



## MINUTES

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
22358 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ  
San Tan Conference Room  
December 11, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

1. **Call To Order and Roll Call:** Meeting started at 6:06 pm.

**PRAC Members present:** David Dobbs, Eileen Koceja, Sylvia Tarin, Mike Shirley, Daniel Babcock, and Barbara Johnson. Dru Alberti Arrived at 6:30p.m.

**PRAC Members absent:** Eric Kerr, Council Member Dawn Oliphant, and Council Member Julia Wheatley.

**Staff present:** Debbie Gomez, Adam Robinson, Wayne Balmer, Troy White, and Marianne Fulton

2. **Introductions:** None
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Items for Discussion:**

- A. *Consideration and possible approval of the August 14, 2012 meeting minutes*

**Motion to Approve:** Barbara Young

**Second:** Eileen Koceja

**Vote:** Unanimous

- B. *Update on wash improvements and trails development*

Public Works Division Manager, Troy White presented the committee with an annual update on completed wash improvements and those in progress. Mr. White stated Queen Creek Wash improvements from Hawes Road to Desert Mountain Park are completed as well as Sonoqui Wash Phase II, a channelization from Chandler Heights to Ellsworth Road. The highlights of Sonoqui Wash project include a bridge over Riggs Road, box culverts of Hawes Road removing two low flow crossings, the undergrounding of SRP power lines, installation of multi-use components such as equestrian and pedestrian trail links to Horseshoe Park, and aesthetic enhancements to bridge, culverts, and outlets.

The next wash improvement project is at Queen Creek Wash from Desert Mountain Park to Ellsworth Road combined with the improvements that will run from Ellsworth Road to Crismon Road alignment. The project design phase is scheduled to begin January 2013 with construction projected for Spring/Summer 2014. PRAC members will be presented with design suggestions and assist in making recommendations to Town Council.

*C. Presentation of a land exchange agreement for East Park site*

Wayne Balmer, AICP Planning Administrator, presented general information of a land exchange agreement approved by Council between the Town and the Barney Family. The agreement exchanged 127 acres, an even exchange of land, approximately a quarter-mile west of the original East Park site on Signal Butte Road. Benefits to the Town include greater frontage access to the park on Signal Butte and Merrill Roads, better usable space allowing more design options for the park and the public works yard, \$75,000 in funding assistance from the Barney Family for a new park master plan, moving costs of current facilities and screening of the Siete Solar facility. The land exchange allows Signal Butte to be completed through to Queen Creek Road and realigned to Meridian as planned, allows the town better access to the SR24 freeway and possibly provides greater employment and retail opportunities near the freeway.

*D. Presentation of Growth Trends in the Community*

Wayne Balmer, AICP Planning Administrator, presented the committee with an overview of current growth trends in the Town. Mr. Balmer presented stats on single family housing permits over the last four year showing the high and low points over the given period of time, current housing development within Town boundaries, active subdivisions with builders in place ready to build, and upcoming subdivisions. Mr. Balmer stated the rise in development could be that Gilbert is approaching build out, Mesa is building the first leg of SR 24 to Ellsworth Rd, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and ASU East are continuing to grow with current enrollment at 10,000 students.

Mr. Balmer received questions from the committee with regard to the Town and school district working together to prepare for the projected growth. Mr. Balmer indicated that the Town and Queen Creek Unified School District have discussed the projections and a presentation of the information was given to school board members at a recent meeting. Mr. Balmer also stated other school districts are also preparing for upcoming growth. The addition of the new charter school has assisted in absorbing the growth.

Other discussions surrounded the collection of park development fees and the potential of the fees used to build new parks sooner rather than later. Debbie Gomez explained that some general fund monies are currently being used to assist in paying debt service for our current parks because of the decline in the collection of development fees that typically cover the debt. She stated the growth trends will produce development fee revenue and it is council's decision on how the revenues are spent. Ms. Gomez also stated the Arizona State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1525 which significantly changed the development fee statutes placing more burden on existing development to fund infrastructure for new development and moves away from the concept of growth paying for itself. With the

implementation of the bill the town could be receiving less revenue from development fees for parks or have restrictions on what amenities and park size the funds can be spent on.

*E. Boy's and Girl's Club of the East Valley Queen Creek Branch – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report*

Kevin McKoy, Branch Director, gave a report on Q1 for the Queen Creek branch. Highlights included current membership information, 240 Queen Creek Residents and 104 non residents. School district participation, 218 Queen Creek Unified School District and 126 other districts. Before school programming averages 46 youth and After-school programming averages 120 students.

In partnership with the Town 25 youth were taken Back-to-School shopping receiving \$125 each in supplies. The Mayor signed a Day for Kids proclamation and was in attendance at the event where 109 participants and family members enjoyed each other's company playing games and winning prizes.

*F. Recreation Services Update*

Adam Robinson, Recreation Superintendent, provided the committee with the following update on current recreation programs:

- Trunk or Treat Event – estimated attendance was 4,800, feedback received was positive, Kiwanis Club assisted with candy drive as well as coordinated the Trunk Alley, QCUSD Education Fund sponsored the first annual Zombie Run, Mercy Gilbert was once again a main cash donator for the event, Posse handled traffic, Canyon State Academy assisted in set-up, Youth from Rock Point Church assisted in decorating for the event, Club dance provided entertainment, and Committee member Dru Alberti ran the Canine Costume Contest.
- Youth Soccer – Arizona Soccer Club is the Town's newest partner. Currently there are 605 registrations and games began on December 8, at both Founders and Desert Mountain Parks.
- San Tan Youth Football is beginning the close out process and reported having 855 tackle participants and 200 flag participants.
- Queen Creek Little League and Queen Creek Heat Softball Little League have started the registration process for the Spring 2013 season.
- Special Interest Classes – new offerings include Horsemanship, Tennis, and Knitting.
- Revenues are seeing significant growth at \$89,800 for Special Interest Classes.
- Senior program average attendance is 75 participants a week.
- Boy's and Girl's Club of the East Valley partnership has been expanded to assume full programming responsibility of the Town's Youth and Teen Center program beginning Monday, January 7, 2013. The club is working on transportation needs. Current participants will transition to fee based by the end of the school year. No child will be refused if unable to pay. Town will be saving approximately \$41,000 through the expanded partnership.
- Volunteers – Central Christian Church provided 75 volunteers to renovate Desert Mountain Park. The groups painted BBQ grills, curbs, restrooms, replaced

decomposed granite, planted trees and shrubs, and much more. Rock Point Church volunteers placed Christmas lights on the Queen Creek Library grounds.

*G. Schedule Future Meeting*

March 12, 2013.

5. **Announcements:**

Debbie Gomez, Parks Special Project Coordinator, announced:

- Amendments to the Standard Committee Bylaws noting Council Members are now considered to be non-voting members serving as liaisons to committees with either one or two representatives per committee.
- Attendance requirements for committee members as defined in the bylaws.
- Vacancies on the committee and the recruitment for 3 members have been posted on the Town website. Deadline for applications is December 14, 2012.
- The Youth Sports Policy recommended by the committee to the Town council was approved at the September meeting.

Dru Alberti, Committee Member announced the need for volunteers for the 2013 Roots n' Boots event. She also announced Friends of Horseshoe Park are planning a special Teen Rodeo event on Friday night.

6. **Adjournment :**

- A. **Motion to adjourn:** Dru Alberti
- B. **Second:** Daniel Babcock
- C. **Vote:** Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Marianne Fulton, December 14, 2012

PASSED ON APPROVED ON: Mar. 12, 2013

  
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David Dobbs, PRAC Chair