



Minutes

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
22358 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ
San Tan Conference Room
November 8, 2011
6:00 p.m.

1. **Call To Order and Roll Call:** Meeting started at 6:04 pm.

PRAC Members present: David Dobbs, Dru Alberti, Daniel Babcock, Eileen Kocaja, Michael Shirley, Sylvia Tarin, Jason Weber, Barbara Young

PRAC Members absent: Eric Kerr, Dawn Oliphant, Nancy Uptain

Staff present: Debbie Gomez, Adam Robinson, and Tracy Corman

2. **Introductions:**
Chairman Dobbs introduced and welcomed newly appointed member Sylvia Tarin.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Items for Discussion:**
 - A. *Consideration and possible approval of the October 11, 2011 meeting minutes*

Motion to Approve: Barbara Young

Second: Dru Alberti

Vote: Unanimous

B. *Recreation Services Update*

Adam Robinson gave an update on the Trunk or Treat 2011 event. He said that overall the event was successful, and met the goals for raising funds and the candy drive. He said that the estimated crowd was 2,500.

Adam Robinson provided the following update on recreation programs:

- FY11/12 first quarter special interest class registration was 103% higher than first quarter last year. Staff continue to look for new and creative class opportunities. An option for increasing participation in classes could be to look at lowering non-resident fees. This could also bring an economic benefit to the town center by bringing more people to the area.
- Soccer registration ended last Friday, November 4. There were 415 registrations, a 12% drop from last year. This was anticipated due to the basketball program being cut from the budget last year.

- Youth and Teen program has an average daily attendance in the high forties, which is approximately five more than the average daily attendance during the same period a year ago.
- The average attendance in the Senior Program has been just over 60 participants, higher than the average attendance last year of approximately 40 participants. A participants activity committee has been created, and staff is starting to teach the seniors to plan their own activities and be more self sufficient in running their program.
- The Boys and Girls Club gave their 1st quarter report at the last Council meeting. They have hired a new branch executive, Kevin McKoy, and a Youth Development Director, Kara Holmes. Their summer camp had approximately the same number of participants as last year. Staff regularly monitors their contract, as they do with all Town contracts, to audit their performance. As a result of this monitoring it was determined that their teen program was non-existent for two-thirds of the 1st Quarter, and the funds the Town would normally provide for the teen programming were cut.

Barbara Young asked how much the difference was between resident and nonresident fees. Adam Robinson replied that for special interest classes the difference was 50% - non-residents pay 50% more than residents. Barbara Young asked how staff would recommend changing the fees, and what effects the change would be anticipated to have. Adam Robinson replied that an idea may be to look at a sliding scale depending on the class cost, but would need to look at several factors. He said currently, if there are not enough participants registered for a class, the class is canceled. He said that in the past the Town's main concern was making sure residents had the chance to register, but now there was a need to grow the variety of special interest classes by having more participants. Adam Robinson said that the Town was also looking at a variety of economic development reasons for bringing people to the town center and local businesses. Debbie Gomez clarified that any proposed changes would be brought to the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Town Council for review and approval. She said that the Council has always supported non-residents fees in the past, but now the challenge is that the non-resident fee in some programs makes the program too expensive and may need adjustments for programs that have low participation. She said that staff would look especially at those programs that are not meeting goals, and another option could be to look at different registration periods as a way to give residents priority. Barbara Young complemented staff for looking outside the box to try and deal with the current economic climate.

C. Appointment of Policy Review Working Group

Debbie Gomez gave a presentation on the goals for the appointed Policy Review Working Group. She said that the overall goal was the outsourcing of recreation programs to get to a zero subsidy for operations. She said that the Working Group would review existing partnership and field allocation guidelines, fees, and field availability. Debbie Gomez stated that the outcome for the Working Group would be to come back to the Committee and make recommendations on establishing partnership policies.

Debbie Gomez proposed the following meeting schedule for the Working Group:

- Tuesday, November 22 from 6 – 8p.m.
- Tuesday, December 6 from 6 – 8 p.m.

David Dobbs asked for volunteers for the Working Group.

Dru Alberti asked if it would be beneficial to have some of the new members on the Working Group? Debbie Gomez stated that it would be beneficial, and with new trends and goals everyone would need to be brought up to speed with the new information.

David Dobbs, Daniel Babcock, Dru Alberti, Michael Shirley, and Sylvia Tarin volunteered to serve on the Working Group.

Motion to Approve Working Group: Dru Alberti

Second: Eileen Koceja

Vote: Unanimous

D. Schedule Future Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2011.

5. Announcements:

Adam Robinson thanked those who came out to Trunk or Treat, and thanked Dru Alberti for coordinating the canine costume event.

Adam Robinson announced that there is a toastmasters group that meets Tuesdays in the Council Chambers at 11:30 am, and would invite anyone who is interested to join.

Debbie Gomez stated that she would contact the Working Group members to schedule meetings and send out materials prior to meeting if possible.

6. Adjournment :

- Motion to adjourn:** Barbara Young
- Second:** Daniel Babcock
- Vote:** Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Tracy Corman November 8, 2011

PASSED ON APPROVED ON: March 13, 2011²



David Dobbs, PRAC Chair