

**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, March 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

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

Town Staff:
Community Services Supervisor: Dawn Norman
Town Manager: Gayle Mabery
Community Services and Human Resource Director: Janet Perry

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Lynda Zanolli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

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

THE MEETING RELOCATED TO THE LOWER TAPCO RAP SITE, 3400 N. Sycamore Canyon Road, Clarkdale, Arizona.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM: LOWER TAPCO RAP SITE TOUR – A walking tour and discussion of the Lower TAPCO RAP site.

Town Manager Gayle Mabery led the group on a walking tour of the site. There was open discussion on:

- Entrance to site
- History of site and its use
- Method of access management
- Challenges of site management
- Property lines
- Boat launch areas
- Signage and enforcement

Following the tour, **THE MEETING RELOCATED TO THE MEN'S LOUNGE OF THE CLARK MEMORIAL CLUBHOUSE, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.**

AGENDA ITEM: RULES FOR USE FOR THE LOWER TAPCO RAP SITE – Discussion and possible action on Rules of Use for the Lower TAPCO RAP site.

Town Manager Gayle Mabery updated the Commission on the eagle watch at the Upper TAPCO RAP site. She informed that both eagles had been tagged and monitored by the Arizona Game and Fish as early as 2006. This is the first year for the eagles at the new nest on this site. She shared with the Commission previous locations that these eagles had nested. The Arizona Game and Fish will conduct a fly over 1 time per month to monitor the nest. Currently there is one egg in the nest. The protection period for eagles is December through June.

Town Manager Gayle Mabery reviewed the proposed rules with the Commission. She explained that Arizona State Parks Ranger Max Castillo had been very helpful in sharing the standardized state park rules and explanations and experience supporting these rules.

The Town of Clarkdale plans to begin some special events and licensed activities on the site this spring. Most notably, the Town of Clarkdale is in the process of issuing a Special Use Permit to an outfitter who will begin offering commercial kayak tours on the river soon. In addition, Lower TAPCO RAP will be the launch point on April 19 for the Verde River Poker Run. With these uses imminent, the Town Council has prioritized the opening of the Lower TAPCO RAP to the general public, and has asked the Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission to put forward recommendations for Rules for Use so that the public has a clear understanding of the expectations on the site, and the Town Staff has enforcement authority in cases where rules are violated.

While the Town will be moving rapidly to set up a Park Host program (which will allow for an on-site presence of volunteers at the site), there will be an interim period of time where the site will not have the presence of staff or volunteers on a regular basis. Town staff is recommending that the site be posted immediately as a fee area, and that a Self-Pay station be instituted as one of the first steps in opening the site so that the public is well aware of the intent for user fees to help offset the cost of site improvements and maintenance.

There was open discussion on the proposed rules:

1. Fee Area—Please help us keep this area open to the public by depositing your fee at the Self-Pay station.

There was a consensus of the Commission to offer an annual fee at a discounted rate for Clarkdale residents.

2. Hours of Operation—This is a day-use facility. Please limit your use to the hours between sunrise and 1 hour after sunset.
3. Tread Lightly—Vehicles must drive on designated roadways and parking areas only. Off road vehicle access and driving vehicles in the Verde River bed damages existing and downstream habitat and is strictly prohibited! Please report violations to phone numbers listed below.

There was a consensus of the Commission that this needed to be strongly worded and to the

point: NO OFF ROADING!

4. Respect Wildlife – Observe wildlife from a distance using binoculars or cameras. Never feed wildlife. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are breeding, nesting or raising young.

There was a consensus of the Commission that this item was not specifically a rule to include on signage but that an informational/educational brochure be made available with this item included.

5. Respect and our Natural and Cultural Heritage – Preserve the past; examine but do not remove cultural or historic artifacts. Leave rocks, plants, animals and other natural objects as you found them.

There was a consensus of the Commission that this item was not specifically a rule to include on signage but to include it in the informational/educational brochure.

6. Pack It In/Pack It Out—Keep this area litter free. Pack out any litter that you create, and properly dispose of it in refuse containers. If you see someone else's litter, please pick it up!

There was open discussion on the number of receptacles that would be installed and placed on the site.

7. Respect Private Property—Much of the adjacent land is private property. When floating downstream, enter and exit the river at designated launch sites only. See posted site map for Lower TAPCO RAP boundaries.

