

CITY OF GLENDALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING  
WESTERN AREA REGIONAL PARK – X-COURT CONCESSION STAND  
6101 N. 83<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2012  
6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Meyers

OTHERS PRESENT: Erik Strunk, Parks, Recreation & Library Director  
David Seid, Recreation Manager  
Lori Bye, Recreation Manager  
Deanna Ortiz, Recreation Manager  
Mike Gregory, Park Manager  
Roger Boyer, Project Coordinator  
Christine Frederickson, Management Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Portillo called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Portillo took roll call. Ms. Frederickson announced that Commissioner Cooke called and will be late.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

**Commissioner Aldama motioned to approve the September 10, 2012, meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Buettner made the second. The motion passed 5 – 0. [Commissioners Cooke and Krystek were not in attendance yet.]**

Mr. Gregory introduced new Commissioner Baribault. Commissioner Baribault shared a brief background of himself.

IV. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

V. TOUR OF THE WESTERN AREA REGIONAL PARK FACILITY

Mr. Gregory provided the following highlights about the Western Area Regional Park:

- The park is an 81-acre facility and was designed in 2001. Three different public meetings were held regarding the design of the park. The basketball court, 10,000 square foot splash pad and X-Court were constructed in 2005.
- 50 acres have not yet been developed.
- This is a very unique facility and there is not another like it in the state.
- The tour will focus on the developed area of the park.

Mr. Gregory displayed an aerial graphic rendering of the Western Area Regional Park.

[Mr. Strunk entered the meeting at 6:07 p.m.]

The Commissioners were taken on a tour of the facility.

First, the Commissioners viewed the X-Court.

Chair Portillo asked who constructed the X-Court. Mr. Gregory replied that California Skate Parks designed and constructed the X-Court. Mr. Gregory provided further details, which included the following:

- The court is constructed with 5,000 PSI concrete.
- The concrete was pressurized and shot into the area.
- The concrete is 6" thick and in some areas it is 8" thick.
- When built, the X-Court cost \$1 million dollars
- The building adjacent to the X-Court cost \$300,000 to construct.
- The concession area is currently unoccupied.
- The X-Court is constructed for use by bicycles, skateboards and scooters.
- There are varying levels of difficulty in the layout of the X-Court.

Chair Portillo inquired if any major competitions were held at the X-Court. Mr. Gregory replied in the negative, but added that the facility could be rented for competitions.

The Commissioners viewed the splash pad and Mr. Gregory provided the following information:

- The splash pad is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- There is a solar-charged emergency box. A call button is pressed to request response to an emergency.
- In season, the water needs to be backwashed three times a day.
- The water is chlorinated and has a filter system just like a swimming pool

Chair Portillo inquired as to the maximum number of people allowed in the splash pad area at one time. Mr. Gregory stated that the county does not specify a maximum number of occupancy and explained that when the splash pad was first built, the county required a lifeguard to be present during operating hours. Mr. Gregory stated that the city asked if a solar-operated emergency call box could be installed instead of hiring a lifeguard and the county approved the request.

Chair Portillo commented that on the weekend, there could be 300 people at a time in the splash pad area. Chair Portillo expressed concern about the safety of the situation.

Commissioner Buettner inquired about the cost to maintain the pumps. Mr. Gregory explained that every summer, the pumps are checked to ensure they are in proper working condition.

[Commissioners Cooke and Krystek joined the tour at 6:26 p.m.]

The Commissioners viewed the basketball courts and the children's playground.

Mr. Gregory commented that that City received a \$1.5 million Heritage grant to assist in the building of the Western Area Regional Park Facility.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Gregory for the tour of the facility.

## VI. PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Strunk stated that over the summer, staff received complaints from residents regarding organized sports groups that use Sierra Verde Park for practices. Mr. Strunk stated that there has been quite a history with this neighborhood and this situation. The residents have complained about issues with parking in front of their homes.

Mr. Strunk commented that the organized sports groups have been very hard on the turf, and leaving behind trash and equipment. He stressed that the parks should be used by the public for recreational purposes, but abuse of the parks must be discouraged.

Mr. Strunk stated that there are no rules for how to handle the situation with teams utilizing the parks. The Park Rangers have in the past been sent to inform the coaches of the residents' complaints regarding trash and parking. Mr. Strunk noted that some of the coaches have been receptive while others have not.

