

**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, January 13, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Chairperson: Lynda Zanolli
Commissioners: Krysta Dehnert
Bethany Bezdek
Barbara Van Wye (Absent)
Jesse Kennen

Town Staff:
Community Services Supervisor: Dawn Norman
Community Development Director: Sherry Bailey

Others in Attendance: None

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER –Chairperson Zanolli called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES-Discussion and consideration of minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 9, 2009.

Commissioner Dehnert motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 9, 2009, as written. Commissioner Kennen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – A report from the Chairperson on current events. Chairperson Zanolli had no items to report.

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

1. Community Services Supervisor Dawn Norman thanked the Board Members for attending the Open Meeting Law and Records Training held on January 6th.
2. The Town of Clarkdale will hold several Presentations to the Public on the Clarkdale Sustainability Park. Boards and Commissions are encouraged to attend. The next scheduled presentations are: January 27, February 22, and March 29. Community Services Supervisor Norman will email the informational flier to the Board Members.
3. Community Services Supervisor Norman has begun scheduling bands for the 2010 Concerts in the Park.
4. Community Services Supervisor Norman has been in discussions with the Arizona Diamondbacks to schedule another Home Town Night event for this upcoming Diamondback's season.

FINANCE REPORT – A review of the current finance reports.

The Commission reviewed the financial reports for the month of December. Community Services Supervisor Dawn Norman informed of revisions needed as there were expenses missing from the report: a \$50 expense from the Fourth of July account along with expenses totaling \$108.62 from the Christmas account.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM: WORKSESSION – A work session to discuss the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Community Development Director Bailey presented and reviewed several maps with the Board. In review, Community Development Director Bailey pointed out that there were several neighborhoods and subdivisions that were lacking park facilities after applying the radius established by the Board and that it was at the Board's discretion if they wanted to reevaluate the areas. There was a consensus that the Board would review and address the areas lacking facilities. There was open discussion on trails. Community Development Director Bailey stated that the Parks and Recreation Board needed to discuss trails located in washes and work with the Planning Commission to establish policies on trails in washes.

Chairperson Zanolli asked if there was any documentation defining washes. Community Development Director Bailey informed that larger washes are currently defined in FEMA maps but that the smaller washes needed to be defined. She continued that the Town currently has a policy in place stating that no building can be done within 10 feet from the edge of a wash but that there is no ownership policy. Currently, the land is privately owned by homeowners or developers. If the Board wanted to stipulate that trail easements be granted to the Town within washes this would need to be specified in policies. The Board expressed that this is the direction they would like to take. Community Development Director Bailey informed that a joint meeting with the Planning Commission to discuss this avenue should be scheduled but prior to this work session the Parks and Recreation Commission should discuss the item to prepare for the joint work session.

There was open discussion on washes and proposed trails along with the discussion of possible opposition to establishing trails in washes. Community Development Director Bailey stated that developers would argue that premium lots would lose their value. In addition, private owners would state that they would not want strangers walking through their back yard. There was open discussion on oppositions to trails in washes.

The question was posed on existing owners of wash properties and how the land could be acquired in the future to close the gaps of connectivity. Community Development Director Bailey stated that it comes down to policies and how the Master Plan is written which would give the Town direction on addressing the land.

Chairperson Zanolli stated that the Board needed to discuss maintenance issues of trails and how the Town would maintain all of the trails. There was open discussion on volunteers and the need for community commitment in order for the trails to be successful.

Chairperson Zanolli asked how the Verde Valley Regional Trails Plan affects our trails and how does the plan come into play with our trails plan. Community Services Supervisor Norman explained that the Verde Valley Trails Plan is a guide for municipalities to follow but that it is at each municipality's discretion on whether or not they follow the plan. The main goal of the plan

was to ensure connectivity throughout the Verde Valley and that the hope was that when each partner of the group proposed to build a trail that it would work with the surrounding parties to ensure that connectivity would be priority.

There was open discussion on the Verde Valley Regional Trails Plan.

Community Development Director Bailey reviewed the Open Space map with the Board. She informed that private land can be designated as open space only with the owner's permission and that the plan can stipulate areas for potential open space designation if the Town policy specifies. The only stipulation is that it cannot identify specific parcels only general areas.

Community Development Director Bailey asked the Board to take home the maps and review them and bring back any questions or changes. The Board will be reviewing and revising them continuously throughout the process.

Community Development Director Bailey distributed a draft of the Parks and Recreation Vision Statement and Philosophy. There was open discussion on the Vision Statement. Commissioner Kennen asked if "natural open spaces" should be included in the statement. There was open discussion on his suggestion. The Board asked if staff could revise the statement. Community Development Director Bailey stated that she would rework the statement to include the natural beauty and bring it back before the Commission for their review.

The Board reviewed and discussed the philosophy section. Chairperson Zanolli inquired as to which category the sports programs would fall under. Community Services Supervisor Norman responded that it would fall under both: helping children learn and improving public health.

Commissioner Dehnert asked for a definition of "climate change management". Community Development Director Bailey explained that it refers to reducing our carbon footprint. Some examples of how to achieve this are to increase our open space along with increasing our park areas.

AGENDA ITEM: DISCUSSION – Discussion of the Clarkdale Municipal Pool.

Commissioner Bezdek explained that she requested this item on the agenda. She continued she wanted to ensure that the Board did not forget about the pool and asked what they could do as Board Members. Community Services Supervisor Norman explained that unfortunately, with the state's current budget situation things were not very promising. She continued that the state's budget affects the town tremendously and that the state continues to cut funding to municipalities. This presents a major challenge to the town as the majority of the town's funding is through the state. Because of the state's current budget crisis the town would not be able to include the pool in the 2010-2011 budget. In response to Commissioner Bezdek's question as to what Board Members could do to help; one is to assist with researching any funding opportunities made available. Community Services Supervisor Norman explained that she continuously is looking for grant opportunities but that the more individuals seeking them out the better as the amounts of grants available are diminishing while the need for financial assistance grows.

Commissioner Kennen stated that as Parks and Recreation Board Members, town residents continuously approach them to inquire why the town doesn't budget for the pool arguing that the town is spending money elsewhere that isn't necessary. Community Services Supervisor Norman stated that the Town is faced with limited funding and that the Town must prioritize as to what town services are priority, for example: infrastructure, water and sewer, etc. Community Development Director Bailey said that as residents it is important that their voices

are heard and that by approaching the Board Members this is their way of achieving this. As Board Members they can inform the residents that public meetings are held during the budget process and to encourage those residents to attend in order to voice their concerns to the Council.

Commissioner Bezdek explained that her concern is that the pool would never re-open resulting in Clarkdale not having a pool. Community Development Director Bailey stated that it was very apparent that the pool was very important to the Board and that one way to protect the pool would be to include the pool in the Master Plan.

Commissioner Bezdek expressed that she appreciated the discussion on the pool and wishes to periodically schedule discussions in the future.

At the request of Community Services Supervisor Norman, Chairperson Zanolli reopened Agenda Item: Informational Reports - Staff Report.

Community Services Supervisor Norman reported that she will be attending the Clarkdale Chamber Meeting tomorrow and will present to them a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their help at the 2009 Santa in Clarkdale Event.

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

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Skate Park

Evaluate 'Existing and Proposed Parks with Proposed Trails Map' to address areas lacking park facilities

Wash Trails and Policies

AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT-With no further business before the board and with no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

Lynda Zanolli
Chairperson

SUBMITTED BY:

Dawn Norman
Community Services Supervisor