

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

**July 15, 2015
MINUTES**

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

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

Teresa Bible, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members Present –Board Members Teresa Bible, Linda Gross, Garnett Sailor, Sue Mros, Stephen Rugh, Dr. Peace, James Kimes and Chester Hetrick.

Staff Present –Recreation Manager, Miranda Gomez; Parks Manager, Fred Sanchez and Conservation & Project Manager, Robert Wisener

2. Comments from the Public – None

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2015

A motion was made by Board Member Sue Mros and seconded by Board Member Steve Rugh to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

4a. – NRPA Accreditation Update

Ms. Gomez opened up the item providing the board with the names, experience and roles of the NRPA Accreditation Review Team which consisted of three members. Each member came with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the field which were different and unique to us here in Buckeye. The details shared were provided to staff during the wrap up meeting with the review team. An official report will be given to the City of Buckeye come September. The process begins with meeting 151 standards, which 37 are required. The remaining standards (114) need to have 85% of them covered. Currently there are 139 national accredited agencies, of these, six are in Arizona-we hope to be the 7th agency in Arizona to be accredited. The strengths shared with staff included the support the department has from the organization as a whole. The review team was impressed with the number of other directors who were in attendance at the meet and greet at City Hall. The review team was satisfied with our response time when additional information was required during their visit. They felt staff was very prepared and accessible during their visit.

Our department met 142 of 151 standards including all 37 fundamentals. Of the standards we missed, this included recruitment objectives, workforce health & wellness program, inventory & asset control, community education for leisure process and evaluation, encroachment procedures, disposal of lands, recycling and waste plan, handling of evidentiary procedure items and evaluation of programs and services. Of these missed standards, staff is already making strides to acquire this information to meet these standards and provide the evidence by September.

Suggestions given from the site visit team included; freshly implemented procedures need to have documentation to include meeting minutes and trainings. They recommended expansion of our policies into actual procedures that are detailed and show how the policies are fulfilled. The next

step in the accreditation process will take place in September where we will have a commission board review and official announcement of being selected as an accredited agency. Once accredited, the department will have to provide an update annually and at year five we will have to resubmit an application and do the processes over again excluding a commission board review at the national conference.

Board member Steve Rugh commented that 142 out of 151 standards which is 95%; this is an excellent scoring and accolades goes to the department for a job well done.

4b. – Playful City USA Update

Ms. Gomez reported that it is the departments fourth year as a Playful City USA. This recognition is given to agencies that are committed to excellence and provides opportunities for grant opportunities along with opening the department to a network with other Playful City USA communities and businesses.

Board member Steve Rugh asked if the programs such as fitness in the park will continue as part of this recognition program. Ms. Gomez replied that city staff is planning for these programs to continue in the fall and will continue to support the mission of Playful City USA.

4c. – El Rio Design Guidelines & Pilot Project

Mr. Wisener reported over the past eight months the neighboring cities of Avondale, Goodyear, and Maricopa County are working to create guidelines for the El Rio. The guidelines will detail trails, design, open edge treatment along the river and signage.

The El Rio Watercourse Master Plan was developed in the late 1990's due to the flooding of the Gila River. Since this time salt cedar has grown and as a result a new levy was to be built which would assist with controlling growth while providing recreation opportunities along the river. The existing flood plain had to increase largely in part to the salt cedars that have grown of the years. The flood control district is recommending a two prong approach to remove the salt cedars and replace with new native vegetation. The second approach would include a new levy which is very costly. The levy was going to be built in 2005 by developers; however, due to the economy this was discontinued. At this point the Flood Control District is working to come up with alternatives. The design guidelines and standards were approved by all agencies in 2013. Avondale is the administrator of the contract. Buckeye is the lead in coordination of agency meetings and promotion of meetings to the public. Collectively these agencies are working together to restore the river while providing recreational opportunities and design guidelines for future development. The design guidelines are standardized among the agencies for developers to provide consistency along the river which includes landscape and signage design.

The pilot project is identified as the 40 acres the city currently owns just south of the existing Buckeye Equestrian Center. This is conveniently located off of Miller Rd. Amenities that are planned would include picnic and ramada areas, RV and standard parking, pathways, connections to the southern river trail to BLM land and with future eastern and western trails off the El Rio.

Chairperson Teresa Bible asked if the Mayor recently met with officials in D.C. Mr. Wisener said this was correct. The mayor along with other officials went to D.C. to see how Buckeye can get federal permitting expedited as it pertains to removal of salt cedars and future development along the river. Ms. Bible asked if lighting for the signage would be placed at the pilot project site. Mr. Wisener affirmed various type of signage with lighting will be placed at this site to include throughout the county specifically on canal pathway systems, this way they are uniformed throughout the valley.

Board member Mros asked what exactly needs to happen to remove a salt cedar. Mr. Wisener mentioned it is an extensive process and will require dollars, permitting and time to remove the cedar altogether.

4d. – Reschedule September Meeting Date

Board member Chester Hetrick requested the meeting be moved after staff returns from the conference.

Board member Dr. Peace made the motion to reschedule the meeting to Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by board member Chester Hetrick. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Staff Report

Ms. Gomez reported that the department was awarded for the outstanding special event for the Buckeye Marathon which will be awarded at the Annual State Conference. She also mentioned the Skyline Park Ground Breaking took place last month with a great support of residents coming out. The 4th of July event went very well this year. The next release of the Eye on Buckeye will be released in the coming weeks. The Special Census is going to take place in Buckeye and the city is currently hiring for census workers. This will be a huge benefit to the city which will increase the state revenues that are provided to the city based on its new increased total population.

Mr. Sanchez reported the Little League District 2 state tournament is being played here in Buckeye which is great to have out of town visitors in our community.

6. Comments from the Chair and Board Members

Board member Sailor congratulated staff for the accreditation.

Board member Mros is very pleased with staff and the efforts they have made over the past several years. Ms. Mros reminded the board about the upcoming Senior Program Ball will be taking place on Friday, December 4th for those interested in attending. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Vice Chairperson Rugh asked if staff feels it would be beneficial to attend the Boards and Commissions day at the APRA Annual Conference this year in Tucson. Next year the conference will be in the west valley and it may be better to attend next year being that it is local and not in Tucson. Mr. Rugh still plans to attend the awards banquet. Mr. Rugh asked for an update on Skyline which Mr. Wisener mentioned the construction for the roadway is in progress and the contract for trail design and construction is up and coming in the next weeks. Mr. Rugh asked if the department has a logo and he suggested that the Facebook's of Police and Fire should be linked to the department's Facebook pages.

Chairperson Bible encouraged all board members to stay active and get out to the community.

7. Next Meeting– September 16 meeting moved to September 23 at 6:30 pm due to staff attending National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by Chairperson Teresa Bible and seconded by Board Member Hetrick. 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 July 15, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant