

**REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COCONINO COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.02
February 3, 2022
4:00pm
Internet/Web Based Video Conference Call
Microsoft Teams**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Chair Daniel Hiel. Vice Chair Howard Brown was present. Commissioners Steve Mongrain, Brian Blue, Mary Hendricks, Ellen Parish and Jean Marie Rieck were also present. Staff in attendance were Cynthia Nemeth (Parks and Recreation Director), Liz Krug (Parks and Recreation Assistant Director) and taking minutes, Kayla Cooper (Administrative Specialist II).

2. Parks and Recreation Commission Purpose

The purpose in establishing the Coconino County Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) is to provide a citizen body responsive to the communities and people of Coconino County and to recommend a policy regarding the development and operations of a well-balanced system of parks, programs, trails, and events.

3. Approval of the Minutes from meeting January 6, 2022

January Minutes were approved with edits.

4. Public Appearances/Introductions/Call to the Public

Erin Beckett, Friends of Coconino County Parks (FCCP) Chair.

New Business

5. Flagstaff Extreme Expansion Proposal

Assistant Director Liz Krug shared a PowerPoint presentation including image renderings on the Flagstaff Extreme Expansion Proposal which is being called "The White House". Flagstaff Extreme Adventure Course proposes to use an existing unused building (The Guard Shack, ~620 sq. ft.) and its surroundings as a "fun, kitschy, village market/beer garden-style operation." They also plan to develop their corporate team building offerings. The venue could also be used for other events. The concept is for people to be outside and products inside with concession opportunities including coffee, snacks,

drinks, branded merchandise, clothing, and other convenience items. They will also offer park-related rentals including disc golf, snowshoes, birding supplies, hiking items and possibly outdoor axe throwing.

Krug then shared a list of the proposal elements which included food service, surrounding the building with shade and vegetation, parking, restrooms, and the number of days and hours of operation. The length and revenue elements of the proposal included a 10-year term with one 5-year option, 5% of gross revenue going to CCPR with no minimum, an out clause at the end of year two, insurance requirements, free use for local nonprofit events, to operate approximately 180 days in the first two years, and to donate .25% of the revenue to the FCCP. The next steps include developing a draft contract, the input of the PRC, meeting with the Board of Supervisors (BOS), presenting at a BOS meeting, and the approval of the contract.

Assistant Director Krug then opened the topic up for questions and comments.

Chair Hiel asked if there will be guidelines regarding the preservation of the historical buildings. Assistant Director Krug responded that yes, the building is listed on the historic registry. Commissioner Parish then asked if the proposal conflicted with preserving the building in its current state. Krug answered that the integrity of the exterior of the building is what must be preserved, and that the proposal does state that they will keep the exterior the same.

Chair Mongrain then asked a couple of questions. The first was how have the other partners responded to this proposal and the second was regarding the term of gross revenue and whether that means gross or net profit.

Director Nemeth responded that the campground was supportive of the proposal and felt it would add value to their clientele. Nemeth added that the Flagstaff Snow Park was also aware of the proposal. She noted Flagstaff Snow Park had submitted their own proposal with many of the same features as Flag Extreme as well as many entertainment/attraction elements. Nemeth then stated that R- Entertainment was one partner that CCPR had not reached out to but needed to have a conversation with them about the proposal. In response to Commissioner Mongrain's second question, Nemeth answered that the revenue was measured in gross not net profits.

Commissioner Blue then asked if anyone from the public could access the facility to which Assistant Director Krug answered yes. Commissioner Blue then added that he was opposed to the ax throwing concept and felt it was disingenuous to the indigenous population. He then added that he loved the greenery and landscaping concept in the aerial view renderings. Next, Blue asked if the sewer line would go to this building.

Director Nemeth replied that the new sewer line project will include a line that will go to the campground and directly by the proposals location in which they plan to include stub-out for the building.

Commissioner Blue then added that the 5% revenue share seemed low as CCPR is providing the land, the building, and parking. Director Nemeth responded that if the proposal were to move forward and were to also sell beer and wine, CCPR would collect revenue from the alcohol sales. For example, CCPR collects 17% of alcohol sells from the amphitheater, so they would like to do something very similar here. There would be an additional revenue share stream.

