

Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Lake Havasu Police Facility Meeting Room
2360 McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
www.lhcaz.gov

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chairperson Welte called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Welte led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Cheri Kowalski conducted a Roll Call of the Board members:

Regular Board Members Present: Ed Heil, Jason Keough, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Chuck Vaughn, Scott Welte,

Excused: Rick Knotts, Lauren Vedder, Mark Zieff

Excused: Council Member: Michele Lin

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Mike Keane, Cheri Kowalski

4. CALL TO PUBLIC

- Doug Carr, Pickleball ambassador and Vice-President of the Pickleball Association. He thanked the Board and Mr. Keane for their support with Pickleball and hopefully they will be in the budget at the end of June and be getting eight new courts.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Approval of April 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- Member Keough made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 22, 2019 as written, seconded by member Vaughn and carried by the following vote:
AYE: 6 – Heil, Keough, Pascual, Smith, Vaughn, and Welte,

6. COMMUNICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PARKS & RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

6.1 Parks and Recreation Managers Report

Mike Keane provided updates to various items:

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

- All summer program registrations began today. Several programs filled quickly and we are looking at how we can make adjustments to be able to take more individuals in those programs.
- The last day of after school programs will be on Thursday, May 23.
- Sunshine camps start on June 3.
- Camp I Wannago starts June 10.
- Pool will be closed on May 27 in observation of Memorial Day.
- Summer pool hours begin Saturday, June 1, Monday – Friday 12:30-4:30pm and Saturday - Sunday 12 – 5 pm.
- Summer programs begin June 3 to include junior lifeguards, advanced junior lifeguards, summer swim league and summer exercise programs.
- Annual Early Childhood education conference June 8.
- Bippity Boppty Beautiful You party in the gym on June 27.
- Havasu Memorial Walkway Brick Laying Ceremony June 8 under the London Bridge.
- Journey of Hope ride from SARA Park to the Aquatic Center, June 19.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7.1 Discussion: 2019-2020 Budget Update

Parks and Recreation Manager Mike Keane stated on April 25 the City Manager and staff presented the Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-20 through 2023-24 to City Council in a work session. It is noteworthy that all projects in this plan have a funding source identified and are fully funded meaning the plan does not require the City to incur any additional debt. In past Capital Improvement Plans, not all projects had an identified funding source. The City Manager has also recommended to Council that the construction sales tax be used to fund future CIP projects, as this is a good measure of Lake Havasu City's economy. Currently this number is roughly \$2.2M. This would only be utilized for general fund projects.

With that being said, he was excited to announce that the Parks and Recreation Department was awarded two projects during this CIP cycle. These projects also reflect the priority the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board gave to the City Manager and Council. Those projects are the construction of eight additional Pickleball Courts at Dick Samp Park in fiscal year 2019-20. This project is budgeted at approximately \$715K including a donation of \$100K from the Lake Havasu City Pickleball Association.

The second project is the installation of a HVAC system in the Aquatic Center. This project includes \$180K in fiscal year 2020-21 for design and approximately \$2M in 2021-22 for installation.

On May 16, the City Manager and staff presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-20 to City Council in a work session. Keane only touched on the Parks and Recreation Budget during the discussion and noted that any general changes to the overall City budget such as healthcare, employee pay increases, pensions etc. hold true to the Parks and Recreation Department as well.

Keane stated this next year will be a very exciting year for the Parks and Recreation Department as the major portion of parks maintenance will be coming back under the Parks and Recreation Department and moving away from the Public Works Department. This is reflected in the proposed budget, and therefore shows a significant increase in the total department budget and in the number of personnel.

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The total Parks and Recreation Budget for fiscal year 2019-20 will be approximately \$5.2M and will include 27 full time employees.

Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget was built by taking fiscal year 2018-19 budget as our base line budget and then submitting supplemental requests for any increase to that budget. Citywide there were well over 500 supplemental requests made, totaling close to \$13M, of which 38% were able to be funded. In the Parks and Recreation Department, there were 24 supplemental totaling approximately \$450K. Of those 15 requests, we were approved to a total of \$160K. Keane brought this to the Boards attention so they can recognize there are many needs in each department that go unfulfilled each year. He stated our belts are tight and the reason even little projects suggested by the Board may not always be able to be accomplished even though it seems like an easy request.

Items noteworthy in the budget are funding for teen break, resurfacing of the tennis courts, new carpet in the Relics and Rods Hall, new AV equipment for the Relics and Rods Hall, creating 2 new FT positions in our parks maintenance division to replace a janitorial contract, park signage package, and funds to do park improvements.

