

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MARCH 17, 2015
MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
4:15 p.m.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Orsborn called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss (arrived at 4:20 p.m.), Councilmember Hess (arrived at 4:20 p.m.), Councilmember McAchran, Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn, and Mayor Meck (via telephone).

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Assistant City Manager Roger Klingler, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Finance Director Larry Price, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Information Technology Director Greg Platacz, Development Services Director George Flores, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Planning Manager Terri Hogan, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Rogers.

2. Presentation of Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Staff Liaison: Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager

District No. All

Mr. Wisener opened the discussion and provided background information of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan adopted in 2005 and the Trails Master Plan adopted in 2008. Descriptions of pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, large municipal sports parks, and regional parks were presented. Current level of service of both City and Homeowner's Association parks was discussed; there are 76.06 acres of existing parks. Water conservation efforts within communities related to parks was addressed. A comparison chart demonstrating developed parks within the City and other municipalities was presented. Resident surveys have been conducted and results of those surveys were displayed. Issues are listed and include lack of facilities outside of downtown, need for additional pool and facilities, lack of community and large sports parks, and funding. The City would like a level of service standard equal to four acres per 1,000 residents, resulting in a need of 152 acres of park and 12 additional staff to maintain and manage the parks. Funding for new parks may be obtained through cost sharing, impact fees, bonds, special sales tax and property tax. Of the residents that participated in the survey, 83% are willing to support construction of new parks or facilities. Potential park locations were listed. Proposed park acquisition policies include parks larger than 15 acres that are near natural resource or identified trail, near underserved population centers, easily accessible from multiple communities, have limited site constraints and a recreation value to support unmet demand. Next steps were discussed; it is anticipated the Master Plan will be adopted in the Fall of 2015. Public input meetings have been scheduled. Presentations will be provided to Boards and Commissions and updates will be provided to Council through further workshops. Project priorities, plan utilization, and anticipated costs were discussed.

3. Discussion and Update on Gila River Restoration Program and El Rio Implementation and Management Plan

Staff Liaison: Adam Copeland, Senior Planner

Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager

District No. All

Mr. Copeland opened the presentation with a series of pictures of the Gila River in its present state. An overview of the Gila River Restoration Program and El Rio Design Guidelines update were presented. Gila River Restoration Program tasks are listed and include sand and gravel policy, in lieu fee program, river restoration program, and specific area plan. A snapshot representing stakeholders of Gila River and surrounding areas was provided. Each policy and elements of programs were listed and discussed. Opportunities along potential lakes were addressed and include river walks, boating, water features, sports, mixed use, and housing. Mr. Wisener provided a summary of El Rio design guidelines and pilot project. Details of the intergovernmental agreement were discussed; standards include building orientation, landscape signage and access. Mr. Copeland detailed the pilot project. Mr. Wisener presented illustrations of the river and surrounding area with potential amenities. Overall objectives were outlined and include creating public awareness, regional and national exposure, multi agency unified design guidelines, creating critical private and public partnerships and revenue potential. Next steps include ongoing Council engagement, site tours, public and stakeholder meetings, and interactive works sessions with Commission and Council. Projects are on schedule and it is anticipated that El Rio Design Guidelines will be complete by June of 2015 and the Gila River Restoration Program will be complete by December of 2015. A series of images representing potential land use at the Gila River site were displayed. General discussion was held regarding the projects, potential improvements to community, costs and timelines.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Heustis and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Workshop held on the 17th day of March, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk