

MINUTES

Members Present:

Carolynn Hiron, Vice Chair
Chilesa Ready, Secretary
Doug Sutherland, Treasurer
Barb Patterson, Director
Bob McKenzie, Director
Gina Richard, Director

Members Absent:

Darrin Francom, Chair

Others Present:

Aaron Baker, Executive Director
Paul Conley, Sr. Director Finance
Scott Newell, Dir. of Programs & Aquatics
Mike Krask, Dir. of Parks and Facilities
John Safin, Communications Director
Jonathan Ebertshauser, Legal Counsel
Gay Johnson, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Hiron called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and recognized those in attendance.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Vice Chairman Hiron established a quorum with six Board members present.

CONSENT AGENDA/APPROVAL

Director McKenzie made a motion to adopt the agenda. Treasurer Sutherland seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Hiron to provide the Recording Secretary Director with typos and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Director Patterson seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS/FINANCIALS

i. Executive

Executive Director Aaron Baker supplied information regarding employee recognition in December for five, ten and twenty years of service, peer recognized Anthem Way Value awards, DLC received an Arizona Excellence in Landscaping Award for their work in Anthem, upcoming Jim Martin STEM Scholarships, American Red Cross Award received for years of support in partnering with blood drives, and sharing the passing of Alan Muller late last year, who was intimately involved with Friends of Daisy Mountain Trails.

ii. Programs

Director of Programs & Aquatics Scott Newell gave the report of activities including winter swim programs, lifeguard classes through the Spring and water slides project in Aquatics; upcoming fitness challenges for residents, gym and field programs, upcoming pickleball programs, past and planned pickleball tournaments in Fitness; SK8 Park is busy and vandalism numbers dipped from last year in Parks/Fields and Security; fun with winter camps, successful first Polar Express Night with the Railroad and showing of the movie, new art and sketching classes, the 10th Annual Father Daughter Dance on 2/17 in Youth/Family Programs; and Market in the Park will kick off 1/29 from 9am-1pm and will be running the second Sunday of every month.

iii. Operations

Director of Parks & Facilities Director Mike Krask gave the report of Facilities, Parks and Landscaping projects completed, in progress and upcoming.

iv. Financials

Sr. Director of Finance Paul Conley spoke on status of accounts. Full disclosure financial statements are posted at *OnlineAtAnthem.com* as part of the documents supporting the open meeting.

v. Communications

Communications Director John Safin reported the MLK Day Celebration was successful, despite the rainy weather, upcoming Anthem Days 3/25 and 26, and Friends of Daisy Mountain Town hall on 2/10 at 9am in Special Events; Community Resources Fair will be a free event on 2/15 to highlight service groups that can enhance the life of individuals or families, and the Anthem Job Fair in conjunction with the Anthem Area Chamber of Commerce will be in the north parking lot of the Civic Building on 2/25 in Communications.

Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the Staff Reports and Financials as presented. Secretary Ready seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee

Committee Chair Sutherland stated that there was a quorum, reviewing the Financial Reports provided previously, with a thorough conversations and concurred with the outcome of those reports. New business going through the cost estimates relative to each of the Facilities Master Plan projects and concurred with the approach taken. Next meeting is scheduled for 2/21, reviewing our investment program and welcoming any member of the board to attend.

Secretary Ready made a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report. Director McKenzie seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Daisy Mountain Railroad Agreement**

Executive Director Baker provided background on the agreement, including clerical updates and terms and conditions updated by legal counsel. Discussion of train expense, maintenance costs, the ability to terminate the agreement.

Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the Daisy Mountain Railroad Agreement as presented. Treasurer Sutherland seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

B. North Lawn Facilities Master Plan Project

Executive Director Baker introduced Project Manager Kevin Foster who supplied a recommendation of Unique Landscaping to be approved for the project. He further explained the quote process from three highly qualified general contractors to upgrade the area north of the Community Center for additional activities for youth programming and camps to include artificial turf and shade, along with leveling/improved drainage of the area. Unique Landscaping is recommended due to the May completion deadline promised, competitive pricing, and meeting expectations. Long time vendor, AZ Shade, will provide shade structures, as previously supplied at the SK8 Park, Water Park, and tennis courts. Discussion included comparison of other contractors/subcontracting, and previous use of Unique Landscaping.

Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the North Lawn Facilities Master Plan Project as proposed. Director Patterson seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Tennis Court #1 Facilities Master Plan Project

Project Manager Kevin Foster provided background of Facilities Master Plan project to include an upgraded court and make Tennis Court #1 the premier court to play on. Improvements to include site prep, artificial turf, landscape enhancements, sitting area with benches and shade. Projected final cost will be less than the budgeted amount. Discussion regarding work with the contractor previously, feedback from the community, and utilization of the court.

Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the Tennis Court #1 Facilities Master Plan Project as proposed. Treasurer Sutherland seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

D. Civic Building Audio Visual Equipment

Executive Director Baker introduced Assistant Project Manager Aaron Brown who provided background of the current system installed in 2014, the components for the upgrade, bid process with two vendors (Western Audio and CCS Services) out of seven invited, scope of work and goal to finish by year end. Recommendation for Western Audio based on less than satisfying previous experience with current vendor CCS Services, positive response from current Western Audio customers, final cost is slightly less. Discussion took place on streaming capability, technology, needs, and energy use compliance.

Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the Civic Building Audio Visual Equipment proposal with the addition of streaming capabilities. Director Patterson seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

E. Reserve Study Vendor Approval

Executive Director Baker provided the background and proposal for Kessler Criterium Engineers to update the Reserve Study. Senior Finance Director Paul Conley expanded on the background with Kessler Criterium and recommendation is based on non-responsiveness of other firms, current vendor institutional knowledge, additional labor and training involved with a new vendor, reasonable pricing and completion prior to May 31st.

Director McKenzie made a motion to approve the recommendation to retain Kessler Criterium Engineers to conduct the Reserve Study for 2023. Director Richard seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Resident Kris Madson commented on the new mailbox replacement, her appreciation of the improvement, but is concerned about the communication via mail carrier and the delay of the receipt of the notification. Timing was not ideal. Suggestion of notification to be placed on the mailboxes at least a week in advance. Board was appreciative of the suggestion.

Resident Ron Jerich voiced his appreciation to Mike Krask and his team for prompt action taken for a view fence with outstanding performance and on time. He then asked the status of the Kendricks Field proposal. Executive Director Baker and staff assured Mr. Jerich that they are in regular contact with the organization regarding the agreement and are awaiting a response.

Resident Bryan Stovall voiced his concern about the difference between the east and west side of Anthem, specifically landscaping, decorative rock, tree removal/replacement, and lack of holiday lighting. Board was appreciative of the comments and will work with staff.

Approximately twenty Public Comment Forms were submitted regarding the development of Hastings Field project considered by the Facilities Master Plan Committee as a potential future project, not yet started. Vice Chair Hiron, Executive Director Baker, Treasurer/FMP Committee Chair Sutherland explained that this was not an agenda item and that the board is not considering it yet, the availability of the project proposal via the website, notifications that were provided to the community during the multi-month process, the design concept process, opportunities to provide input/ public process prior to construction, willingness of the board and staff to be open and transparent. Concerns and suggestions included lack notification or signage at the park regarding the proposal, tranquility of the neighborhood, traffic control, safety, parking issues, removal of the project from the plan, confusion about the name, retaining the open green space, preservation of the park setting, redundancy of an additional park restroom, increased traffic, and possibility of another survey.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:
Chilesa Ready
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2/23/2023

Chilesa Ready, Secretary
On Behalf of the Anthem Community Council Board of Directors