

CITY OF GLENDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
GLENDALE MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
5850 W. GLENDALE AVENUE – B3
May 16, 2016
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Manuel Padia, Chair
Kerry Dewberry, Vice Chair
Lorrie Moreno
John Faris
Henry Rosas
Alicia H. Rubio

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Hildebrant
Jeri Ann Soper

OTHERS PRESENT: Erik Strunk, Community Services Director
Tim Barnard, Assistant Director
Mike Gregory, Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Administrator
Stephanie Miller, Senior Management Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dewberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Dewberry took roll call.

[Chair Padia entered the meeting.]

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Dewberry motioned, second by Commissioner Moreno, to approve the March 26, 2016 and April 11, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 6 – 0.

IV. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

V. NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Barnard and representatives from Partners In Action (PIA) gave a presentation regarding a proposed contract for current programming and expanded offerings at the Glendale Community Center. PIA representatives in attendance included Mr. Jerry Bowman, Mr. Orbi Gonzalez, Mr. Ken Herfurth, Mr. John Fair, and Mrs. Melinda Fair.

Mr. Barnard explained that the current agreement with Breakthru Church will conclude on May 31, 2016, and staff has been working with PIA, a local non-profit group, to direct the continued operations at the Glendale Community Center. Mr. Barnard provided the following information:

- PIA is primarily focused on delivering educational and inner city youth services and is uniquely qualified to deliver and grow these services to the local community through the center.
- PIA has strong relationships with City of Glendale leaders, community leaders, program providers, while having unique capabilities to deliver excellent community-based programming and systems.

- Mr. Mickey Nunez, who is currently working at the center, will have an opportunity to continue his work as a provider to PIA.

The Commissioners received a copy of the Partners In Action Proposal to the City of Glendale for review prior to and at the meeting.

Mr. Bowman, CEO, stated that PIA has been helping children as a global non-profit operating in 31 countries over the past 30 years. Mr. Bowman commented that over recent years, PIA has become more involved in local communities. Mr. Bowman noted that PIA has been working with Mr. Orbi and Mr. and Mrs. Fair since 2014. Mr. Bowman stated that Mr. Orbi will be functioning as the community liaison for the center, and Mr. and Mrs. Fair will serve as the leaders responsible for daily operations and programs at the center.

Mr. Herfurth stated that over the past few months, the group has been working on staffing and programming to ensure that great services are delivered to the children and a smooth transition is achieved. Mr. Herfurth added that Mr. Nunez will still be involved at the center. Mr. Herfurth added that the security of the children at the center is of utmost importance. Mr. Herfurth will be applying for grants from AZSTA and the Fiesta Bowl over the next month.

Mr. Barnard announced that staff is preparing a master operating manual for all of the City community centers, which will be incorporated into all of the agreements with the center operators.

Chair Padia inquired about any fees for the programs. Mr. Herfurth stated currently, all the programs are free, however, some future programs might have a small fee for supplies. Mr. Herfurth stressed that the goal of PIA is to have the ongoing capital to sustain all program offerings.

Chair Padia asked if the center will be a non-licensed drop-in program. Mr. Herfurth replied in the positive.

Chair Padia wondered how the center would function if the grants from AZSTA and Fiesta Bowl were not received. Mr. Herfurth explained that the ongoing plan is bifurcated: without the grant funds, the center offerings will remain as current, with the grant funds there would be more expansion of the offerings. Mr. Barnard added that there are multiple sources of funding to consider and the City wants to work as a partner to ensure that the center is successful. Mr. Strunk commented that he will be working through the budget process in the next fiscal year to obtain increased funding for the community centers.

Commissioner Rosas inquired about the age group welcomed at the center. Mr. Herfurth stated that there will be offerings for children ages 6 to 18 years old, however, the age may be lowered depending on community needs. Mr. Bowman stressed the importance of responding to the needs of the community and offering programs based on those needs.

