

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Chairperson:	Lynda Zanolli	(Attended via internet conferencing)
Vice Chairperson:	Barbara Van Wye	
Commissioners:	Debbie Pickard	(Absent)
	Shannon Westcott	
	Peter Cure	

Town Staff:

Town Manager: Gayle Mabery

Community Services Supervisor: Dawn Norman

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chairperson Barbara Van Wye called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT - There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES-Discussion and consideration of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2012.

Commissioner Cure motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for November 14, 2012 as written. Commissioner Westcott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – A report from the Chairperson on current events.
There was no report.

STAFF REPORT – A report from the Community Services Supervisor on current events.

Community Services Supervisor Dawn Norman reported on the following:

- The 2012 Centennial Time Capsule Dedication is being held on Saturday, December 15th, at 11:45 a.m. To close the year-long Centennial celebration, the Town of Clarkdale will be interring two time capsules - one to be opened in 2057 commemorating the Centennial of Clarkdale's incorporation; and the other to be opened in 2112 commemorating Clarkdale's Bicentennial. The ceremony will last approximately 10 – 15 minutes and is being held in conjunction with the Clarkdale Historical Society & Museum's annual Historic Home and Building Tour. The ceremony will take place in the Centennial Plaza located in front of the historic Clark Memorial Clubhouse. Those joining in will be able to view an inventory of items that will be included in the capsules, meet Senator William Clark, and sign both of the time capsules that will be buried.
- Made In Clarkdale and the Library's annual book sale is currently taking place in the Clubhouse. Both events run through December 16th.

- The second annual Caroling in the Park is scheduled for Friday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. The Clarkdale-Jerome Lions Club will be serving hot chocolate and the volunteer coordinator has arranged to have a fire pit.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM: UPDATE ON THE VERDE RIVER @ CLARKDALE PROJECT – An update and discussion on the Verde River @ Clarkdale Project.

Town Manager Gayle Mabery presented the following to the commission:

Reviewed boundaries of the project -

- The river corridor from Tuzigoot Bridge, south of the bridge, is approximately 75 acres and is owned by Arizona State Parks. The Town has successfully attained an IGA with State Parks allowing use of the land and provides joint management of the land.
- North of Tuzigoot Bridge, up river, the Town of Clarkdale owns property that has approximately 25 acres. This property is where the wastewater treatment plant is located and the property line extends to the other side of the river. The Town is currently working with Vetraplex, a group that works with veterans, whom is partnering with Friends of the Verde River to remove invasive species. Vetraplex will start clearing the brush, invasive species, etc. and will ultimately assist with building a trail from the existing Dorothy Benatz Trail to loop around the secured area of the wastewater treatment plant. This project is underway and the Town anticipates the completion around the first half of next year (April 2013). This is the first on the ground project of the Verde River @ Clarkdale project.
- Arizona State Parks Site - The Town was successful in a grant award through the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund. This grant is specific for river related activities including handicap accessibility. The Town was awarded approximately \$40,000. Community Development and Economic Director Jodie Filardo is managing the project. The project includes site design and improvements, establishing handicap parking spaces, trail improvements and installation of a viewing stage, all of which are to be handicapped accessible. If funds are remaining, those funds will be used to make road improvements.

Town Manager Mabery informed that at last night's Council meeting, the Council approved and accepted a \$420,946.00 grant award from the Walton Foundation. Half of the funding is designated for the Verde River @ Clarkdale project and the other half is designated for water management.

TuziRAP is the dedicated name for the access point at Tuzigoot Bridge. Road signage has been installed at the site entrance.

A second identified access point is Tapco RAP, which is property owned by Freeport-McMoRan. The Town is in discussions with Freeport-McMoRan and hopes to negotiate an agreement to lease the property. The property consists of approximately 35 acres. The property has been challenging for Freeport, although signage is posted throughout the property as "Private Property - No Trespassing" the property is being accessed and continues to be torn up. A few issues caused by the public are littering and damage caused by vehicles creating new roads/paths.

Freeport has been trying to manage access but have not been successful. If the Town takes it over land management will continue to be a challenge.

The Walton Foundation grant is specifically for site planning and master planning for TuziRap, TapcoRap, and Brewers Tunnel Diversion Dam. There was open discussion on Brewers Tunnel Diversion Dam. Town Manager Mabery informed that the Town is in discussion with Freeport on an alternate diversion for Brewers Dam. The grant provides funding to find an alternate solution that works for both parties.

The grant is a 2 year grant which will allow a probable amount of time needed to do a thorough job including how to keep the site sustainable and manageable.

