

CITY OF GLENDALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING  
GLENDALE MAIN LIBRARY, LARGE MEETING ROOM  
5959 W. BROWN STREET

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013  
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Portillo, Chair  
Jamie Aldama, Vice Chair  
Mike Buettner  
Gail Meyers  
John Baribault  
John Krystek  
Samantha Cooke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rachel Nowakowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Erik Strunk, Executive Director  
David Seid, Recreation Manager  
Lori Bye, Recreation Manager  
Mike Gregory, Park Manager  
Paul King, Senior Recreation Coordinator  
Kathy Hamel, Library Manager  
Marcheta Strunk, Public Relations Manager  
Christine Frederickson, Management Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Aldama called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Aldama announced that Chair Portillo would be a few minutes late for the meeting and Commissioner Nowakowski called in an absence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2012

**Commissioner Cooke motioned to approve the December 10, 2012 meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Meyers made the second. The motion passed 6 – 0. [Chair Portillo was not yet in attendance.]**

IV. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

## V. GLENDALE MAIN LIBRARY TOUR

Ms. Hamel took the Commissioners on a tour of the library. The Commissioners viewed the new book check-in device in the Circulation Room, the Youth Department, the Teen Area and other areas of the library.

[Chair Portillo entered the meeting at 6:07 p.m.]

The tour concluded at 6:30 p.m.

## VI. WESTGATE GALLERY UPDATE

Ms. Strunk presented information on a partnership with New Westgate, LLC whereby the Parks, Recreation and Library Services Department will be provided with approximately 2,500 square feet of space at Westgate at no cost, including utilities, for a one-year period. In exchange, the department is asked to host events at the site on a periodic basis.

Ms. Strunk stated that the City is always looking for ways to partner with businesses and the representatives from the Marketing Department meet regularly with representatives from Vestar, the management company for Westgate. Ms. Strunk explained that the use of space by the City at Westgate has been discussed for several years and now the opportunity has come to life.

Ms. Strunk provided the following information regarding the new partnership:

- The specific location of the space is in the old Ride Makers store. It is a prime location on the first floor. The space is on the west side of Westgate at the West Passage Entrance. It is near Margaritaville and the Yard House which both generate a lot of traffic. The space has room for storage and an interior restroom. The current fixtures and layout are usable for the Gallery and so no additional build out is required.
- The Westgate representatives like the suggestion of using the space as an art gallery. The space has many windows for display of artwork. Art classes, special interest classes or children's story times could be held in the space.
- Westgate is allowing the City to use the space for free for a year and all utilities will be waived. The lease alone is worth about \$110,000.
- The name for the space will be the Glendale Gallery.
- Pictures of the space were shown to the Commission.
- Information on the Glendale Gallery will be posted on the City's website and included in the City's marketing materials. Westgate will also display information on its website regarding the Glendale Gallery.
- Westgate will provide signage throughout the mall and also on the door of the space.
- As part of the deal, Westgate requires that the Gallery is open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturdays. The Gallery can be open more often but not less than the required hours.

- The LED billboards at the Highway 101 and Glendale Avenue will display information on the Glendale Gallery.
- This partnership is an opportunity for the Parks, Recreation and Library Department to gain more exposure and to peak more interest in departmental offerings. Currently, there are no Special Interest Classes west of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and this partnership will provide space for these classes. The partnership benefits Westgate by bringing more traffic to the area.
- There is an opportunity to hold art shows and to potentially sell art pieces. Some revenue sharing would occur which would be negotiated.
- The opening date for the Gallery is tentatively set as Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- This is a very exciting opportunity for the City and the department.

Commissioner Meyers inquired about staffing. Mr. Strunk commented that due to the budget cuts, the Gallery would be staffed by volunteers and the teachers of the Special Interest Classes. Mr. Strunk noted that staff will contact Friends of the Library for potential volunteers as well.

Commissioner Meyers wondered if the space would be used for staff offices. Mr. Strunk replied in the negative.

Commissioner Meyers inquired about year two of the lease. Mr. Strunk explained that the lease is for only one year and it is a pilot program. Mr. Strunk added that any future plan depends on what occurs during year one. Ms. Strunk interjected that there is a possibility that a renter might approach Westgate for the space after year one, which is an unknown.

Commissioner Meyers asked if the City would sell its municipal art. Ms. Strunk replied in the negative, explaining that although this was explored last Spring, a decision was made not to sell the City's municipal art. Ms. Strunk explained that art students may want to sell their own art. Ms. Strunk added that Westgate has a grassy area near the front of the big fountains where yoga or fitness classes could possibly be held.