Commissioner Rubio wondered if a multi-generational approach at the center could be incorporated. Mr. Herfurth agreed with the suggestion and stated that along with offerings for children, other classes for adults could be included. Mr. Orbi commented that it is important to foster relationships with all age groups at the center. Mr. Orbi would like to see the whole community have an input in the programming of the center and is planning a community BBQ to network with residents.

Commissioner Rubio asked if staff at the center would be collecting the demographics of the users. Mr. Herfurth replied in the positive adding that staff will be sensitive to compliance issues when collecting the information. Mr. Barnard added that staff has been asking the community centers to obtain some basic data for participants, however, more layers could be included. Mr. Barnard announced that staff has been analyzing offerings by the AZ Afterschool Alliance and they do have data collection standards and methods that could be utilized.

Chair Padia asked about the staffing ratios at the center. Mr. Barnard stated that the ratios would be 1:15 which is in the agreement. Furthermore, adults working at the center need fingerprint cards and proper security clearance.

Vice Chair Dewberry motioned, second by Commissioner Rubio, to recommend City Council approval to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with Partners In Action for the operation of the Glendale Community Center for one year. Motion carried 6 – 0.

VI. NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE ROSE LANE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Barnard gave a presentation regarding a renewed contract for afterschool programming by Heart for the City at the Rose Lane Park Community Center. Mr. Barnard stated that Mr. Joe Enriquez, of Heart for the City, was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Barnard provided the following information:

- Heart for the City is a non-profit organization which started providing summer programs in June 2014.
- The current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City runs through May 27, 2016.
- Services provided include:
 - Free community-based recreational programs and services
 - Organized sports programs
 - Special events and programs
 - Afterschool programming including educational tools and services
 - Youth and teen mentoring
 - Safe and positive community destination
 - Educational and intervention programs

Mr. Barnard stated that staff is requesting Commission approval to renew the MOU agreement with Heart for the City for a one-year period.

Chair Padia inquired if staff and the customers at the center were happy with Heart for the City. Mr. Barnard replied in the positive and stated that the center is well-attended on a regular basis. Mr. Barnard offered to have a presentation at a future meeting by Mr. Enriquez from Heart for the City.

Commissioner Rubio asked if the Commissioners could take a tour of the Community Centers. Mr. Barnard replied in the positive and asked that interested Commissioners send their availability to him via email.

Commissioner Rubio motioned, second by Vice Chair Dewberry, to recommend City Council approval to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with Heart of the City to continue its after-school programming at the Rose Lane Park Community Center for a one-year period. Motion carried 6 – 0.

VII. NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE O'NEIL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Barnard gave a presentation regarding a proposed contract for afterschool programming by Breakthrough Life Church at the O'Neil Park Community Center. The presentation included the following highlights:

- Since June of 2014, the non-profit Group Breakthrough Life has been operating at the O'Neil Community Center.
- Their R.O.O.T.S. program stands for
 - Reaching higher heights
 - Overcoming impossibilities
 - Obtaining success

- Teaching
- Supporting the next generation
- R.O.O.T.S. is a preventative program designed to reduce elevated risk behavior among the youth in the community, such as drug/alcohol use, teen pregnancy, and antisocial behaviors, and by engaging youth in educational, recreational, and inspirational activities.
- The current agreement runs through May 31, 2016.
- Services provided include:
 - The R.O.O.T.S. Program
 - Free community-based recreational programs and services
 - Organized sports programs
 - Monthly family events
 - Afterschool programming including educational tools and services
 - Summer programs
 - Youth and teen mentoring
 - Safe and positive community destination
 - Educational and intervention programs; drug and alcohol awareness, fire awareness, social and life skills, business employment, and more.

Mr. Barnard stated that staff is requesting Commission approval to renew the MOU agreement with Breakthrough Life Church for a one-year period. Mr. Barnard commented that Breakthrough Life Church has been doing a great job at the center.

