



Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission June 24, 2008

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on June 24, 7:00 PM at the Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave., Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Dana Burkhardt
Michael Curlee
Maureen DeCindis
Sharon Doyle
Mary Hannaman
Walter McCraney
Julie Ramsey
Brett Siegal

Members Absent:

Christina Cenzano
Alana Chavez
Sue Lofgren

City Staff Present:

Diane Johnson
Dee Dee Kimbrell
Nancy Ryan

Guests Present:

Don Cassano

Nancy Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2008

Nancy asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from May 27, 2008.

MOTION: Dana Burkhardt moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Maureen DeCindis

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Veteran’s Memorial

Don Cassano gave a presentation of the proposed Veteran’s Memorial in Tempe Beach Park. He reported Joe Spracale brought the memorial concept to City Council three years ago. A committee was formed to design a concept for the memorial.

- 1) The design concept approved by council was a 35' high structure with five stainless steel pieces representing each branch of the armed services. Inside of the structure a crystal

made out of the same material as the space shuttle windows will refract light in various colors at night. LED lights will be used to light the crystal.

- 2) Don said the next step for the project is to raise an estimated one million dollar to pay for the memorial.
- 3) The site for the memorial will be in Tempe Beach Park near the historical Ash Avenue Abutment. The design includes a walking path on the abutment from Rio Salado Parkway to an overlook with a retail store underneath. The memorial will be located north of the walking path.

General discussion regarding the **Veteran's Memorial**, including:

- Maureen asked if staff had applied for federal T21 enhancement funds for this project because it is both historical and a pathway. Nancy said she would look into this funding. She also stated the city has a federal lobbyist looking for funding for both the Veteran's Memorial and Ash Avenue Abutment Path.
- Julie Ramsey asked that Friends of Rio Salado be included in the next Veteran's Memorial committee meeting. Don said the next meeting is 7:30 pm August 11 at Tempe Credit Union on Mill Avenue, 2nd floor.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Process for Future Development of Land West of TCA

Nancy explained the proposed public process for future development of the land west of the Tempe Center of the Arts (TCA). She reported in January 2007 at the Council's Central City District Committee of the Whole Town Hall that consensus was reached to establish an Arts Related development west of the TCA to Priest Drive and an amateur sports facility west of Priest on Rio Salado Parkway.

The public process outlined is to carry out the intent of the Town Hall directive. Staff will initiate the public involvement process by defining stakeholders and community meetings will be used to inform and involve the public. General land use change, RFQ/RFP, and development will also include public input.

Agenda Item 5 – Rio Salado Development Progress Report

Nancy shared graphs showing Rio Salado development progress from 2007 to build out. She stated the habitat open space category has increased from 7% to 21% in 2008 due to the completion of the USACOE Phase II Habitat Restoration. The private development category has also increased from 6% to 9% because of the completion of Grigio, Northshore, and Bridgeview.

Agenda Item 6 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey had nothing new to report.
- Ad Hoc Committee for Papago Park and Rio Salado – Sharon Doyle reported the Ad Hoc Committee is still being formed. They are looking at interests, support, questions, and answers from the general public on the Mayor's vision for development of Papago Park and Rio Salado.
- Enhanced Services Commission – Nancy stated there was nothing to report because the ESC did not meet in June.
- Parks Board Commission – Nancy announced the Parks Board will not be meeting in June, July, and August.

Agenda Item 7 – Project Updates

Nancy gave a brief update of Rio Salado Projects.

- 1) Last week staff had their first meeting for the Tempe-Mesa River Path. The path will run on the south bank of the river from McClintock to Dobson. This is a joint project between Tempe, Mesa, Flood Control, MAG, and USACOE.
- 2) The south bank path from Tempe Center for the Arts to Priest has most of the concrete path poured. Next the lighting, irrigation, and landscaping will be installed. Nancy announced all the art elements for the path have been funded.
- 3) The final report for the dam alternatives analysis did not have a specific recommendation. The report weighted the alternatives for cost, expediency, and meeting other city goals.
- 4) Water east of the upstream dam has lowered and it allowed staff to inspect the dam. Cracks were found in the rubber dam still under warranty. Bridgestone is coming next week to do an inspection.
- 5) South Bank infrastructure is going in right now. Nancy reported the Rio Salado Parkway north lanes will re-open soon.

RSAC will not meet in July. The next meeting will be **August 26, 2008**.

MOTION: Walter McCraney moved to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Maureen DeCindis

DECISION: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Manager