

**QUALITY OF LIFE AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA  
RIO VISTA RECREATION CENTER, LAKEVIEW ROOM  
8866 WEST THUNDERBIRD ROAD, PEORIA, ARIZONA**

**APRIL 27, 2016**

A Meeting of the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee of the City of Peoria, Arizona, convened at the Rio Vista Recreation Center, 8866 West Thunderbird Road, Peoria, AZ in open and public session at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Committee Members Ken Krieger, Scott Lekan and Ron Lyzniak.

**Others Present:** Jeff Tyne, Deputy City Manager; Linda Blas, Deputy City Clerk; Chris Calcaterra, Deputy Community Services Director; Lisa Estrada, Economic Efficiency and Sustainability Manager; Katie Gregory, Deputy Finance and Budget Director; Chris Jacques, Planning and Community Development Director; Randy Proch, Planner; Adam Pruett, Planning Manager; Tammy Shreeve, Strategic Management Officer; John Sefton, Community Services Director; and Karen Halstead, Administrative Assistant.

**Audience:** Approximately ten 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 outlined the meeting agenda and scope of the Committee.

2. **Minutes**

Motion was made by Secretary Osuna, seconded by Committee Member Barry Spiegel, to approve the minutes of the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on April 13, 2016. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. **Phoenix and Scottsdale Mountain Preserves and Preservation**

Kenneth Vonderscher, Park Planning and Development Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, and Kroy Eckblaw, Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Director, presented regarding the Phoenix and Scottsdale Mountain Preserves.

Information included:

- Importance of preserves and open space
- Planning process
- Funding streams
- Preservation concepts
- Land acquisition
- Preserve improvements

In response to questions from the Committee regarding lessons learned and what the City of Peoria should be doing, Mr. Vonderscher and Mr. Eckblaw emphasized the following factors:

- Patience for City and State process requirements
- Identifying funding sources
- Involving citizens to drive the initiative
- Community-wide appeal

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Regional county-wide conservation goals
- Long-term benefits
- Opportunity for State Land acquisition

### 4. **Financial Background and Project Costs**

Tammy Shreeve, Strategic Management Officer, provided handouts to the Committee members regarding:

- Comments related to issues and requests for information
- Potential projects for consideration

Ms. Shreeve addressed the Committee's comments and summarized the following potential projects and projected costs:

- Recreation center at the new Community Park in northern Peoria
- New park and recreation amenities for neighborhood parks in southern Peoria
- Community center in northern Peoria
- Shade initiative for bus stops, parks and public areas
- River trail improvements for southern trails

- River trail connections
  - Central Arizona Project (CAP) Trail - Lake Pleasant Parkway to Sonoran Mountain Ranch
  - CAP Trail – White Peak/Westland Park to Lake Pleasant Parkway
  - New River Trail – 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue to CAP Trail
  - Agua Fria Trail – Tierra del Rio development to CAP Trail
- Open space
  - Sunrise Mountain focus area
  - Calderwood focus area
  - Prince Mountain focus area
- Mountain preserve trails, trailheads and interpretive signage for Sunrise, Calderwood and Prince Mountain Open Space Preserves
- Visitor and cultural center
- Alternative response vehicles
- Fire station and boathouse at Lake Pleasant
- Park rangers for neighborhood parks and trails
- Community Resource Officers
- Old Town improvements
- Library in northern Peoria
- Aquatics facility at the new Community Park in northern Peoria
- City-wide beautification plan

Chairperson Keegan declared a short recess at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jeff Tyne, Deputy City Manager, presented regarding:

- Current financial activity
- Funding and conservation strategies
- Potential funding sources for open space
- How the City funds parks and recreation and public safety
- General Obligation Bonds
- General Fund five-year expenditure and revenue forecast
- Property tax rate compared to other cities
- Dedicated sales taxes and their use
- Sales tax rate compared to other cities
- Combined utility rates
- Financing investments

## 5. **Committee Discussion**

Ms. Shreeve provided a survey to the Committee and requested that each member identify the five potential projects they deem most important. Ms. Shreeve advised the information will be compiled and submitted to the Committee.

6. **Update on Committee Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Shreeve informed that the next meeting of the Quality of Life Committee will be held on May 11, 2016 In the Point of View Room at the Development and Community Services Building, 9875 North 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Peoria, Arizona.

**Call to the Public (Non-Agenda Items):**

Scott and Denise Carty, residents of Trilogy at Vistancia, spoke in support of additional hiking trails. Mr. Carty outlined features and amenities to be considered when planning hiking trails, including:

- 500 ft.-1,000 ft. elevation
- Destination at end of trail
- Safe, well-maintained trails
- Interconnective routes
- Easily accessible
- View of surrounding areas
- Outdoor restrooms

Jennifer Lawless and Joanne Thomson, representing Benevilla, discussed the aging community and requested their organization be part of the discussions when planning recreational facilities.

Louisa Rodgers, a resident of Westbrook Village, reported on the S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Conference held on April 18, 2016. Ms. Rodgers highlighted the categories discussed and the quality of the information presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business to come before the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Eva Osuna, Secretary

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Rhonda Geriminsky, City Clerk

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Date

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Date