

SIERRA VISTA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Sierra Vista Park and Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Oscar Yrun Community Center, 3020 E. Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wesley Hewitt Scott Weiss
 Ryan Hightower Scott Loucks

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Hampton Joy Mims

OTHERS PRESENT: Victoria Yarbrough Councilman Blanchard

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Scott Weiss made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Ryan Hightower seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2017

Scott Loucks made a motion to accept the minutes from January 10, 2017 as written. Ryan Hightower seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

LEISURE SERVICES REPORT

Victoria is currently working on a couple of donations for Parks. One is with the SV Kiwanis, she will meet with them on Thursday and suggest contributing towards a new playground at Purple Hearts Park, which is up next on the small parks plan and the library garden. They are also potentially interested in donating towards the wave machine. Premier Alliance is looking to fund some ADA things, looking at a proposal to expand on the ADA program at Veterans Park and add an area that would have accessible swing sets and some other features that would be accessible to people with disabilities and autism. Victoria will keep the commission posted on those proposals.

The Cove open swim numbers are down a little, within about 10-20 to what it was with waves, they will continue to be monitored and we have been promoting lower prices. The staff has been working on some new things to bring in revenue; adult, private and winter swim lessons have been launched and the summer swim team is back. Also, instead of Tsunami Nights, there will be a Dive-In-Movie in March – Finding Dory.

Parks is busy prepping sports fields; they will be closing Domingo Piaz and moving the activity to Cyr fields. They are also installing new horseshoe pits and corn hole boxes at VMP.

Victoria is halfway through interviews for the Leisure Services Manager position; hope to have it filled by the end of the month.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Councilman Blanchard informed the commission that the committee that was tasked with looking at the commissions decided to eliminate the Citizens Advisory Commission. Council is still looking at the bike racks proposal.

CALL TO PUBLIC

No call to the Public.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion on Parks code update – Smoking Ordinance

Scott Weiss questioned if the next step was to make a recommendation to City Council and Victoria stated updating the Parks Ordinance would be the next step. Wes stated the definition of smoking would have to be modified and he would like to eliminate smoking

within 50 feet of all recreation fields. A discussion was held to determine that the definition of smoking should include: cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, inhaled tobacco and all other forms of tobacco. Victoria stated that more communities are banning smoking around sports fields and playgrounds, but that parks would be hard to enforce; playgrounds makes it a smaller area, but park in general is too large of an area. The terminology was determined to be recreational fields, to include playgrounds. Further discussion determined that the Arizona state law has already modified the definition of smoking to include the above. Victoria stated that it is not necessary to change the definition if the state has already modified theirs because the smoke free Arizona law covers the city.

Victoria briefed the commission on previous discussions on changes to the parks ordinance to include alcohol and drones and tonight's discussion on smoking. Once the updates are completed, then it will go to City Council.

Scott Weiss made a motion to change the parks ordinance to state smoking be eliminated within 50 feet of all recreational fields; to include playgrounds. Ryan Hightower seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

Victoria will be updating the ordinance and will present it to the commission, probably in April, for review.

2. Discuss proposed changes to the City's bicycle code ordinance

Wes stated that since they opened the public period a little longer, he would like the commission to make a recommendation on how the commission feels about it and send it to City Council. Scott Weiss stated that he has not spoken to one small business owner that approves of it. Victoria explained that in the first round public hearing, council heard that some changes should be made and they were; this puts them in another 30 days. The current option that's been proposed is the standards would apply to a business that has more than 10 people on a shift at one time and new businesses coming into the community of a certain size.

Scott Weiss made a motion to disapprove the code and the changes and not have bike racks required. Wes Hewitt seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED AND 1 ABSTAINED

3. Discussion on commission's annual update to City Council

Victoria informed the commission that the City Clerk said updates will be sometime in April, and at a strategic planning in the beginning of March the City Council will determine what they want to hear from the commissions. She stated that the council may give different instructions after the first week of March. Wes questioned if they were going to do strategic planning before hearing from the commissions, even though last year they said differently. Victoria stated that the council received the commission's recommendations for strategic plans in December; they want to hear what the commission's plans are for next year that is not necessarily strategic plan related. The council may also decide to task commissions with some things.

Scott Weiss brought a list of items he would like to work on throughout the year. He would like to see the Kings Court tennis courts refurbished, stating that the SVSCTA would be willing to help accomplish this. He would also like to see more Pickle ball courts, softball facilities and more neighborhood parks. The last item on his list would be to continue to encourage the cycling activities.

Wes stated that he would like to see replacing the wave machine as a priority; he does not want it to drop off the radar. He would also like to get Len Roberts and Tompkins parks up to ADA compliance and complete the multi-use paths loop. The biggest project Wes would like to see get started is building a large, multipurpose facility to replace the current community center; he realizes a lot of people will need to get involved and it will take several years to accomplish.

REQUESTS OF COMMISSION

Nothing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Wesley Hewitt
Chairman