Mr. Strunk noted that he, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Gallagher worked with the City Attorney's Office and Prosecutor regarding this issue. Staff was informed that the City does have the authority to make a team cease and desist and even be cited for inappropriate use of the parks. Mr. Strunk explained that Mr. Gregory and Mr. Gallagher have been working with the Prosecutor's Office to identify parks at which signs will be posted regarding the appropriate use of the parks. Mr. Strunk added that the Department is looking into the possibility of having the Park Rangers deputized in order to legally enforce park rules.

Mr. Strunk stressed that the overuse/abuse situation is mainly occurring at neighborhood parks that are not designed to handle repeated use by organized sports teams for practices. Mr. Strunk again stressed that the parks are for all to enjoy, but when a neighborhood is being repeatedly disturbed, a group will be asked to leave and not return. If the initial request is not followed, disciplinary actions will be increased. Mr. Strunk explained that last year, at Clavelito Park, the tackle football team destroyed the grass. Mr. Strunk also pointed out that last year, at Tierra Buena Park, the grass was destroyed due to both team use and soil conditions. Mr. Strunk stated that repair of the turf is an expense for the City and organized teams are charging fees to the participants, but the City does not get a portion of those fees.

Mr. Strunk announced that Sierra Verde Park will be one of the first to have the new signage posted.

Mr. Strunk stated that Parks Rules and Regulations have already been approved by Council and codified and that it is an enforcement issue. He indicated that education will be important and then enforcement if necessary.

Commissioner Buettner stated that open space is a commodity this time of year for team practice and asked if there was a way to permit teams to allow use of certain neighborhood parks. Mr. Strunk explained that the Department has a tiered system for team use. Foothills and Paseo Sports Complex are used for baseball/softball and Thunderbird Paseo Park is used

for soccer and football. Mr. Strunk explained that there is space for all of the games, but the issue is more with practices.

Commissioner Aldama felt that the residents have been looking for this type of enforcement at the parks for a long time. Commissioner Aldama stated that at 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue north of Glendale Avenue, a soccer team has been practicing at the retention basin. Mr. Aldama commented that the team is bringing vehicles down to the area to be used as lights and was concerned about the safety of practicing in this area. Commissioner Aldama praised the pursuit of deputizing the Park Rangers.

Commissioner Nowakowski wondered how much the City made from the sports teams for the use of the parks. Ms. Frederickson estimated the amount at \$200,000 annually for field rental.

Commissioner Nowakowski understood the situation, but stated that as a parent and a coach, it is hard to find practice space for teams. Commissioner Nowakowski asked if teams would be allowed to practice in the neighborhood parks without cleats, which are harder on turf than regular gym shoes. Mr. Strunk stated that the organized teams are allowed field allocations for the games, but the teams are responsible for finding their own practice space, which must be appropriate for the intended use. Mr. Strunk stressed that the department will work toward an informational approach first and will keep communication open with the coaches and teams.

[Commissioner Aldama excused himself from the meeting at 6:56 p.m.]

#### VII. FOOTHILLS RECREATION & AQUATICS CENTER (FRAC) BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Seid presented information on the assessment of FRAC in transitioning to a 100% cost recovery facility, which included the following information:

- FRAC opened in September 2006, with a Business Plan cost recovery goal of 78% of all expenses, including overhead. The facility has operated successfully in this manner during the first six years of operation.
- During the City budget discussions of Fall 2012, City leadership identified FRAC as a candidate for a 100% cost recovery model.
- To achieve this goal, all facility related expenses, FY13 Budget \$1,348,451, would need to be totally supported by the revenue, FY13 Estimate \$1,101,038, the facility generates.
- The current gap between income and expenses is roughly \$247,413. In order to bridge the difference between facility income and expense, the following actions were taken and/or will be taken in the future:

