



MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
22358 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ
San Tan Conference Room
September 11, 2018
6:00 p.m.

1. **Call To Order and Roll Call:** Meeting started at 6:21 p.m.

PRAC Members present: Daniel Babcock, Ashley Fuller, Brady Hamilton, Karl Kleinebreil, David Sobeck and Sylvia Tarin

PRAC Members absent: Dru Alberti, Dave Dobbs, Adam Neville, Michael Shirley, and Marvin Smith

Staff present: Adam Robinson-Recreation Superintendent, Alexis Ramirez-Recreation and Communications Analyst, Rich Purcell- Municipal Grounds Superintendent, and Brad Greer-Recreation Coordinator

Council Liaisons present: Councilman Hoffman (left at 7:10 p.m.) and Council Member Wheatley

Public attendees: Bill Lee and Julianna Morton

2. **Introductions:** Julianna Morton - ASU Student, Brady Hamilton - new PRAC member, Ashley Fuller - new PRAC member, and Bill Lee - QC Heat Softball

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Items for Discussion:**

A. Consideration and possible approval of the June 12, 2018 meeting minutes

Motion to Approve: Sylvia Tarin

Second: Karl Kleinebreil

Vote: Approved; Unanimous

B. Presentation and discussion of Queen Creek Little League closeout report - Daniel Babcock, QCLL President

- Season Highlights include:

- There were 49 teams with 623 players which is an 11.8% increase from last year
- 8-10 All Star Team – Won 1 game in the tournament that was hosted at Desert Mountain Park
- 9-11 All Star Team – Won the District 14 tournament and took 2nd in the Arizona State Tournament
- 12U All Star Team – Won the District 14 tournament, lost in the 12U State Tournament in Scottsdale, and they were eliminated by tie breaker rules in pool play (5th out of 121 Little Leagues in the State of AZ)
- Over 20,000 hours of volunteering completed
- 104 survey received and generally positive responses
 - Some common complaints in the surveys:
 - T-ball and machine pitch do not want to play on the multi-purpose fields, hoping to alleviate that with the new fields at Mansel Park
 - Limited availability of practice fields
 - 13 player teams this season, parents would prefer 10-12
- Next year QCLL will offer a junior division for the first time in many years

Questions/Comments

- Teams could carry over four player from the previous season last year and this season it is limited to three players. Many leagues are going to only keeping two players, the coach's child and assistant coach's child.
- Little League does not limit the amount of practice a team can have; a team could practice every day of the week.
- QCLL addressed not adding new teams when teams have 13 players due to limited field space of only having 2 fields to play all games on. Each team has to play a minimum of 12 games to be eligible for tournament play.
- Boundary map can be found on the QCLL website. QCLL is challenging the south Empire Road boundary to revert to the mountain.
- Pony utilizes the fields during the Fall for fall ball. Pony and Little League are very different leagues so it is nice to have both options available.

C. Presentation and discussion of Queen Creek Heat Softball Little League closeout report - Bill Lee, President of Queen Creek Heat

- Season Highlights include:
 - Heat has a total of 537 players and 128 coaches
 - Over 12,000 volunteer hours in the league
 - Numbers are growing with the younger teams. Last year we had 4 girls sign up for the youngest league and this year we had 3 teams in that age group
 - Everyone will get to play on true softball fields vs in the grassy areas
 - 5 divisions went to Allstars
 - Minors won the district
 - Jr Major won the division and went to state
 - Major Division placed 3rd at State
 - Juniors placed 2nd at State
- Improvements planned for the next year:
 - Updating the website
 - Get a Senior Division to enter the Allstars tournament (14-16 age range)
 - Obtain new equipment

Questions/Comments

- Fall Ball is underway and there 437 players as of today, which is a huge increase from last fall
- Heat tries not to go over 13 players per team

D. Discussion and possible recommendation to Town Council on park hours - Adam Robinson, Recreation Superintendent

Staff provided a brief overview of why the topic of park hours came up. The Town has received several questions about fishing in the early morning at Mansel Park since the park does not open until 7 a.m. Park Maintenance Staff gets to the park at 5 a.m. and technically opens the gates at that time. They use the 2 hours before the park opens to clean everything and inspect equipment.

