blue Heron Park was cost prohibitive. Mr. Brinkley explained that the parking issue is something that would be included in the Parks Master Plan. Discussion continued. The commissioners thanked Mr. Brinkley for his work on the parking issue.

b) Horseshoe Pits

Carolyn began discussion of the items in need of repair at the horseshoe pits. She said she would contact the Horseshoe group for cost of repairs including work they would be willing to do and present the costs to the Budget Committee.

Carolyn suggested that the proposed park projects, including the splash pad, be included in the Parks Master Plan before any further discussion takes place at the Parks Commission level. The commissioners agreed it was a good idea.

Dave reminded the councilors whose terms had expired to get their application to the City Manager for re-appointment.

He also reminded the commissioners it was the first of the year and Officers needed to be appointed. Nancy nominated Dave as the Chair of the Parks and Greenway Commission. Laura seconded the motion. The motion

passed unanimously. Nancy nominated Laura as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Greenway Commission. Lyla seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Easter Egg Hunt

Dave went over the list he sent out in an e-mail that listed the items discussed at the Easter Egg Hunt sub-committee meeting. The commissioners each confirmed the duties they were responsible for. Theresa said she would purchase the candy in bulk to get the best deal. Discussion continued with the commissioners agreeing they felt the planning of the event was going well. There was also discussion regarding items that were not on the list Dave sent out.

Carolyn continued the discussion of the Master Plan. She asked for a formal letter to the City Council asking them to not use Park SDC funds until the Parks and Greenway Master Plan was completed.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.