Chair Padia suggested other good sources for information on children’s afterschool programming, such as the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence and the University of Arizona Aspire Program.

Commissioner Rubio motioned, second by Commissioner Rosas, to recommend City Council approval to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with Breakthrough Life Church to continue its after-school programming at the O’Neil Park Community Center for a one-year period. Motion carried 6 – 0.

VIII. UPDATE: RENAMING OF THE MURPHY PARK AMPHITHEATER

Mr. Gregory and Mr. Ken Jaeger, Glendale Summer Band Director, presented the proposed wording for the commemoration plaque which will be installed in Murphy Park as part of the previously approved request to rename the Murphy Park Amphitheater the “E. Lowell Rogers Amphitheatre”.

Commissioner Rubio inquired as to the size of the plaque. Mr. Gregory explained that there is an existing memorial plaque to Marty Robbins in the park and the E. Lowell Rogers plaque will be basically the same size and template to maintain consistency through the park. Mr. Jaeger agreed and hoped that any future memorial plaques will be kept similar to maintain future consistency and aesthetics in the park.

Commissioner Rosas asked about the font size, legibility and durability. Mr. Gregory replied that there is an industry standard which will be used by the fabricator to ensure legibility and durability.

Vice Chair Dewberry motioned, second by Commissioner Moreno, to approve the wording of the E. Lowell Rogers commemoration plaque to be installed in Murphy Park as written originally and to include the change of “and other friends of Lowell Rogers.” to the additional wording presented this evening. Motion carried 6 – 0.

IX. MURPHY PARK SITE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Strunk stated that staff has been assessing the conditions of Murphy Park for approximately six months due to the great use and love of the park by residents and visitors. Mr. Strunk stated that the park has become a major gathering point, especially for large events such as Glendale Glitters, and it is important to ensure its usability and functionality while maintaining the health of the grounds and landscape.

Mr. Strunk announced that Mr. Gregory and Mr. Barnard will provide information on a preliminary assessment of the current conditions at Murphy Park and draft recommendations. The presentation included an aerial display of Murphy Park and the following highlights:

- Existing Conditions
 - An aerial view of Murphy Park currently was displayed.
 - The area in amphitheater is eroding, often causing erosion issues in the planter and drainage issues at the bottom of the slope.
 - Large, mature trees in this area are contributing to the erosion issue and providing shelter for birds, which is causing excessive bird droppings in the area.
 - Trees have overgrown the planter causing structural damage.
 - Irrigation boxes are sinking in turf areas.
 - Murphy Park was previously flood irrigated
 - Flood irrigation infrastructure is still in place.
 - Mature trees located throughout the park are utilized for seasonal holiday events.
 - Mature Evergreen trees are exhibiting signs of declining health due to age.
 - No unified plant palette.
 - The library is surrounded by mature Ficus trees providing extensive shade.
 - The library is well-used and one of the main attractions of the site.
 - Multiple points of ingress and egress.
 - The surrounding streetscape tends to be similar to the walkways of the park.
 - The electrical junction boxes in walkways and bricks are showing signs of wear and unevenness.
 - Seat walls appear to be used frequently, but discolored from landscape rock.
 - The water feature is inoperable and often attracts climbers.
- Recommendations
 - An aerial view of Murphy Park with recommendations was displayed.
 - Remove Ficus trees from the area along the amphitheater to prevent additional structural damage and lessen the impact the bird droppings have on the area. Priority: High
 - Address erosion area to reduce the lower part of the amphitheater. Priority: Medium
 - Consider removing brick with a more uniform hardscape. Priority: Low
 - Remove flood irrigation infrastructure and fill low areas to reduce the severity of slopes. Priority: High
 - Develop tree transition plan to determine existing conditions. Priority: High
 - Remove Ficus trees to allow for more turf growth and functionality of the area. Priority: Medium
 - Remove vines from the library. Priority: High (Completed)
 - Library repurpose. Priority: Low
 - Widen paths at major points of ingress and egress. Priority: Medium
 - Replace bricks with more uniform hardscape to minimize ongoing maintenance. Priority: High
 - Use larger decomposed granite to reduce hardscaping staining. Priority: Low
 - Remove water feature as it conflicts with events.