- *Board member Vaughn asked if he understood correctly that they want to do all of the capital improvement projects throughout the City, throughout all of the departments, for the \$2.2M that the construction taxes bring in.*
- *Keane replied just the general fund departments such as police department, fire department, parks and recreation, and general city.*
- *Board member Vaughn stated so they are dividing amongst four or five departments only \$2.2M for capital improvement projects.*
- *Keane responded that is the source he has identified at this time.*
- *Board member Vaughn stated so they do not want to put any more money into the capital improvement fund throughout the City besides that.*
- *Keane replied we would still have the IDD, water, wastewater; those will all be funded separately. It is just the general fund projects.*
- *A discussion took place regarding the CIP and the general fund as well as replacing a contract.*
- *Board member Vaughn made a statement that we are in good times and he understands you have to put money away for rainy days but to be this frugal in good times when we could get a few extra things. They are letting stuff go that should be done when they have the income coming in. He asked if they are planning to put money in the reserve.*
- *Keane responded he knows Council did discuss a reserve and an amount to keep in the budget for catastrophic failure.*
- *Board member Keough asked if Keane had a dollar amount assigned to the general park improvement that he had mentioned and or examples of what that would be.*
- *Keane replied the concept is at this point being asked to Council to approve \$150K every year or every other year for some general park maintenance issue that we have not been able to do. They do not reach the threshold to be a CIP project, but we still do not have that money in the general operations and maintenance budgets. Example would be additional lighting, additional shade structures, flooring for some of our playgrounds, lighting for the playgrounds, additional red for the ballfields, and additional cleanup around the fences.*

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- Board member Smith stated I noticed we are going backwards, we went from \$15M to zero on ballfields, and then we thought a baseball field would be out there and that is gone too. You were then talking about a little park on the island by the football field that is toast too. What happened to the ballfields?
- Keane replied I think the philosophy has changed a little to take care and maintain what we have. In speaking towards the ballfield on the island, that was approximately a \$2M dollar project. That project morphed into an almost semi-pro baseball field and that would do away with the football field at that facility and in conversations once those came into full bloom it didn't make sense to destroy a football field for one additional baseball field. We still have the need for all fields that we do have. That is where that project did stop; we are going to use a portion of that \$150K to look at updating and making the island ballfield a lot more useable.
- Board member Smith stated so you still have money that you are putting into two fields on the island.
- Keane responded we do have some funds. It is not in the realm of the millions that you saw; again whether or not that was ever in the CIP, was ever truly funded, or was it just sitting there as a project. Most of those projects did not have funding sources behind them.
- Board member Smith made a comment you cannot really play soccer or football on that football field because there are way too many holes. At least put some dirt out there and plant some grass.

Chairperson Welte opened this item up for public comment.

June Vaughn addressed the Board and stated she has been to all of these meetings and the people from the soccer fields they have come to you people and pleaded. The previous person that spoke on behalf of soccer stated Bullhead is always after them to have soccer go there. What is going on now, no soccer fields? She asked how the City is contemplating about building a new courthouse. She does not understand. Where is the money for the kids here for our community here? She always heard that there was \$1.5M, than that was gone. Where did it go to, why can that not be found and put towards soccer fields. Do we want to lose all of these people that want to come here, play soccer, and play in tournaments to go to Bullhead. Someone has to investigate, we have to stand up and start asking the Council for a little more help.

- Chairperson Welte stated it was brought to their attention that they can only host so many tournaments a year. It came back to how they were going to sustain themselves in the end.
- Keane responded that is one of them. He is in no way saying we have plenty of fields, even practice space, we can still definitely use some more. We will be looking into some alternatives; we have met with the soccer associations and looking at some different options as well.
- Board member Smith stated someone has told you that you the City government is limited on how many tournaments they can run.
- Keane replied that through one of the AZ Soccer Leagues, they are only letting each city have so many tournaments.
- Board member Smith stated we have zero.
- Keane replied we have two.
- Keane stated their association would limit the amount of tournaments their team could host.
- Board member Smith asked if you have 30 teams, you could have 30 tournaments.
- Keane responded that is not the way they made it sound.

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- Board member Smith stated we have to do something to get the kids playing, softball, and soccer, it does not matter what we need to bring nice clean money into town. One team will bring a couple of thousand dollars into the community.
- Chairperson Welte responded he believes it was Brett Miller, who was on our Board previously. He stated there was two soccer organizations in town and each organization can host two tournaments a year. Welte agrees we need more fields but that is what was brought to our attention.
- Board member Keough stated he missed the meeting last month; however, he did catch up in the minutes. He was here when Brett Miller talked about not needing eight or sixteen more fields or soccer fields at all. That was a different story based on the minutes that was told last month. One of the things that was common in both of them is that they both suggested of entertaining the idea of working with the school district. He knows we touched on it a few months back. Maybe we can talk some more about that. I hear everyone talk about competing with Bullhead City. We are not talking about apples to apples here. One of the things that Bullhead has that we do not at this point and we probably will not in the forcible future is a huge supply of hotel rooms. It is tough to get folks with no hotels here to support youth sports. Maybe the discussion about working with the school district for soccer fields would give us the opportunity to qualify for maybe some of those tournaments.
- Keane responded we have had some internal conversations regarding that. It was a suggestion in the Field Needs Assessment Study and it is being discussed internally of how that could look.
- Board member Vaughn made a comment that many of the groups that would come in now they are looking at short-term rentals now rather than just hotels. It is cheaper for them to put a few kids in a house with adults than it would be to get individual hotel rooms.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Re-evaluate Field Needs Assessment

8. FUTURE MEETINGS (fourth Monday of each month)

Chairperson Welte put to vote to cancel the June 24, 2019 meeting, carried by the following vote:

AYE: 6 – Heil, Keough, Pascual, Smith, Vaughn, and Welte

- July 22, 2019

9. ADJOURN

- Member Vaughn made a motion to adjourn at 6:40p.m., seconded by member Keough and carried by the following vote:

AYE: 6 – Heil, Keough, Pascual, Smith, Vaughn, and Welte