Commissioner Cooke offered to volunteer at the Gallery and requested information to disseminate at the next Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) meeting on January 23, 2013.

Commissioner Aldama asked if some of the programs or offerings at the Gallery have already been planned. Ms. Strunk stated that some have been planned; there are instructors who are already excited about working in the new space.

Chair Portillo thanked Ms. Strunk for the information.

## VII. RECYCLING IN PARKS PRESENTATION

Mr. Gregory provided the Commission with information on recycling efforts in the department. Over the last two years, many efforts have occurred, including the following:

- Recycling programs have been established in various parks, mainly, Thunderbird Conservation Park.
- The department saves scrap metal and tries to re-fabricate the metal into useable items.
- The wood chipper is used to turn dead or dying trees into wood chips to be used for dust control or enhanced park landscaping.
- Park signs are recycled instead of re-purchased. Park signs are stripped, resurfaced and re-lettered.
- Christmas tree drop-off is held after the holiday season.
- All aerosol cans are recycled to protect the ozone.
- There are three parks with solar lighting and by April 2013, eight more parks will have solar lighting.
- Nearly half of all right-of-way systems are run by solar controllers.
- Staff is continuously looking for ways to recycle and save money.

Commissioner Aldama praised staff on the recycling efforts.

Commissioner Buettner wondered if staff was planning to expand recycling efforts into more parks. Mr. Gregory replied in the positive but added that the recycling effort is tied into the Sanitation Department. Some of the additional pick up efforts would come at a cost. Mr. Gregory stated that staff is looking at starting a recycling pilot program at Sahuaro Ranch Park.

Chair Portillo inquired about the success of the Christmas tree drop-off program. Mr. Gregory announced that this year was one of the busiest ever for the program. Mr. Gregory stated that pick-ups were increased to handle the demand and the program was incident free. Mr. Gregory added that the program ended yesterday.

Chair Portillo thanked Mr. Gregory for his efforts.

## VIII. LEASED CITY PROPERTY

Mr. Seid gave a presentation on the city parks facilities which are managed by an outside vendor.

### 1. Glen Lakes Golf Course

- Managed by Arizona Golf Ventures LLC
- 2-year lease with option for a third year.
- The City is re-evaluating if the operation will remain as a golf course or be sold in the future.
- The new manager has done a great job at the golf course.
- The management does use some City of Glendale equipment but does pay for the maintenance of the equipment.

- The management is required to have twenty working golf carts on site every day.
  - The food café is expected to re-open soon.
2. Desert Mirage Golf Course
    - Managed by Ready Golf Inc.
    - The course is a nine-hole course.
    - The contract is for 35 years.
    - Monthly meetings are held with the management team.
  3. Foothills Sk8 Court Pro Shop
    - Managed by Cowtown Skateboards LLC
    - The current agreement runs through March 2014.
    - Cowtown can sublease out the space.
    - Cowtown has a lot of pro-shop equipment.
    - There are no fees to use the Sk8 Court for participants and it is open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
  4. Paseo Racquet Center
    - Managed by Paseo Racquet Club LLC
    - There are nineteen tennis courts and a pro-shop.
    - The ten-year lease runs through December 2021.
    - The managers handle the day-to-day maintenance but any large CIP projects would have to be phased in and the City would work with the LLC on such projects.
    - The management holds the liquor license and receives all proceeds from sales of liquor.
    - Promotion of the center is a joint-effort between the City and the managers of the center.
  5. Glendale Community Center
    - Managed by Glendale Youth Project
  6. The Historic Sahuaro Ranch
    - Managed by Glendale Historical Society
    - A great partnership with the volunteers who serve the Ranch.
  7. The Historic Manistee Ranch
    - Managed by Glendale Historical Society
    - Another great volunteer partnership.
    - The ranch was purchased by the City in 1997 and the property was spruced up. Approximately five or six years ago, a grant for \$10,000 was received from the U.S. Forestry Department in order to preserve the palms on the property. The palms were originally from Iran and are very rare.

## IX. SPORTS TOURISM AT GLENDALE PARKS

Mr. Gregory provided information on the organized sports teams using Glendale facilities and the efforts to determine the impact on the local economy.

Mr. Gregory stated that staff will be working with the Marketing Department and the Economic Development Department in order to track the impact of users of the Parks facilities. Mr. Gregory explained that the goal is to quantify the financial impact of the youth and amateur sports facilities on the Glendale economy.

Mr. Gregory stated that for the past year, multiple tournaments have resulted in 1,600 games and over 10,000 players at the sports facilities.