Pictures of parks in other cities were displayed which portray various methods of shade, gathering areas, landscape and hardscape. The floor was opened for questions or comments.

Commissioner Faris inquired as to the exact location of the Ficus trees to be cut down, which Mr. Gregory clarified as on the east corner of the library and the south side in a planter which is compromising a retaining wall. Mr. Gregory stressed that no one likes to see trees cut down, however, if some trees are unhealthy or causing a safety issue, they may need to be removed. Mr. Gregory noted that if trees are removed, a viable alternative will be considered.

Commissioner Dewberry commented that Murphy Park currently functions more as a town square, and not a park as most users are not sitting on the grass but rather walking around the area.

Mr. Strunk stressed that all assessments and consideration of Murphy Park will be handled with the utmost care because the park is held very dearly by City residents and neighbors of the park. Mr. Strunk stated that there will be a process to garner public comment and involvement on the recommendations. Mr. Strunk noted that the presentation this evening is at a very preliminary stage.

Commissioner Rubio wondered if any expansion of the library would be considered in the future plans for the park. Mr. Barnard replied that there would have to be a future assessment of capital expenditures in the upcoming budget for expansion, since currently library capital funds are being utilized for the Western Area Regional Library.

Commissioner Rubio stated that she would like to see meandering pathways, sustainable building products, and avoidance of a concrete jungle in any renovation to the park. Commissioner Rubio commented that although the Western Area Regional Library is necessary, the library at Murphy Park is extremely important to the revitalization of the downtown area. Commissioner Rubio stressed the importance of keeping the public and all community stakeholders involved. Mr. Barnard agreed and added that the assessment of Murphy Park is one of the first steps of the larger centerline development discussion. Mr. Barnard stated that the park is a catalyst for bringing people downtown.

Chair Padia commented that the public should be kept informed of every step of the process and why the change is viable for the community. Chair Padia suggested consideration of installing a public art piece in place of the water feature. Commissioner Rubio suggested considering the possibility of a veteran's memorial in a corner of the park.

Commissioner Rosas inquired as to when the High Priority items would be done. Mr. Gregory stated that all comments will be considered and all recommendations will be taken back to the consultants who will do a cost assessment. Mr. Gregory stated that staff will come back to the Commission with a formalized plan in approximately three months. Commissioner Rubio suggested the use of a public survey and noted that if a survey is done during an event such a Glendale Glitters, visitors from other countries might share unique ideas. Chair Padia suggested a survey at the library for library users to provide comment.

Mr. Strunk stressed that major changes, such as removal of trees will not be done in the near future, but will be part of a larger picture with much consideration and public input. Mr. Strunk thanked Mr. Gregory and Mr. Barnard for their hard work on the project so far.

Commissioner Moreno noted that although some trees are causing damage, the lights for Glendale Glitters are strung from the trees and wondered how this would be handled. Mr. Barnard and Mr. Gregory agreed that this was a concern and would be kept in any renovation plan. Mr. Barnard stated that the City of Glendale is a Tree City USA and intends to keep that designation as trees are very important to the City.

Chair Padia thanked staff for the presentation.

