AGENDA ITEM 25

DATE 05-01-08

Tempe

Minutes
Rio Salado Advisory Commission
March 25, 2008

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on March 25, 7:00 PM at the Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave., Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:
Dana Burkhardt
Alana Chavez
Maureen DeCindis
Sharon Doyle
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Walter McCraney
Julie Ramsey
Brett Siegal
Chase Wiles

Members Absent:
Christina Cenzano
Michael Curlee

City Staff Present:
Diane Johnson
Dee Dee Kimbrell
Kevin O'Melia
Nancy Ryan

Guests Present:
Don Calender

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

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2008
Nancy asked the commission members if they had read the RSAC minutes from February 26, 2008 minutes.

MOTION: Maureen DeCindis moved to approve minutes
SECOND: Walter McCraney
DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances
Don Calender, Neighborhood Advisory Commission member, announced the Tempe Leadership Project will kick off with a progressive dinner in downtown Tempe on April 2, 2008. Tempe Leadership is partnering with Downtown Tempe Community (DTC) in a project called "Change for Change" where refurbished parking meters will be placed around downtown to collect money. He said there will be 11 kiosks through out the city and the money collected will be given to four different charities. Don also announced there will be a Neighborhood Workshop

and Awards on Saturday, April 5, 2008, with Congressman Harry Mitchell as the keynote speaker. The event will run from 7:30 am to noon at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center.

Agenda Item 3 – Site Plan Review for Tempe Landing

Kevin O'Melia, City of Tempe Senior Planner, passed out the formal PAD for Tempe Landing located at 125 S. Priest Drive. This project is 2-six story office buildings with approximately 400,000 sq. ft. and a parking garage. Kevin stated at the neighborhood meeting the public suggested a coffee shop and/or a social entity in this development. After a short discussion the RSAC members recommended the project because it is compatible with the Rio Salado vision and acceptable land use.

Agenda Item 4 – Pedestrian Bridge Update

Nancy Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Pedestrian Bridge. She showed the design and materials to be used on the bridge from structural, shade, lighting, and landscaping.

General discussion regarding the **Pedestrian Bridge**, including:

- Dana asked if the pedestrian bridge will effect the bladder replacements of the downstream dam. Nancy said staff is in the process of analyzing different technologies for the bladder replacement. She said the city manager has listed the bridge as one of the projects to be completed in the next fiscal year.
- Alana asked when the construction for the bridge would start. Nancy said it will start this summer.

Agenda Item 5 – Access to Lake and Park (Papago Park & Rio Salado)

Nancy said access to Town Lake and the surrounding park is one of the items the RSAC wanted to revisit at a future meeting. She asked if the commissioners wanted to set guidelines of ways to retain and improve access points to the lake from surrounding streets through developments.

General discussion regarding **access to lake and park**, including:

- **Sue Lofgren** said she thought the commissioners were concerned about the different ways to get to the lake. She said they wanted to maintain open areas for public access.
- **Alana Chavez** would like to see a map showing existing and future development entry points to the lake. She said then the RSAC could look at future projects and see where entry points would be needed. Nancy said at next month's meeting she would bring a map of the lake and mark existing entry points so the commissioner members can help plan an ideal circulation plan for the lake.
- **Brett Siegal** suggested maybe retention areas could be used as pathways to the lake.

Agenda Item 6 – ELEMENTS at TCA Update

Nancy asked the commission members to look at the handout for the ELEMENTS at Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA). The four major businesses included in the project are Meltdown Glass, Roberto Venn School of Luthiery, Arizona Bronze, and Childsplay. The project located west of the TCA will create a sub-division with common streets, public open space, and retention areas.

General discussion regarding the **ELEMENTS at TCA**, including:

- **Dana** expressed concern about the safety of children with parking on either side of Childsplay.
- **Alana** asked if the land will be leased or sold. Nancy said they are looking at leasing the land.
- The RSAC members approved the ELEMENTS project.

Agenda Item 7 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey passed around renderings of the Ash Avenue Abutment done by Mark Vinson. Nancy said the project is on the Rio Salado CIP list but has not been funded. Julie said the project will also have an information center and store. Walter McCraney reported he is on the committee for the Veteran's Memorial in Tempe Beach Park which will be located near the Ash Avenue abutment.
- Enhanced Services Commission – Nancy Ryan reported the ESC met on March 12th. Staff shared with the commission the CFD budget recommendations and saw presentations on the Pedestrian Bridge and Segways. She stated staff is setting up a joint meeting between Enhanced Services Commission and Rio Salado Advisory Commission on April 7, 2008 to review the recommended CIP list.

Agenda Item 8 – Project Updates
Nancy gave a brief summary of projects in Rio Salado.

1) Nancy reported the Financial Services Manager and City Manager have made recommendations for the Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for the next fiscal year. She said for Rio Salado they have recommended funding the Pedestrian Bridge, rubber bladders replacement, Rio East Park, and Rio Salado ancillary construction budget. Some of the things they did not recommend funding are the co-funding for the USACOE Phase II Habitat, Between the Bridges, and the Boathouse. The City Council will meet on April 12 to review the CIP recommendations.
2) The Pier 202 project is working on the infrastructure.
3) Staff is moving forward with the south bank path from Tempe Center for the Arts to Priest Road.
4) Rio Salado is reinstalling copper wire on the north bank of Town Lake.
5) Staff is looking into designing a new pump house for the restrooms in Tempe Beach Park.

General discussion regarding the **project updates**, including:

- Alana asked what was happening with the Boathouse. Nancy said staff is working with Chanen Development Company on a development agreement to build and design the boathouse. The land will be leased while they build the boathouse then given back to the City when completed. Chanen is looking for donations to fund the project.
- Sue Lofgren asked if a playground for Tempe Beach Park was on the CIP list. Nancy stated it was on the CIP budget requests but was not recommended for funding this next year.

The Committee's next meeting will be **April 22**.

MOTION: Maureen DeCindis moved to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Dana Burkhardt
DECISION: Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

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Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Manager