

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

**January 15, 2014
MINUTES**

City Hall
530 E. Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326
6:30 pm

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Teresa Bible, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Members Present – Chair Teresa Bible, Vice Chair Margarito Lara and Board Members Sue Mros, Linda Gross, Alex Villa and Council Liaison Michelle Hess
Staff Present – Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Management Assistant Douglas Strong, Conservation & Project Manager Robert Wisener, Recreation Supervisor Miranda Gomez, Jan Holland-Malcom Community Engagement Manager and Parks Manager Fred Sanchez

2. Comments from the Public

No members of the public provided comments at this meeting.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2013

A motion was made by Board Member Mros and seconded by Vice Chair Lara to approve the minutes for the September 18, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

4a. – Appointment of new Board Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made by Board Member Mros to keep Chairperson Teresa Bible as Chairperson of the board; it was seconded by Vice Chair Lara. The board voted unanimously in favor of the appointment.

A motion was made by Chairperson Bible to re-appoint Vice Chair Margarito Lara as Vice Chairperson; it was seconded by Board Member Mros. The board voted unanimously in favor of the appointment.

4b. Project update by Robert Wisener, Conservation & Project Manager on El Rio Water Course Master Plan

Mr. Wisener shared an overview of the El Rio Water Course Master Plan to include the location of the El Rio in relation to the City of Buckeye. This included a conceptual design that the Flood Control District put together to give the visual of what the river could look like in the future. It was shared that many recreational opportunities would be allowable within the master plan to include open space, sports facilities, trails and passive recreation corridors.

Although this conceptual is a commendable project, there are constraints in making this a reality. The Flood Control District has conducted research and experimental projects with the Salt Cedar vegetation along the river which has a negative impact within the course. This included removing

the salt cedar and planting the natural vegetation to see how this would do, fortunately it has been a successful project to this point and measure will continue to remove this vegetation from continuing to have a negative impact within the area.

The overall project involves many stakeholders to include the City of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, the Flood Control District and Maricopa County. A nonprofit foundation will be developed to assist with the overall project.

The main points of this plan is to identify standards for zoning, overlay districts to include business, commercial development, residential development and parks open space. Access and connectivity from the north and south of the river are also being evaluated. Trails and signage will be identified throughout the course. This project will be a huge undertaking of all agencies and coordination is necessary to bring the project to fruition. An intergovernmental agreement was made to outline the roles and responsibilities of each agency with each entity contributing to the total cost of the master plan. A timeline along with the goals and objectives will be outlined in the master plan. The total cost for the first phase of this project was \$200,000- split evenly among the agencies, each paying \$50,000. An RFQ will be sent out to acquire a consultant for the ongoing research and recommendations for the master plan. The City's procurement office will negotiate the contract with the consultant selected by the review team.

Board member Gross asked what the anticipated date of completion for the overall project. Mr. Wisener said the project wouldn't be completed for years; however the master planning should be completed within the year.

Board member Lara asked when the environmental study will be completed. Mr. Wisener told him it should take 18 months before we get things back from the study.

Board member Mros asked what can be done to eliminate the salt cedar. Mr. Wisener said complete removal of the trees is necessary but that is costly and would take a lot of time. Other alternatives are being researched to eliminate this vegetation because it is impacting the natural flow of water at the river.

Board member Villa asked where we were in relation to the Skyline Regional Park. Mr. Wisener said it is still in plan review with 60% of the plan completed.

Chairperson Bible asked how the cleanup went at Skyline Park. Mr. Wisener said it was very successful with 200 community volunteers and tons of trash removed. The next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 8th.

5. Staff Report

Ms. Jan Holland-Malcom announced upcoming events to include the Buckeye Days Street Party which will host entertainment, food and fun. This event will kick off the Buckeye Days weekend celebration to include the PRC Pro Rodeo and Cattle Drive Parade. She shared the Dog Days of Buckeye event which is being sponsored by Banner Health Centers and which will have many types of programming for owners and their pets as it relates to health and wellness. Demonstrations will be presents along with many businesses and non-profit organizations being there to display informational and promotional materials. Banner Health Centers is our presenting sponsor along with our Mobile Event Unit program. They are supporting our events with a gracious \$10,000 sponsor. The Skate Jam will be taking place on February 22 for enthusiastic that enjoy competing by doing tricks and entertainment. Jan reported the health and

wellness series will kick off again after the summer of 2014, late September as part of the Mobile Event Unit.

