

**QUALITY OF LIFE AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
POINT OF VIEW ROOM
9875 NORTH 85th AVENUE, PEORIA, ARIZONA**

APRIL 13, 2016

A Meeting of the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee of the City of Peoria, Arizona, convened at the Development and Community Services Building, Point of View Room, 9875 North 85th Avenue, Peoria, AZ in open and public session at 6:01 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Former Mayor John Keegan; Secretary Eva Osuna; and Committee Members Clay Allsop, Dave Allsop, John Auckland, Ian Dowdy, Jack Fletcher, Dennis Grenier, Michael Higgins, MJ Johnson, Scott Lekan, Kim Price Olsen, Howard Openlander, Franklin Schiller, Kathy Senseman, Barry Spiegel, Gene Sweeney and Christian Williams.

Members Absent: Vice Chair Kirk Haines; and Committee Members Robert Hall, Ken Krieger, Ron Lyzniak, and Joe Pfeiff.

Others Present: Mayor Cathy Carlat; Councilmember Carlo Leone; Jeff Tyne, Deputy City Manager; Chris Jacques, Planning and Community Development Director; Roy Minter, Police Chief; Bobby Ruiz, Fire Chief; Tammy Shreeve, Strategic Management Officer; Summer Johnson, Senior Policy Advisor; John Sefton, Community Services Director; Randy Proch, Planner; Dawn Ganzer, Executive Assistant; and Karen Halstead, Administrative Assistant.

Audience: Approximately 30 members of the public were present.

Note: The order in which items appear in the minutes is not necessarily the order in which they were discussed in the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Welcome**

Chairperson Keegan welcomed the Quality of Life Committee members and introduced Mayor Cathy Carlat. Chairperson Keegan outlined the meeting agenda and scope of the Committee. The goal for the evening is to come up with a comprehensive list of projects for consideration and possibly discuss financial matters.

2. **Mayor Carlat – Committee Status and City Update**

Mayor Carlat thanked the Committee for their work. Mayor Carlat asked the committee members to listen to the citizens who were providing input at the meeting and consider their comments when making decisions about public safety, Community Park #3, parks and recreation, open space and other City amenities. Mayor Carlat asked the Committee to look at ways to fund the improvements and projects outside of the City budget. The Mayor noted that the Committee is tasked with determining how to grow the second half of the City, and she is certain the Committee will be wise and judicious in making decisions.

3. **Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on March 30, 2016 was made by Secretary Eva Osuna, and seconded by Committee Member Gene Sweeney. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Committee Discussion**

In response to the Committee's request for additional information, Tammy Shreeve, Strategic Management Officer, provided an overview of the City's strategy regarding Old Town Peoria. Information included:

- City continues investments in Old Town Peoria
- Preservation of historically relevant properties
- Significant renovations to the Community Center
- Full redevelopment of Osuna Park area

Jeff Tyne, Deputy City Manager, spoke regarding the considerations made when making project-related decisions, including:

- Financial
- Economical
- Social and Community

John Sefton, Community Services Director, provided an overview of the planned details for the proposed North Peoria Community Park Project. Information included:

- Lighted fields, playgrounds, dog park, fishing lake, and trails
- Master-planned to accommodate future recreational facilities
- Working in partnership with Flood Control District
- Study to be completed June 2016
- Design-build team selected
- Final design to begin July 2016

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- Target park opening Fall 2018
- Fiscal Year 2017 projected budget: \$2.0 million
- Fiscal Year 2018 projected budget: \$28.3 million
- Total projected budget: \$30.6 million

Chris Jacques, Planning and Community Development Director, provided an overview of the City's comprehensive plan to address blight and deterioration and improve the quality of Peoria neighborhoods. Information included:

- Parcel Assembly
- Façade Renovation
- Park Improvements
- Community Center
- Transportation Center
- Regional Transit
- Streetscape/Enhancements
- Neighborhood Pride
- Neighborhood Grants
- Community Works
- Graffiti Removal
- Community Policing
- HOA Training/Support
- Code Enforcement
- Property Abatement

Mr. Jacques provided information regarding funding and conservation strategies related to open space. Information included:

- Private Lands: Desert Land Conservation Ordinance, Hillside Overlay Ordinance, Development Process, Donation (Outright or Conservation Easement), Fee Simple Purchase, Saleback or Leaseback
- State Land Trusts: Density Transfers and Arizona Preserve Initiative Program (Fee Simple Purchase)
- Bureau of Land Management: Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act
- Recreation and Public Purposes Act (Fee Simple Purchase or Lease Conveyance)
- All require a local funding source
- Cost is unpredictable and processes are time intensive

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Phase II addition to North Peoria Community Park
- Full-use recreational facility
- Exploring public/private partnerships

- 21st Century needs and transitions including desert-adapted sports
- Families traveling outside of Peoria for sports-related activities
- Focus on large scope to serve all citizens
- Services that are currently offered at other Peoria facilities
- Proposition 123 will not significantly change how the City deals with land matters
- Exploring state land exchanges with the Bureau of Land Management

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Code enforcement and compliance
- Playgrounds for all children
- Long-term plan for street and landscape improvements throughout the City
- Aesthetics throughout the City
- Arts expansion
- Comprehensive look at City quality of life needs
- City sales tax
- Community Facility Districts
- Improvement Districts/Maintenance Improvement Districts
- Lake Pleasant

Staff will research the types of facilities being used outside of Peoria and how they are funded. The information will be provided to the Committee.

Committee Member Howard Openlander provided the Committee with copies of an article entitled, "How to Save Camelback Mountain" written by Barry Goldwater in 1964.

5. **Financial Background**

Chris Jacques, Planning and Community Development Director, and Jeff Tyne, Deputy City Manager, provided information regarding finances for projects and the need to explore options.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Additional budget required to add a facility in North Peoria
- Additional budget generated through use of facility
- Potential for Lake Pleasant revenue stream
- Proposal in Budget for a Lake Pleasant infrastructure study

The Committee requested information on recreation funding and infrastructure. The Committee will consider what recommendations will be made and whether the recommendations are specific or advisory.

Staff will provide the costs related to the Committee's suggestions, including ongoing City projects and projects where citizens can get involved.

6. Process for Developing Solutions

Chairperson Keegan asked the Committee Members to review the list of projects that was distributed in their packets. The Committee will consider whether to request that the Quality of Life Committee be a permanent part of the City structure for future studies and analysis. The Committee will make recommendations on how the City should proceed and how to fund the identified projects.

7. Update on Committee Meeting Schedule

Tammy Shreeve, Strategic Management Officer, informed that the next meeting of the Quality of Life Committee will be held on April 27, 2016 at the Pinnacle Peak Public Safety Building, 23100 North Lake Pleasant Road, Peoria, Arizona.

Call to the Public (Non-Agenda Items):

Peter Ezugwu, CEO of Future Stars International Enterprises, spoke about the need for gym space in Peoria and the importance of providing after-school programs focused on character and accountability. Mr. Ezugwu reported there are approximately 11,000 children participating in Future Stars programs, and there is not enough gym space in Peoria to provide programs for all of the children. Mr. Ezugwu stated that Peoria is void of public/private partnerships to nurture a child to grow as a person and stay out of trouble.

Gary Rice, Sherry Garver, and Karen LaFore addressed the Committee regarding the impact the Future Stars program has had on their children. They stressed the importance of providing gym space for the Future Stars programs and other children's programs.

Joan Evans, a member of the Executive Committee of the Peoria Education Foundation spoke on behalf of Peoria's youth. Ms. Evans thanked the Committee for their work. Ms. Evans discussed the current City of Peoria Youth Master Plan. Ms. Evans highlighted two of the six goals of the Youth Master Plan:

- After-School Excellence for the most vulnerable children and the need to better serve them in our court system; and,
- Community collaboration and creating a Community Council for the implementation of the Youth Master Plan. The City needs a coordinated effort of citizens.

Dave Evans, a member of the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Board, spoke regarding the need for weed control and code enforcement within the City. Mr. Evans advised he will email pictures of a large number of streets that need attention to City staff.

Rafaelita Evangelista, a resident of Peoria, requested that the Committee consider adding shade structures and trees to bus stops so the citizens would be sheltered from the heat. Ms. Evangelista stated that she would like Peoria to be known as the “park city.”

Heather Wunderle, a new citizen to Peoria, spoke in support of sports and gym facilities in Northwest Peoria. Ms. Wunderle expressed her concern with Peoria residents spending money away from Peoria in support of other cities’ facilities. Ms. Wunderle asked that the Committee also consider walking paths and meeting places.

Clay Stockton, a native Arizonan requested that the Committee consider a sports center or recreation center and lighted fields for sports. Mr. Stockton advised there is an opportunity with open space to create a state-of-the-art facility.

Mark Allen, the Head of the Basis Peoria Charter School, asked that the Committee consider a sports facility in Northwest Peoria. Mr. Allen advised the Committee that Basis Peoria is land-locked and does not have the land space for a full-size facility. Mr. Allen suggested a partnership with the City on the new facility.

Tom Dagostino, Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher at Basis Peoria, spoke in support of a full-size facility in Northwest Peoria. Mr. Dagostino informed the Committee that Basis Peoria has a small gym about the size of an exercise room, and the children travel to churches to use their gym facilities for sports activities.

Katy O’Grady, a 15-year Peoria homeowner, informed the Committee that she moved to Peoria because of the lifestyle Peoria offers. Ms. O’Grady, a member of the Peoria Parks and Recreation Commission, spoke in support of Community Park #3. Ms. O’Grady stressed the need to find a way to fund the park and amenities to meet the needs of the growing community. Ms. O’Grady asked that the Committee consider buildings in addition to land and space, spoke in favor of raising taxes for funding, and suggested partnering with schools. Ms. O’Grady emphasized the importance of capturing land and space for recreational amenities for Peoria at this time.

Michelle Spalding, a real estate agent and North Peoria resident with three children, stressed the need to preserve the natural beauty of the desert, hiking and walking trails, and a centrally located facility for North Peoria residents. In addition, Ms. Spalding stressed the need for an aquatic facility. Ms. Spalding acknowledged she would be willing to see an increase in taxes to support an aquatic facility.

Christine Rosales, a middle school resource teacher and a single mother of an adult special needs daughter, emphasized the need for a universally accessible playground where special needs children and able-bodied children can play together, and special needs parents can play with their able-bodied children. Ms. Rosales discussed the number of students in Peoria with documented disabilities, and how a special playground could impact the futures of Peoria’s children. Ms. Rosales provided a DVD of accessible playgrounds to the committee to review.

Chris Reed, Vice President of Land Resources, Inc., the developer for Vistancia, spoke regarding the 20 percent growth anticipated in the Northwest Valley and Peoria. Mr. Reed, a Vistancia resident with two children, asked the Committee to consider bonds and partnerships to finance the amenities needed in North Peoria. Mr. Reed suggested a performing arts center for performances by outside vendors.

Brenda Rehnke, a resident of Peoria and former employee of the Peoria Community Services Department, stressed the need for another aquatic facility in North Peoria. Ms. Rehnke stated that the current facilities are not sufficient to serve the needs of Peoria residents.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business to come before the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Eva Osuna, Secretary

Rhonda Geriminsky, City Clerk

Date

Date