

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
August 27, 2019**

Present:

Ann Shaw, Chair
Edna Ahrens, Vice-Chair
John Croslin
Donna Fulton
Doug Hulse
John Kubrock

Absent:

Kimberly Bird

Also Present:

Hez Allen, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Robin Babbitt, Information and Business Specialist
Jak Teel, Recreation Coordinator III

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Cottonwood Recreation Center Conference Room.

MINUTES – JULY 9, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Shaw asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Ahrens motioned to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Hulse 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 2019

Mr. Allen asked if there were any questions on the July reports. He mentioned that cost recovery for the month was looking better. The group discussed this further.

B. RECREATION CENTER MONTHLY UTILITY USE AND ANALYSIS (THROUGH JULY)

Mr. Allen asked if there were any questions on the utility usage graphs. He stated they were standard usages.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OPEN SEAT SELECTION UPDATE

Mr. Allen stated that three people applied for the one open commission seat. A blind review was conducted and a commissioner will be chosen at the September 17 Council meeting.

B. COTTONWOOD RECREATION CENTER NEW FEE SCHEDULE

Mr. Allen stated that the new rates were based on market comparison and current membership data. Along with other considerations, they looked at ways to be competitive while still focusing on cost recovery. They went to a flat rate system with no change between resident and non-resident pricing. They reduced family, adult and adult couple rates and slightly raised those for youths and seniors.

After hearing that there was no comments from Council before their approval, Mr. Allen discussed the reasoning for determining the new rates further.

C. RIVERFRONT PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Allen stated that two examples of the Riverfront Park Master Plan were included in the packet. He reviewed the community outreach process and that Norris Design gathered comments from the public via community and stakeholder meetings, staff and social media. They used those comments to modify the draft plans. Cottonwood Natural Resources Manager Tom Whitmer is concerned with ADEQ regulations regarding treated water mixing with natural waterways. His concern is having the pond in a flood zone so close in proximity to the river. However, they are still presenting the two options to the Commission for their endorsement. Their recommendation will go to City Council.

Mr. Allen explained the other small changes made to the plan since the last review and the reasoning for those changes. The group discussed aspects of the plan and water usage needs in the different zones, dual-purpose areas and the need to plan so infrastructure may be installed.

Commissioner Shaw stated that she wants to leave the pond idea open for the future. It is a draw. Having something attractive, cooling like a pond, even a small one, is a gathering point. She likes the plan how it is otherwise.

After continued discussion regarding the community garden, water features, use of reclaimed water, and the potential for changes to technology and associated regulations, Commissioner Ahrens motioned that the commission endorse the version of the Riverfront Park Master Plan that does not include the kayak course but with the desire to build a pond in the future. Commissioner Fulton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

D. COTTONWOOD AQUATICS CENTER EXTENDED LAP SWIM UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Commissioner Shaw commented on the extended season lap swim hours for September and October. She understands the reasons that they will not be offering evening swim. She asked if there was any way to continue weekend swim those months. She would like to find a way to keep the pool open so more people might enjoy it. Discussion continued regarding staffing requirements and popularity of water aerobics.

E. THUNDER VALLEY RALLY UPDATE

Mr. Allen reviewed the musical lineup for this year's event, which includes 38 Special, Great White and a number of tribute bands. He also mentioned some of the other rally activities including the Little Biker's program and a motorcycle parade that will act as a kick-off for the weekend.

The group discussed the cost recovery prospects this year with Mr. Allen commenting how their hope is to reach 100% as ticket sale prices are higher, there is a lot of buzz about the bands and staff is more experienced with the current set up. The group discussed the event further.

F. CITY OF COTTONWOOD ALL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING

Mr. Allen stated that the Mayor and City Manager would like to have everyone attend this meeting to review open meeting laws and the relationship between Council and the Commissions.

G. UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Mr. Allen stated that a 2019 Calendar of Events was included in the packet. A copy will be included each month for informational purposes. It shows how much the department does with a small, dedicated staff.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Shaw asked if there were any suggestions for future agenda items.

Commissioner Fulton stated she would like to hear an update on the tennis court improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hulse motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ahrens seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.