There was open discussion on the public process. The public process will include how to finance the site for operation and maintenance, one option to consider is fee based use. The Town is looking at the Arizona State Parks host program, which may be a possible option for the site to have a host program of some sort. The site would be a Day Use only site with no overnight camping. All these details are subject to a public planning process over the next couple of years.

Town Manager Gayle Mabery then reviewed the Verde River Blue River Plan with the Commission. She explained that the plan was produced at the request of American Rivers, a great partner with the Town. American Rivers funds programs to develop blue trails, which includes the mapping, signage, and marketing of the blue trail. They are really focusing on Clarkdale as the kick off point for the Verde River.

American Rivers has secured a grant through Altria Corp. Supporting public service projects is an important goal for this organization. In June, 18-20 Altria Corp. employees will arrive to assist with building trails, boat ramps, etc. at the TuziRAP site. They will provide approximately \$20,000 in material and equipment in addition to their in-kind contribution of labor for the project.

Town Manager Mabery informed that she has met the newly installed Superintendent of Tuzigoot who started in the last few months. The new superintendent is completely supportive of the project and the Verde River stretch as she would like to see Tuzigoot connect to Montezuma's Castle. The Superintendent is looking into the Blue Waves Program offered by the Department of Interior. She can apply on behalf of the National Park Service for funding to apply towards the Verde River @ Clarkdale project.

Town Manager Mabery continued that it is really important to have a Master Plan in order to establish a guide through the process. As informed earlier, signage has been installed at the TuziRap site. There is a sign to direct individuals to the site, but there are no facilities at this time. The challenge is to make sure we take the steps in the right order.

There was open discussion of challenges and ensuring that the project is sustained.

Community Services Supervisor Norman shared her kayaking experience on the Verde River @ Clarkdale segment. She explained that this segment of the river was by far the best compared to other segments she has kayaked and strongly urged all of the Commissioners to take advantage of one of the kayaking opportunities scheduled.

Town Manager Gayle Mabery informed that the U.S. Forest Service is also working with the Town as they have property up river by the Sycamore Confluence. If this property were included it would add an additional public access point which would allow for an all-day experience on the river. There are challenges with the proximity of the property to the river and access. Mayor Von Gausig has had discussions with a resident who owns property that may allow access.

There was open discussion on the concerns expressed of the Verde River becoming like the Salt River experience, with the negative impacts, such as large crowds, drinking, etc.

Town Manager Mabery explained that the marketing push is focusing on kayakers, which is a different experience than tubes. There was open discussion on the demographics that the project would attract. There was discussion that the Salt River is different due to the location being 30 minutes outside of Phoenix and near ASU. Possible solutions would be to have a host on site and floating rangers to help with management. In addition, provide trash bags to users.

Town Manager Mabery informed that the Verde Valley was named as one of the top 10 places to visit in 2013 by the Lonely Planet. This was announced on CNN and other national television stations.

She informed the Commission that the Parks and Recreation Commission will be really involved in the planning process and that Community Development and Economic Director Jodie Filardo will be spearheading the project.

The Commission thanked Town Manager Gayle Mabery.

AGENDA ITEM: SANTA COMES TO CLARKDALE – A discussion on the 2012 Santa Comes to Clarkdale event.

Community Services Supervisor Dawn Norman reviewed this year's Santa Comes to Clarkdale with the Commission. She stated that the weather was beautiful and it encouraged people to attend the parade as opposed to when it's cold out it encourages people to seek out an indoor event, like the Santa Comes to Clarkdale event. She continued that this had an effect on the attendance. Attendance was as follows: 2012 - 70 children; 2011- 105 children; 2010 - 81 children; and in 2009 - 68 children.

The event was 11am - 1pm. She informed that children were waiting before 11am and that there was a mad rush at the beginning and towards the end of the event, with a lull between 11:40am-12:40pm. She stated that a time change for next year may be considered, either 11:30am-1:30pm or 1pm-3pm as the event is held indoors allowing for control of the event end time.

Community Services Supervisor Norman reminded the Commission that the Town is seeking an individual to fill the Santa position due to Santa retiring. She asked the Commission to email or let her know of any prospects as soon as possible.

Community Services Supervisor Norman reviewed the holiday light display and inventory. She purchased approximately \$430 in lights. A Small Talk article requesting light donations for next year's display was included in the December publication.

AGENDA ITEM: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Listing of items to appear on future agendas.

None

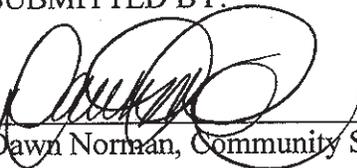
AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT-With no further business before the Commission and with no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

APPROVED:



Lynda Zanolli, Chairperson

SUBMITTED BY:



Dawn Norman, Community Services Supervisor