

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
August 25, 2020**

Present:

Ann Shaw, Chair
Edna Ahrens, Vice-Chair
Doug Hulse
Christopher Young

Absent:

Kimberly Kelley
Donna Fulton

Also Present:

Jak Teel, Parks and Recreation Manager
Robin Babbitt, Information and Business Specialist
Rudy Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager
Gary Davis, Planner
Dave Hausaman, Public Works Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm in the Cottonwood Recreation Center Cottonwood Room.

MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Shaw asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Hulse motioned to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

(This portion of the agenda is set aside for the public to address the Commission regarding an item that is not listed on the agenda for discussion. However, the Commission cannot engage in discussion regarding any item that is not officially listed on the agenda for discussion and/or action (A.R.S. 38-431.02(H).) Comments are limited to a 5 minute time period.)

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MONTHLY REPORT INFORMATION FOR JULY 2020

Commissioner Shaw asked if there were any comments or questions on the reports for July. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

A. TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Rodriguez introduced City Planner Gary Davis and Public Works Director David Hausaman. Mr. Davis and Mr. Hausaman gave a presentation focusing on regional trail concepts, local connector trails, wayfinding markers and naming of new trails. They discussed trails that would connect the Verde River to Mingus Mountain, loop Riverfront Park, and connect Bill Ensign trail to Cliffrose Trail. They touched on some of the work that has already been completed along with challenges of crossing certain areas. They also mentioned that much of the work is being accomplished thanks to grants received by the city.

B. PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND WAYFINDING MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING REVIEW

Mr. Rodriguez briefly reviewed the Master Plan public Zoom meeting. He added that staff received the draft report but it was very general. They have asked Norris Design to increase the specificity of the recommendations for the plan before it goes to City Council September 15.

C. PARKS AND RECREATION MARKETING UPDATE

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Rec is following state guidelines and only allowing up to 25% capacity, which equates to 57 people at a time. He spoke about compliance of health department regulations and that staff and patrons are wearing masks.

Ms. Babbitt stated that they are using the SRMG sponsored ad on the back page of the Verde Independent's My Week insert to advertise that the Rec is open. The ad will also include information on the Story Walk.

Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Babbitt discussed other facility schedules and that they are still limiting marketing due to canceled or limited programming.

D. BOARD AND COMMISSION CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSION

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed some of the boards that the city has recently or is currently disbanding and why. He stated staff and Council are looking into the idea of combining the Parks and Recreation commission with the Library Board to create one more casual Culture and Recreation group. He will discuss this idea with the Library Board at their next meeting.

Commissioner Young was concerned that if the new board was under fewer restrictions that it may reduce transparency for the public.

Mr. Rodriguez and the commission discussed this idea further.

E. RECENT & UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the current and upcoming programs presented by the department. They

included Story Walk at DDB and CCS, and outside and safe videos. He added that they are still planning for Halloween and Walkin' On Main events knowing that there is a good chance that those may be canceled.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Shaw asked for an update of the commission consolidation plan after Mr. Rodriguez brings it to the Library Board.

Mr. Rodriguez stated they would discuss the Master Plan and how Council received it.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ahrens motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hulse seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.