



RESULTS

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Policy Review Working Group

22358 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ

San Tan Conference Room

July 31, 2012

6:00 p.m.

1. **Call To Order and Roll Call:** Meeting started at 6:08 pm.

Members present: Daniel Babcock, David Dobbs, Sylvia Tarin, Mike Shirley and Dru Alberti (6:15).

Members absent: None

Staff present: Debbie Gomez, Adam Robinson, and Marianne Fulton

2. **Introductions:** None
3. **Public Comment:** None.

4. **Items for Discussion:**

- A. *Consideration and possible approval of the June 12, 2012 meeting minutes*

Motion to Approve: Mike Shirley

Second: Daniel Babcock

Vote: Unanimous

- B. *Discussion and possible recommendation on existing partnership guidelines, field allocation process, and fees for youth sports organizations.*

Debbie Gomez, Parks Special Projects Coordinator, reviewed items that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approved at the June 12, 2012 meeting with regard to Partnership Guidelines and Field Allocations. Debbie Gomez informed the working group the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee asked for additional information from the working group with regard to fees. The committee asked for the pass through costs to participants as a result of the Town not subsidizing any costs incurred for facilities used by youth sport partners that are not owned by the Town. In addition, Ms. Gomez informed the working group that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee requested information regarding fees charged by other youth sport organizations for comparisons purposes.

Ms. Gomez reminded the Working Group the consensus by the group was to recommend lowering the amount of Town subsidy to youth sport organization partners by increasing the fee for lights to \$15 per hour and increase the fee for field use to \$7 per hour. She clarified that the previous work done by the working group with regard to pass through costs did not take into account the non-subsidizing of facility use costs at facilities not owned by the Town. Ms. Gomez informed the group that the Town currently subsidizes 50% of light costs for youth sport organizations at facilities that are not owned by the Town. Ms. Gomez stated that the Town currently does not subsidize any costs to youth sports organizations for *field* use on facilities not owned by the Town. She added that the rationale for changing the policy is the Town has no control over the fees charged for use of facilities not owned by the Town. With the current policy, any fee increase for the use of lights by other facility providers used by Town youth sport partners could result in a higher subsidy by the Town.

Adam Robinson, Recreation Superintendent, presented information on current light expenses on non-town facilities used by youth sport partners for the last two seasons, number of participants, light usage hours, hourly fee, Town subsidy, potential pass through costs per participant and comparison of fees by other youth sport organizations offering similar sports programs.

The Working Group discussed the \$20 average increase pass through cost to participants as a result of no subsidy for non-town owned facilities for use of lights and fields. The group mentioned Queen Creek Heat Softball costs would be slightly lower and Queen Creek Little League is slightly higher due to their use of school district fields. The group commented the largest portion of the pass through cost increase is due to the fee charged by Queen Creek Unified School District for use of lights.

The Group also discussed possible variable scenarios such as the need for older age groups to play on fields at Queen Creek Middle School due to larger fields, base and pitching distances, adjusting schedule to play more games during daylight hours to prevent/reduce light usage, reducing the number of games per season, and having additional fund raisers to assist with any pass through costs.

Other discussion included;

- The manner in which fees should be increased, incrementally over time or all at once. The consensus among the group was to adjust the fees all at once rather than incrementally. The effective date of the fee adjustments. The consensus is to have the fee adjustment effective for all youth sport partner organizations who begin registration after July 1, 2012.
- The communication to youth sport organizations of the fee adjustment.
- Capital improvements to Town-owned fields by youth sport organizations. Appreciation of the shade structures donated by Queen Creek Little League and the scoreboard donated by QC Heat Softball.

- Use of concession stands as fund raisers for youth sport organizations.
- The need to recover more costs in light of the downturn in the economy and management goals on the overall subsidy for recreation programming.
- The resident requirement recommendation of 40% to become a use sport partner and the appropriate recovery needed to offset the number of residents served.
- The need to have each youth sport partner present end of season financial reports to the committee.

Motion: Move to approve a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to increase fees to \$15 per hour for lights, \$7 per hour for use of fields on Town owned facilities, and a zero subsidy to youth sports partners for use of non-Town owned facilities.

Motion to Approve: Dru Alberti

Second: Sylvia Tarin

Vote: Unanimous

C. *Schedule Future Meeting*

Next Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting will be on August 14th.

5. **Announcements:**

Debbie Gomez, Parks Special Project Coordinator, announced that at this time this workgroup has completed their tasks. Future work plan will determine upcoming meetings.

Town Council approved the reduction of non-resident fees for special interest classes. Beginning with our winter brochure, December thru February classes, the non-resident charge will be a flat rate of \$10.

6. **Adjournment:**

A. **Motion to adjourn:** Dru Alberti

B. **Second:** Daniel Babcock

C. **Vote:** Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Debra J. Gomez August 9, 2012

PASSED ON APPROVED ON: _____, 2012

David Dobbs, PRAC Chair