Mr. Gregory explained that there are various formulas that can be used to determine the impact of the tournaments and staff will begin meetings next week to decide on which formula will be used. Mr. Gregory added that it is important to not only capture the economic impact of visiting teams but also local teams as well.

Mr. Gregory announced that Mr. Gallagher will provide a formal presentation regarding the issue at the February or March Commission meeting. Mr. Gregory added that possibly a representative from the Economic Development Department could attend a Commission meeting as well.

Commissioner Aldama suggested that Sahuaro Ranch Park be nominated for the Sports Turf Management Association Award. Mr. Gregory will pursue the suggestion.

#### X. STAFF UPDATES

Staff updated the Commission on activities, accomplishments and items of note.

Mr. Gregory stated that Park Inspection Worksheets would be distributed this evening.

Mr. Gregory introduced Mr. Paul King who manages the Sahuaro Ranch Historical area, supervises all Park Rangers and manages the contracts for the Sk8 Court and the X-Court.

Mr. King stated that the Partners N' Parks Program is still in the beginning stages but is moving forward. Mr. King announced the upcoming dates as follows:

- Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at Carmel Park from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Activities include: cleaning of granite areas, trimming of shrubs, raking, pruning of plants and light painting.
- Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at North Horizon Park from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at Hillcrest Park from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Tierra Buena Park from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mr. King invited all Commissioners to participate along with their family and friends.

Ms. Bye provided an update on the Glendale Adult Center which included the following:

- On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Holiday Luncheon at the Adult Center was held with over 200 attendees. This was an increase of over 75 attendees from the previous year.
- In February, a Valentine's luncheon will be held.

- In March, a St. Patrick's Day luncheon will be held.
- The Adult Center "Horizon" Magazine was distributed.

Ms. Bye gave an update on the Youth and Teen Division for Ms. Deanna Ortiz as follows:

- The Desert Mirage Licensed G.R.A.S.P. collected change donations for their Christmas Angel and collected approximately \$100.00. They were able to purchase clothes, toys, accessories and a baby doll for a six year-old little girl. The participants enjoyed voting on what to purchase, wrapping gifts and sharing the holiday spirit with those in need.
- On Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Glendale Youth Project hosted a Holiday Celebration with Santa and friends at the Glendale Community Center. Over 300 kids received a photo with Santa, a wrapped gift and refreshments. The kids from the surrounding neighborhood were very excited.

Ms. Bye gave an update on the Park Naming Process, which was revised as follows:

- February 4<sup>th</sup>: Naming contest begins. Web-site opened, drop boxes located at Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, Adult Center and three libraries, naming contest at neighboring schools and G.R.A.S.P., press release and KGLN announcement.
- March 1<sup>st</sup>: All name submittal deadline at 5:00 p.m.
- March 11<sup>th</sup>: Item presented to Commission for initial review and consideration.
- April 8<sup>th</sup>: Item presented to Commission for final review and vote.
- May: Item presented for action at evening City Council meeting.
- May: Press release and signage ordered.

Mr. Seid gave an update on the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, which included the following:

- On February 7<sup>th</sup>, a new adult basketball league will begin.
- Special Interest Classes: The Winter Sampler was held last week and there were over 300 participants. The program resulted in a spike in class registrations.
- New offering: Multi Sport for Youth for 16 months to 5 years old which gives the children a sample of different sports.
- Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.: Free presentation for one hour held by personal trainers at the fitness center. At this workshop, the personal trainers will provide basic fitness instruction.

Ms. Frederickson confirmed with the Commissioners that the Commission Goal of outreach will be achieved by participation at the Green Festival.

Mr. Strunk announced that staff is working with SRP for the donation of free trees to the city for Arbor Day to be planted in the parks.

Mr. Strunk stated that the Commission will hold a joint meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> with the Glendale Commission on Persons with Disabilities at the Glendale Adult Center.

## XI. COMMISSION COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Meyers enjoyed the meeting.

Commissioner Krystek wondered if the City was accepting tree donations for Arbor Day and noted that some time ago; residents could donate live Christmas trees for planting in the parks. Mr. Strunk stated that anyone is welcome to donate a tree to the city which will be planted.

Commissioner Buettner requested ongoing updates on the City's recycling programs.

Commissioner Cooke looked forward to volunteering at the Glendale Gallery and sharing the information with her peers on MYAC.

Commissioner Aldama inquired about the open student Commissioner position. Mr. Strunk was aware of the vacancy and hoped it would be filled soon.

Chair Portillo stated that he attended Glendale Glitter and Glow and it was wonderful.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by consensus.**

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kazmierczak