There was a consensus of the Commission that this item was not specifically a rule to include on signage but to include it in the informational/educational brochure.

8. Fishing, Hunting, Trapping and Firearms. Fishing is permitted in accordance with State regulations. Hunting, trapping and discharging firearms are not permitted at the Lower TAPCO RAP.

There was a consensus of the Commission that this item should be separated:

- Fishing is permitted in accordance with State regulations.
 - Hunting, trapping and discharging firearms are prohibited.
9. Pets. Keep pets on leash at all times. Always clean up after your pets and dispose of waste in appropriate trash receptacles.
 10. Campfires—Campfires are permitted in designated areas with metal fire rings only! Make sure fires are monitored at all times. Fire must be dead out and all contents cold to the touch before leaving. Fire restrictions at this location are common due to drought, high winds and our desert environment. Contact the Clarkdale Fire District at (928) 282-7101 to verify any current burning restrictions.

There was a consensus of the Commission that camp fires and open flames should be prohibited and to allow the use of propane or gas barbeque grills approved by the Clarkdale Fire District.

11. Fireworks—Fireworks are prohibited.
12. Report any violations of these rules to: Clarkdale Police Department, (928) 649-7700 or Clarkdale Public Works Department (928) ddd-dddd
13. In an emergency, call 9-11. The address of this facility is listed on this sign.

There was an open discussion on allowing glass containers and the use of alcohol. The Commission agreed that it was not necessary to include prohibiting glass containers and the use of alcohol at this time. This could be reviewed and evaluated at a later time if issues arose.

There was an open discussion on campfires and wood gathering. There was a consensus that the rules needed to include that wood gathering was prohibited.

There was open discussion on boating safety rules. Town Manager Gayle Mabery informed that a boat safety and ethics sign just like the one posted at TuziRAP will be installed.

Commissioner Curé motioned to approve the Rules for Use of the Lower TAPCO River Access Point with modifications as discussed and forwarded to Council for recommendation for approval along with the creation of an educational brochure that shall include those items identified by the Commission:

1. **Fee Area—Fees collected at this site will help offset the costs of keeping it open to the public and making future improvements. The fees for the area are designated by resolution of the Clarkdale Town Council.**
2. **Hours of Operation—This is a day-use facility.**
3. **Pack It In/Pack It Out—Keep this area litter free. Pack out any litter that you create, and properly dispose of it in refuse containers.**
4. **Tread Lightly – Vehicles must drive on designated roadways and parking areas only.**
5. **Fishing - Fishing is permitted in accordance with State regulations, including the need for proper fishing licenses.**
6. **Cooking – The use of propane or gas flame-producing barbecue cooking devices is allowed as long as they are attended and in an enclosed device.**
7. **Pets. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Always clean up after your pets and dispose of waste in appropriate trash receptacles.**
8. **Prohibited Activities – The following activities are prohibited at this site:**
 - **Off Road Vehicle Travel**
 - **Driving Vehicles in the Verde River**
 - **Hunting**
 - **Trapping**

- Discharge of Firearms
- Campfires
- Fireworks

In addition to the list of rules, the Commission identified a number of principles that will be important for the management of the site, and encouraged the staff to develop a brochure that will be available on the site and from Town staff and volunteers as a public education tool. The principles discussed by the Parks and Recreation Commission included:

- Respect Wildlife – Observe wildlife from a distance using binoculars or cameras. Never feed wildlife. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are breeding, nesting or raising young.
- Respect and our Natural and Cultural Heritage – Preserve the past; examine but do not remove cultural or historic artifacts. Leave rocks, plants, animals and other natural objects as you found them.
- Keep This Area Litter Free - If you see someone else's litter, please pick it up!
- Respect Private Property—Much of the adjacent land is private property. When floating downstream, enter and exit the river at designated launch sites only. See posted site map for Lower TAPCO RAP boundaries.

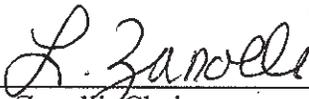
Vice Chair Van Wye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Verde River @ Clarkdale
Naming of the trails at the Wastewater Treatment Plan

AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT - With no further business before the Commission and with no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

APPROVED:



Lynda Zanolli, Chairperson

SUBMITTED BY:



Dawn Norman, Community Services Supervisor