



## MINUTES

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
22358 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ  
San Tan Conference Room  
September 10, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

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

**PRAC Members present:** David Dobbs, Daniel Babcock, Adam Neville, Eric Kerr, Cherie Richardson, Mike Shirley, David Sobeck III, and Barbara Young.

**PRAC Members absent:** Dru Alberti, Eileen Koceja, Sylvia Tarin, and Council Member Julia Wheatley.

**Staff present:** Adam Robinson, Vince Micallef, and Marianne Fulton

2. **Introductions:**

**Partnership Members Present:**

Paula Parsons, President, and Queen Creek Little League  
Jason Heiney, President, Queen Creek Heat Softball Little League  
Kara Holms, Youth Development Director, Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley, Queen Creek Branch

**Visiting Citizens:** Jacob Alexander, Eagle Scout project on Leadership in the community and parent

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Items for Discussion:**

- A. *Consideration and possible approval of the August 15, 2013 meeting minutes.*

**Motion to Approve:** Barbara Young

**Second:** Michael Shirley

**Vote:** Unanimous

- B. *Queen Creek Little League Baseball Partnership Closeout*

Paula Parsons, President Queen Creek Little League reported that this spring they had a total of 628 participants in their program, down 8 from last year, making up 38 teams.

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Accomplishments for this year included three teams moved on the All-Stars and the 9-10 year old team went all the way to the Championship round, fully functional scoreboards for both fields 1 and 2 were completed through the season. Detailed field usage and light management kept costs down for league. Improvements in the works are better website management and upgrades. This year's challenges were they had less active board members which caused greater work for those that were there, fewer sponsors came forward this year, and increased participant fees due to increase field and light fees cause parents upset.

Q - The committee asked how the relationship was and communication with the Town staff was going? Each year the relationship is growing. With change of liaison staff this year there was able transition to assist. The board wished there had been more notice of the increased fees and an incremental fee increase would have been appreciated. The board may have delayed installing the shade structures last year if they knew of an impending fee increase.

Q - The committee asked how the increased/expanded season worked out for the league. The board was glad to have the extra practice time for the older teams but the parents of the younger teams were wanting that time as well. Parents definitely want more fields available to the teams for practice.

Q - The committee asked about the level of service by maintenance? Board had to work a lot with parents questioning why if the fees were increasing why the level of service was decreasing. Parents commented about how the fields were not as nice this year. Adam Robinson, Recreation Superintendant, pointed out to the committee that the decreased level of service had to do with the recession and the layoffs the Town went through and the fees passed on to the partners were calculated at the lower level of service.

*C. Queen Creek Heat Little League Softball Partnership Closeout*

Jason Heiney, President Queen Creek Heat Little League Softball reported that this spring they were one of the top 10 leagues in the State. The league had 505 girls this year, down from 650 last year. Part of this decrease was due to a break out of part of their district. Overall 5 teams went to App-Stars. The Majors team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in state, Junior's were 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Accomplishment this year was to have a very transparent board as to not have any continuing issues. Kona Ice was a substantial sponsor this year bringing in a lot of funding for the league.

Improvements that are coming are a better updated website and online registration for participants using Pay Pal. Online registration with ensure better cash handling and cash management.

Q - Challenges between Town and League? Field Maintenance, sprinklers need to be fixed, not covering all the areas, spraying the dugouts. We need more fields for teams to practice on and play games.

*D. Boy's and Girl's Club of the East Valley, Queen Creek Branch Quarterly Report*

Kara Holms, Youth Development Director, reported that Q4 covers April thru June 2013. Daily attendance averages for this time period was 75 participants. Accomplishments include Leadership Training in conjunction with American Leadership Academy, Not my Kid bully training for Parents and children, and Impact Suicide Training for Teens.

Plans for Q1 include more recruiting of participants by spending more time in the park talking to kids that may have stopped coming due to the new charges to participate. They want to let kids know if finances are the reason they have stopped they can work out fees with parents so they can return. Club is currently running a Flag Football league with other clubs and hope to begin a cheer program soon. September 21<sup>st</sup> is the Day for Kids at the club. Fun activities are planned for the whole family and it is free for all to attend. September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 11<sup>th</sup> is Fall Break. Club hours will be 7am to 6pm Monday thru Friday. The Club will be the Teen Zombie Yard Sponsor at Trunk or Treat this year on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Q - The committee asked if the club had any need or wants from the Town? Things are going pretty well. Recruitment is our main priority.

Q – Will you be running Youth Basketball again? The club has decided not to run Basketball anytime in the future as it did not go very well previously.

#### *E. Municipal Services Director Update*

Chris Anaradian, Development Services Director, brought in a new map giving the committee a better look at current and upcoming open space planning for the Town. He is having staff work off of this new map to give them a better visual of what we have and what plans may have been missed in error.

He also discussed that how the State has changed the way a Town can regulate current zoning ordinance and that they cannot influence school district or charter school to build fields for citizens to use for leagues.

It was recommended that Town staff come to a future meeting to discuss new State regulations on funding of new parks.

#### *F. Discussion regarding the committee's 2014 Work Plan*

Adam Robinson, Recreation Superintendent, brought to the committee possible items that could be included in the PRAC 2013/2014 work plan. It was suggested that all work plan items be categorized into four areas. Those areas are Recreation Programs and Partnerships, Parks, Trails, and Other Amenities, Policies, and Volunteer Opportunities.

Some of the suggested items were carried over from the 2012/2013 work plan, which were not completed. Those items include, Facility Use Policy, Code of Conduct, Procedures for Temporary Religious Displays, Memorials and Monument Donations, Concession Stand Agreements with Youth Sports Partnerships, Review Schedule of Fees for Facility Rentals and Create a

schedule that provides opportunities for committee members to volunteer, evaluate, and gain citizen input on the Town's recreation services.

New Town Staff suggested work plan items were to Develop a bi-annual survey for Youth Sport Partnerships to ensure a lasting positive relationship, Determine the best approach to survey Town residents about their parks and recreation needs and to determine desired service levels, Develop recommendations to Town Council regarding the Dog Park project, and Develop recommendations to Town Council regarding the Splash Park project.

The committee also recommended the following items to be added to the 2013/2014 work plan; Five Park Master Plan feasibility, Proposal to Town Council and CIP concerning building of future parks and priority, Town citizen survey of recreation needs, service impacts, and willingness to pay.

*G. Recreation Update*

A brief recreation update was given due to the length of the meeting.

*H. Schedule Future Meetings*

A brief sub-meeting has been scheduled for September 24, 2013

Next regular meeting will be in November 12, 2013.

5. **Announcements: None**

6. **Adjournment:**

- A. **Motion to adjourn:** Daniel Babcock
- B. **Second:** Adam Neville
- C. **Vote:** Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Marianne Fulton September 18, 2013

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: 11/12, 2014

Dan Alberti  
Vice Chair - PRAC