Questions/Comments

- Staff does use blowers to clean and they can be disruptive if people are fishing, working out, jogging, etc.
- Currently if someone enters the park before 7 a.m., staff will not ask them to leave unless their activities get in the way of the maintenance work.
- Would you have the change your employee's hours if the park opens sooner?
 - In a perfect world staff would want a couple of hours with the park being closed to do an initial clean and inspection, such as removing dead animals from the lake, pressure washing sidewalks, etc.
 - For example, the Mansel Park splash pad maintenance requires five different chemicals that need to be applied prior to it opening.
- The requests about using the park in the early hours have come from social media.
- It was suggested to adjust the park opening hours seasonally or based on the sunrise time.
- There is not much, if any monetary impact to changing the park hours.

PRAC concluded to keep the current park hours in place for now. PRAC asked staff to log the complaints/questions and reevaluate the park hours in 6-12 months (March 2019 agenda item).

E. Discussion on potential rentals of splash pad shade structures at Founders' Park - Adam

The four shade structures at Founders' Park are a shared space for all visitors but customers frequently inquire about renting or reserving the shade structures. Staff is proposing opening up some of the shade structures for rentals to increase revenue and provide residents an additional space for birthday/family celebrations. The Founders' Splash Pad has seen a decrease in use in the last month since a second splash pad opened at Mansel Park.

Questions/Comments

- PRAC requested that staff compare attendance numbers for the month of September in 2017 and 2018 to present at their October meeting.
- Installing a fabric shade over the Founders' splash pad would provide additional shade but this would cause the grass around the splash pad deck to eventually die.
- Balancing renting of shade structures while still providing shade for regular users/general public. Solution is to only rent one or two shade structures (green one nearest Ellsworth Road and the small red one).

At the next meeting, staff will provided Sept. comparisons and pricing strategies.

F. Discussion on sport field rental policies - Adam

The next policy staff is reviewing is sport field rental policies to align with our current practices.

Questions/Comments

- Coaches could be allowed to book their own fields for additional practices outside of the league. Who opens the fields up for them? And where do they get bases?
- Field rental policies need to be revised to fit the current uses and requests, such as the addition of Pony League in the fall and reserving more than 4 and 10 packs.

- PRAC requested that AZSC and Heat Softball be invited to the October PRAC meeting since current members Dan B. can talk about QCLL and Adam N. can talk about STYFL.
- Keep in mind additional fields will open up in Gilbert soon (BLD and new park) so right now there is a huge need for fields but that might subside in the future.
- Town rates are phenomenal - 3 hours at Mesa Redfield Park is \$350. Not going to find the \$18 for lights and \$10 for field anywhere else. Staff will research and present a price comparison for resident and non-resident with neighboring cities Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Apache Junction and local school fields.

G. Department Updates - Alexis Ramirez, Recreation and Communications Analyst

Special Events

- Founders Day: 9/22/18 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 - Battle of the Badges
 - Eating contest, pig races, lawn games, corn-hole tournament, 4-H
- Fishing Clinic hosted by AZ Game & Fish: 10/6/18 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat: 10/20/18
 - VIP Experience packages are on-sale
 - Can be purchased for \$40 at the Rec Annex from Sept. 10-Oct. 12
 - Includes: VIP parking pass, \$20 in carnival tickets, 4 "no wait" wristbands

H. Next PRAC meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2018.

5. **Announcements:** None
6. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.
Motion to adjourn: Sylvia Tarin
Second: Karl Kleinbriel
Vote: Approved; Unanimous

PREPARED BY: Alexis Ramirez on September 11, 2018

PASSED AND APPROVED: October 16, 2018



Dru Alberti, PRAC Vice Chair