- Office Support Supervisor - \$63,247: Removal of the vacant position which has been vacant since April 2012. Associated duties have been handled collectively by lead contracted temporary staff and remaining FTE's. Action taken.
- Custodial Day Porter - \$14,820: Elimination of this position requires the remaining facility staff to inspect and address any custodial related issues as they arise during open hours. Action taken.
- Facility Hours Reduction - \$12,382: Reduction of facility hours by 7 hours per week by closing one hour earlier each day. Based on review of use patterns, this will have a minimal impact on current users. The change in hours will be implemented on December 1, 2012.
- Deposit net Special Interest Classes (SIC) Revenue into FRAC - \$25,000: The FRAC SIC Income and Expense will be redirected into the FRAC budget for facility cost recovery benefit. There will not be an effect on participants or the program in general. The SIC Division will work with the existing FRAC staff for facility cost recovery efficiencies. To be implemented.
- Increase Rental Income - \$24,587: Continue to expand the visibility of FRAC rental opportunities to the public through pass holder education, marketing materials and incentivize repeat rental business. Keep rental rates at very competitive costs.
- Re-Purpose the Activity Room - \$25,000: Convert the FRAC Activity Room into a multi-purpose room with greater revenue potential. Possibly move a senior fitness space into the room. Since becoming a Silver Sneakers facility, senior fitness has grown tremendously and allows eligible seniors the opportunity to participate in health, wellness and fitness programs with no out-of-pocket expense. The room could still host such various activities such as ping pong on a reduced basis. Once done, the room would no longer be fully dedicated to the current activities such as billiards, table tennis, video games and more.
- Expand Corporate Passes and Sponsorships - \$25,000: Re-tool the corporate/group pass structure to expand pass opportunities for City of Glendale businesses and package some sponsorship opportunities in exchange for advertising space.
- The above changes total \$190,036. The \$57,377 difference between this number and the \$247,413 target would have to be made up on the expense side. Suggested expense savings include:
  - Continue the "Essential Purchases Only" FRAC Spending Policy.
  - Decrease expenditures on amenities such as hand towels, which were removed in favor of blow dryers.
  - Reduce professional landscaping to one time per year.
  - Defer maintenance as able.
  - Decrease office supply spending.

- Decrease equipment supply spending.

Mr. Seid asked if the Commissioners had any questions or comments.

Chair Portillo requested more information on the elimination of the Custodial Day Porter. Mr. Seid explained that this position had been outsourced. Mr. Seid noted that the Porter may need to be brought back during the heavy-use months of June and July.

Chair Portillo asked if the Activity Room was currently functional for fitness use or if it would need to be modified. Mr. Seid explained that the tables and arcade games would have to be removed. Mr. Seid added that since the Silver Sneakers program is low-impact, there might not be a need to change the flooring.

Commissioner Krystek commended Mr. Seid on the detailed analysis of the facility budget.

Commissioner Cooke stated that there should be more class offerings, especially youth fitness classes.

Commissioner Cooke suggested a base facility membership for only the workout equipment and then a premium membership which would include classes. Mr. Seid stated that this could be considered, however, enforcement at the facility could be difficult.

#### VIII. PARK NAMING

Mr. Strunk stated that there are two City parks that have not been officially named: the Western Area Regional Park (WARP) and the park located at 79<sup>th</sup> and Orangewood. Mr. Strunk felt that it would be appropriate for the Commission to sponsor a Park Naming Contest.

Mr. Strunk explained that staff can set up a website and use mailers for the contest. Mr. Strunk stressed that the schools would be engaged as well as the general public.

All Commissioners agreed with the suggestion.

Mr. Strunk stated that staff will work on the contest process and materials over the next few months and by late February or early March, the contest should be ready to be presented to the Commission.

Chair Portillo asked if there were any criteria for the naming of a park. Mr. Strunk indicated there is no formal policy and would bring this information to the next Commission meeting.

Chair Portillo inquired about the possibility of a corporate-sponsored park. Mr. Strunk explained that naming rights and potential corporate sponsorships are something that will be addressed in the coming months by the Marketing Department. Mr. Strunk added that the parks can still be named and at a later time, a sponsor can be added.

#### IX. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Bye updated the Commission on the following activities:

- Glendale Adult Center
  - On Halloween, the Not So Scary Halloween special event was held with approximately 145 attendees. Scary Mary, a singer and piano player, was the entertainment. Per the event evaluation, 91% of the attendees were very satisfied with the event.
- Adaptive Recreation
  - The Theatre Kids 8-week program has been meeting on Thursday nights.
  - The performance will be held this Thursday, at 6:00 p.m. at the Glendale Adult Center and all are welcome to attend.
- 2012 National Parks and Recreation Association Congress: The City of Glendale gave Ms. Bye time to attend the event in October which was held in Anaheim, California. The main speaker was Dr. Lowell Catlett, a renowned economist and the Dean of New Mexico State University. There were over 300 vendors in the exhibit hall and sessions on the economy, the direction of Parks and Recreation, contracting outside services, branding and partnering with other cities on Parks and Recreation issues.