X. FY16-17 BUDGET UPDATE AND CITY RE-ORGANIZATION

Mr. Stunk gave a brief update on the FY16-17 Budget, including several items that will enhance and improve certain parks and recreation programs and services. Also, a proposed re-organization of the current City structure was presented. The presentation included the following highlights:

- FY15-16 Accomplishments
 - 5,911 Hours of Donated Volunteer Time
 - Forward Direction on New Phases of Heroes Park
 - New Archery Range
 - New Improvement Project on 83rd Avenue
 - New Basketball Court
 - Additional Temporary Parking
 - New Maintenance Yard
 - New Community Center and Operating Agreement
 - Water Recharge Study
 - New Western Area Branch Library
 - New Technology
 - Two PC's for Parks Maintenance = \$2,400
 - 5 Tablets for Youth and Teen = \$8,000
 - 18 Tablets for Parks Maintenance = \$8,000
 - New RecTrac System = \$25,000
 - New WI-FI Service in Community Centers
 - Assessment and Studies
 - Rose Lane Aquatics Center
 - Murphy Park Assessment
 - Fee Review and Analysis
 - WI-FI Coverage at FRAC
- Budget Overview
 - Total expenses to operate Parks and Recreation in FY16-17
 - \$10,466,629
 - 55.5 Full-Time Positions
 - 304 Part-Time Contractual Positions
 - 2,800 Volunteers
 - PaseoRacquet Center = \$400,000 for Court Improvements
 - Sahuaro Ranch Master Plan Study & First Year Repairs = \$150,000
 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update = \$245,000
- City Re-Organization
 - A re-organizational chart effective July 1, 2016, was displayed.
 - Parks and Recreation will be re-grouped with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Special Events into the Public Facilities/Special Events Division. Library and Arts, Human Services, Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Housing will no longer be grouped with Parks and Recreation, but rather the Community Services Division.
 - All City services will remain the same and the public should not even notice the transition as it is an internal re-organization.

Mr. Strunk also commented on the following:

- During the recent City budget talks with Council, there was a discussion regarding the pool at O'Neil Park which has been closed for the past six or seven years since it is beyond repair. One Councilmember asked for an assessment and recommendation regarding the pool. The Master Plan does

not call for more building at neighborhood parks and therefore, this item needs further review and discussion.

- The issue of equitable library hours at all city libraries is being reviewed. The agenda item will be discussed by the Library Advisory Board and Mr. Strunk will keep this Commission posted on the recommendations.
- Staff is researching the drafting of business plans for the parks.
- Next week, Mayor and Council will adopt a preliminary budget which will be posted for public comment for 30 days. After the 30-day commentary period, the Mayor and Council will vote to formally adopt the FY16-17 Budget.

XI. STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Gregory provided an update on activities, which included the following:

- A Pre-construction meeting for the Archery Range at Heroes Park will be held this Wednesday.
- Wheels-In-Motion will bring its floor plan to the Building Safety Committee for review and approval.
- Aquatics registration begins today.
- Parks Manager Bryan Wagner has been promoted to Parks Superintendent.
- Kudos to the audio/visual manager, Abner Sarazua. The Glendale Municipal Office Complex was vandalized a few weeks ago and Abner has kept the audio/visual needs met during a challenging time.

Mr. Gregory welcomed new Commissioner Rubio. Commissioner Rubio gave a brief background of herself.

Mr. Barnard provided an update on activities, which included the following:

- A Rose Lane Aquatics operational study will be conducted, which will include an analysis of the pool functionality. A presentation will be made at the next Commission meeting.
- A Fee and Revenue Structure analysis is being conducted which will be brought to the Commission.

XII. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Faris stated that Glendale Channel 11 has a video of E. Lowell Rogers for those who would like to see footage of him and learn more about him.

Commissioner Rosas is looking forward to participating in the Master Plan.

Commissioner Rubio thanked staff for the good presentation and the hard work on plans for the future.

Chair Padia attended the Arbor Day ceremony at Cholla Park with his son and stated that all of the children were very excited. Chair Padia noted that a U.S. Forest Service Representative gave a very good talk and there were 13 trees planted, compared to another valley city which only planted one.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. by consensus.

The next regular meeting will be held on June 13, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Glendale Municipal Office Complex, 5850 W. Glendale Avenue, B-3.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kazmierczak