Mr. Sanchez reported on the ongoing parks projects to include the aquatic center preparing for the summer season to include repair on the slide. Expect a color change in the slide by this summer season. Light upgrades will be taking place at the existing skate park for safety purposes and more use during the evenings. Sundance Park will expand its overflow parking area to accommodate more park users while protecting the natural landscape. Chairperson Bible asked how the residents are with the proximity of their property to the park and the parking situation. Mr. Sanchez mentioned it should be more positive considering we are adding more designated parking which will eliminate parking nearest to their homes. Sports programs are ongoing and there is an interest in the traditional softball leagues and newest adult soccer program.

Ms. Gomez reported on the upcoming Polar Plunge and invited all members to attend. Miranda reported the upcoming teen activities to include the Masquerade Ball, Soccer and Bowling activities at the center. The upcoming summer program will have the theme of Summer UniverCITY, based on the town becoming a City. A summer promotion is being implemented to encourage online registration, a 10% off any summer activities through the month of May. Ms. Gomez mentioned the average users coming to the center are between the ages of 12-14 and usually come during afterschool hours. Staff is offering an array of healthy programs and nutrition. Ms. Gomez also shared new this year the city will be offering a lifeguard training and certification program during spring break for those 16 years of age and older.

Mr. Strong mentioned the release of the spring edition of the Eye on Buckeye that will be the first week of February. He reminded the board the monthly reports for September – December are included in the boards packets for their review.

Ms. Sedig shared the upcoming Quarter Auction will be taking place on Friday, February 7 and encouraged everyone to come out. She also reminded the board of all the upcoming activities during the Buckeye Days Celebration weekend. Other events shared included the community yard sale and the 47th Annual Melodrama being held on both nights, March 28 & 29. Tickets will begin to be sold within the coming weeks. At this production, City Council members should be returning during their famous olio at the intermission of the Melodrama.

She shared the ‘Let’s Move Initiative’ that is being done nationwide which was instituted by First Lady Michelle Obama. The Recreation Division is working on fulfilling the goals of this program to include a farmers market, marathon/fun run and free exercise related activities at the park. Ms. Sedig shared the success of these type activities that have been done to include the example of Houston’s city park that was located in the downtown area that attracts hundreds of people getting healthy and well at no cost.

The city will be working to do a Veterans Day Parade as part of the Vietnam War Commemoration Program. Ms. Sedig asked the board to be more involved and participate by coming out to the programs and events. She would like to get feedback from the board members regarding the services we offer so we can improve.

Chairperson Bible asked to send additional emails as a reminder for the upcoming events prior to them taking place in the city.

6. Comments from the Chair and Board Members

Board member Villa mentioned the idea of adding about 1,000 sheep herded by dogs as part of the Buckeye Days Parade.

Board Member Mrs shared how she was pleased with the Hometown Holiday Boutique, other than a couple comments of not having snow this year, it was successful. She reported the Senior Program will be hosting a Punt, Pass and Kick competition for the seniors. Also the annual Talent, No Talent show will be held later this month.

Board Member Lara was grateful for the informative presentation on the El Rio Project by Mr. Wisener.

Board Member Bible was very complementary toward staff and for their efforts. She is always making sure to share the information with her personal contacts and friends. She is open to volunteering when available and asked staff to contact her for future events and activities.

Council member Hess reported the ‘Read On’ program which will be taking place this summer at the library.

7. Next Meeting Suggested Agenda Items – March 19

Board Member Lara requested a report on all summer youth programs for next meeting

8. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. by Vice Chairman Lara and seconded by Chairwoman Bible. Motion carried unanimously.

Teresa Bible, Chair

ATTEST:

Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Community Services Advisory Board meeting held by the Advisory Board on January 15, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant