

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
May 22, 2007**

Present:

Doug Hulse, Chairperson  
Jim Wixom, Vice-Chairperson  
Bill Bowden  
Jim Bostwick  
Carol Nielsen  
Ann Shaw-Jenkins

Absent:

Nathaniel Munn, Jr.

Also Present:

Richard Faust, Director  
Robin Babbitt, Parks and Recreation Administrative Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Hulse called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm at the Cottonwood Community Development meeting room.

**MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2007**

Mr. Faust stated that the minutes would be reviewed at the June Parks and Recreation Commission meeting due to time constraints.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MONTHLY REPORT INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2007**

Mr. Faust asked if there were any questions on the monthly reports for April 2007 identifying revenues, maintenance projects, program participation figures and more. He stated there was quite a bit of information on sports, leagues and tournaments, and special events. Total revenues were high mainly due to adult softball and aquatics.

Commissioner Hulse stated he talked to Recreation Coordinator Hezekiah Allen recently regarding the need for volunteers at the Rhythm & Ribs event in September. He suggested that anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact Hezekiah. They discussed this event further.

Mr. Faust mentioned that the Little League Ball Fields are almost ready and the first games would be Tuesday evening. They will set up snow fence along the unfinished areas for safety purposes. He then quickly reviewed the items that still need completing at the concession stand.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FIVE-YEAR PLAN – REVIEW OF PREVIOUS PLAN

Mr. Faust identified some changes that have come from the city manager's office and are being presented to Council in upcoming budget meetings. Council is being asked to authorize \$60,000 this year during the 2007/2008 budget for the Verde Village Unit 8 Park. The city manager wants it done for that amount of money and nothing more. The director stated that they would put in a small ramada with picnic tables, small children's play apparatus, and decomposed granite as requested at the public meeting in 2001. This will take about three or four months to complete with bid requests going out this winter.

Commissioner Bowden asked if they would be building a fence around the subdivision to the north.

Mr. Faust did not have that information. He stated the city would put up a block wall between the house on the west side and the park for noise abatement. He was glad to see that the authorization for this park site improvement is going through Council for this upcoming year.

Mr. Faust continued saying they had identified at the last meeting that they were going to keep the multi-generational recreation and aquatics center in as number one since it has not been completed yet. Number two will stay as the Viejo/Elm Park. He then opened the discussion up for the rest of the plan.

Commissioner Shaw-Jenkins thought it would make sense to move the Master Plan Study – Trail System up to number three and have the Land Acquisition and the Urban Trail System following that. In the Master Plan Study, they can look at where they want to acquire land for both future parks and also trail systems.

Mr. Faust explained that he discussed his goals of developing a trail along the ditch while he was at Riverfront Park with the city manager looking at the site for the future dog park. This trail would follow all the way to the Old Jail Trail and connect with the state park trails, greenway corridor and Forest Service property. The trail he envisions would be decomposed granite or asphalt. It could be multi-use for dog walkers and others as well as hikers. This falls under the Urban Trail system. He would like to see the amount for 2008/2009 increased and that it should identify the construction of trails and maybe the purchase of land. He thinks the Old Jail Trail trailhead idea should be removed. He suggested \$50,000 to \$75,000 to develop the Riverfront Park ditch trail and others along the corridors and possibly Del Monte Wash. They could include some ramadas also.

Commissioner Bostwick stated that the county has just hired a trails coordinator. The first thing they are going to do is a master trails plan. He asked if they could collaborate with them during the initial surge. He thinks that would help their efforts.

Mr. Faust asked if everyone felt the same about the Master Plan Study – Trail System being moved up to number three after the Verde Unit park. The commissioners all agreed. They decided to move the Urban Trail System to number four and the Park Land Acquisition down to number five.

After continued discussion, the commissioners confirmed to place \$100,000 in 2008/2009 for the Urban Trail System. Commissioner Hulse asked if it would be feasible to work on the Del Monte Wash in 2009/2010 if they were able to do the Riverfront Park trail in 2008/2009 or should they wait on that and see what comes up in between.

Mr. Faust explained that they had a year's space in between them because of the Old Town Community Park funding request. They are moving along rapidly in 2009/2010 with identifying what will happen with the Old Town Activity Park. He really believes the new Council will not want to use this area as a new city hall as some have wanted in the past, but instead they will build a city hall behind the Public Safety Building. He thinks they should continue to plan for this area to become a cultural heritage park with an amphitheater. They can then keep the Farmers Market there and hold other small events. This will keep some community focus in Old Town.

Commissioner Bowden feels it is important to continue to support the Old Town area for tourism and economic value.

Mr. Faust suggested identifying \$100,000 for the Old Town Community Park in 2009/2010. Then they could keep the Del Monte Wash project in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. He feels they will do well having projects in each year this way. This will keep the Old Town Community Park at number six.

Mr. Faust continued with number seven, the Civic Center rehabilitation project. He reviewed the upgrades to the facility thus far. He would still like to see the purchase of stage lighting, projector booth equipment, and a new sound system. He would like to add those goals along with the title. He explained that they would like to see more children's and community theater programs in that facility. The group discussed community needs for that building further along with current usage constraints and approximate costs for upgrades. The director estimated that \$35,000 should cover all of the currently needed upgrades to make the building accessible for theatrical productions.

Commissioner Shaw-Jenkins suggested moving that project up to 2008/2009. Mr. Faust felt that would be appropriate so it would be taken care of before the recreation center was completed.

Commissioner Bowden was concerned with too many funding projects set in 2008/2009.

Commissioner Shaw-Jenkins suggested moving Land Acquisition to 2009/2010 and maybe split out amounts over a couple of years because they need to have the planning completed first.

Mr. Faust said they are mostly looking at land for ball field development. They probably wouldn't need that again soon. To do the Riverfront Park expansion project in today's prices would run about

3.5 to 4 million. By 2010/2011 or 2011/2012 they will need more park/field facilities again. His thoughts are to eliminate it from the 2008/2009 and move it to 2010/2011 or 2011/2012 and put in 4 million dollars. This amount will be needed for land purchase and development. By the 2012/2013 budget, they can add another 2.5 million dollars to finish whatever project it would be for a youth sports complex.

Commissioner Bowden said speaking as a real estate broker, he would like to see them identify properties now and do some preliminary feeling out of the owners to see if they can move and defer the payment until later on. He said the land is not going to get any cheaper.

Mr. Faust stated he agreed with this but they have to consider where lights are going to be in the future. They need to find low-lying land so the lights won't shine down on the community. He thought it would be a good idea to put 2.5 million dollars in both 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. It is going to take that much money since this community will probably be servicing 50,000 to 55,000 people by that time. He doesn't know where they will have facilities available for youth or adults. In five years, they will need both more adult and youth fields.

Commissioner Hulse said that with the influx of population comes increased city revenues and he feels the city would be able to afford the 2.5 million dollars at that time. The commissioners agreed with the director's suggestion for amounts of money for land acquisition.

The director asked if there were any other projects to include on the five-year plan.

Commissioner Shaw-Jenkins asked if they needed to identify the proposed dog park.

Mr. Faust stated no. He then explained that there is going to be a mutual agreement document between the dog group and the City of Cottonwood that they provide everything for the entire facility with the city only providing the property. The group then confirmed the priority order of the finalized five-year plan.

### CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowden motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Shaw-Jenkins seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.