Ms. Ortiz provided the following update on the Youth and Teen Division:

- The Division was awarded the Gila River Indian Communities Grant in the amount of \$56,000.
  - The grant will be used for a program for the prevention of childhood obesity.
  - The program is modeled after the "On The Move" program.
  - The children will be pre- and post-tested on fitness levels.
  - The children will be given fitness techniques and encouraged to become more active and healthy.
  - The program will be held at all afterschool locations.
  - There will also be a few opportunities to hold the program at the Glendale Community Center.

Mr. Seid provided the following updates:

- Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center (FRAC)
  - Maintenance Week will occur from November 19<sup>th</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Due to the facility being open 101 hours per week, the traffic and use take a great toll on the facility and deep cleaning is necessary. The wood floors in the gym will be refurbished and all other carpets and floors will be cleaned as well.
  - A Friday Social Dance will be held on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  - On January 12, 2013, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Wellness Fair will be held which is a free event for the public.
- Special Interest Classes (SIC)
  - November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Learn to Make Tamales: A Mexican Tradition
  - January 7<sup>th</sup> through January 12<sup>th</sup>: Winter Sampler – The public can try any classes offered during this week free of charge.

Mr. Boyer provided the following updates regarding the Right-of-Way Division:

- The Division monitors and manages approximately 1,000 acres of roadsides, of which half are developed and half are undeveloped. The undeveloped areas basically require maintenance of the gravel, weeds and debris. The maintenance of the Right-of-Ways is contracted to outside vendors. Approximately 1,000 calls are received annually regarding the maintenance of the Right-of-Ways.
- The City owns 1,300 palm trees which are contracted out for service.
- The Irrigation Department consists of two staff members who are very busy.
- There are 15,000 trees in the City and one tree crew that trims two to four times a year.

Mr. Gregory gave an update on Sahuaro Ranch Park for Mr. Chris Gallagher who was unable to attend the meeting:

- The fall softball league has begun and the fields are booked to capacity.
- Tonight is the field allocation meeting.
- The Sectional Punt, Pass and Kick Competition was hosted in October.
- For the Sahuaro Ranch Historic District, the public can visit the City's website to see a 1930's Halloween and see how the Guest House and the Main House were decorated at that time.

- In October, the Wild West Days Festival was held with approximately 8,000 people in attendance over the three day event. One one of the days, attendees received free entry with the donation of six cans of food for St. Mary's Food Bank.

Mr. Gregory provided further information on past activities which included the following:

- The Bonsall Lake will be re-stocked with fish this month.
- The Foothills Skate Court was closed for a week in October in order to apply an epoxy injection into cracks in the concrete. This was nearly a four-day process. This will also be done at the WARP X-Court next week.
- Fifty people attended the Partners-N-Parks event at the Equestrian area. Three trailers were filled with a total of 65 bags of debris. Thank you to the Commissioners and others who participated.

Mr. Strunk announced that on October 24<sup>th</sup>, the City had to evict the operator of the Glen Lakes Municipal Golf Course due to non-payment of rent and other issues. Staff will bring a two-year contract with Arizona Golf Ventures LLC to Council for review and approval. However, Council is also considering whether or not the facility should be kept as a golf course. Mr. Strunk will keep the Commission posted on this issue.

#### X. COMMISSION COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Buettner stated that he was looking forward to the Park Naming Contest, complimented the Partners 'N Parks clean-up event and commended Mr. Gregory on the irrigation and turf conditions.

Commissioner Cooke stated that there might be an opportunity for the Partners 'N Parks program with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

Chair Portillo asked if the Jingle Bell Hike to Santa was still a possibility this year if the Commissioners volunteered to assist as discussed in a previous meeting. Mr. Gregory explained that at this late date, it would be difficult to plan, organize and advertise the event in a quality manner.

Chair Portillo asked if staff has sent out thank you notes to the volunteers at the Partners N' Parks group clean up event. Mr. Gregory replied in the positive.

Chair Portillo inquired about the date for the next Partners N' Parks event with the Commissioners. Mr. Strunk commented that there was no date set, but a date can be scheduled for every three months.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. by consensus.**

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kazmierczak