Commissioner Parish commented that the proposal is fantastic. She feels the ax throwing activity fits in well with the other activities one can do at Fort Tuthill County Park and that their efforts to allow free usage for non-profits is a great idea.

Commissioner Hendricks then added that she feels the ax throwing could be dangerous and public safety should be considered.

Vice Chair Brown then added his comments on the proposal. Brown feels that the 5% revenue share is low and should be reevaluated based on their revenue projections. Brown then added that he also supports the ax throwing concept but would like to see more information on build out costs.

Chair Hiel concluded the discussion.

6. Pam Foti Recognition Update

Director Nemeth led a discussion on a plan to recognize long-serving Commissioner Foti. Nemeth explained that CCPR is currently working with some of Foti's university colleagues to prepare her biography and accomplishments to be shared with the public. There are a few recognition ideas also being considered including a bench, trailhead, or tree being dedicated to her. With the trailhead being the preferred recognition idea, Nemeth explained that she is working with Operations and Maintenance to see if the path at Peaks View County Park or the Copeland Trailhead could be viable options.

Nemeth then opened the discussion up to the group to which Chair Hiel commented that they are all great options. Commissioner Blue added that time is of the essence and that we need to act quickly. Commissioner Mongrain and Parish then commented that the trail idea seemed fitting as Foti is an avid hiker.

7. Follow up on PRC goals

Chair Hiel led the group on a follow-up discussion on PRC goals.

Director Nemeth began the discussion by sharing CCPR's input on the PRC goals and objectives. The management team appreciated that the PRC was evaluating their goals and objectives and had comments on different items from the list. CCPR felt it would be beneficial to understand what the constituents of each district thought about trail connectivity and trail connectivity between the districts. They also felt that the PRC could be instrumental in helping tell CCPR's story and helping the community understand what it is they offer. They also felt that making the Friends of Coconino County Parks (FCCP) a major funding source was an important objective.

Chair Hiel then opened this discussion up for comments and questions. Commissioner Blue commented that in the next meeting, the group should finalize or select their top two goals or objectives.

10. Upcoming Board of Supervisor Agenda Items*

**Confirm agenda item dates and times before attending. Board agenda is subject to last minute changes.*

Reports

1. Director's Report

Director Nemeth began the report by reporting on the ARPA grant that CCPR received will leave the \$1.1 million in the public private partnership funds. These funds were originally slated to for the project. Nemeth added that Assistant Director Krug led the efforts and initially wrote the grant along with many other successful grants. Nemeth then added that CCPR is also looking to start working on a Heritage Historic Preservation Grant if funds are still available and a trails grant.

Krug then updated the group on the other ARPA grant that was received. Ricky Conway, the CCPR County Fair Manager. has been in communication Arizona State Fairs Association representatives because there were ARPA funds available from the Governor's office. These ARPA funds would help county fairs across the state to address the impacts that they felt during COVID. CCPR is currently finalizing that grant contract and then it will get presented as a consent item for the Board of Supervisors to approve.

Krug then ended her report by adding that the CCPR staff are working diligently towards two interpretive panels at Harrenburg Wash and two at Sawmill County Park with a graphic interpretive designer who is based out of Prescott and that the renaming of Sawmill County Park will be taking place this June.

2. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mongrain reported on what was happening in the Page, AZ area. The mayor and City Council in Page had asked that the manager of Parks and Recreation start looking into hosting more events beginning with a fine arts festival. Page will have its first event in April 2022, and they are looking for 40 to 60 qualified art vendors. Mongrain also reported that he was meeting with a representative of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to discuss geographic information systems of trails. The goal is to have a map created that shows all the trails in and around the area, even into southern Utah.

Commissioner Parish reported that the Diablo Trust annual meeting is being held on February 25th, 2022, and they will be focusing on recreation issues.

Lastly Director Nemeth added that CCPR is still working on scheduling the park tours for the commission and they will have an update soon.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Notice:

*Next Friends of Coconino County Parks Meeting: March 9, 2022, **Microsoft Teams***

*Next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting: March 3, 2022, **Microsoft Teams***

**Coconino County
Parks & Recreation Commission**

Daniel Hiel
Daniel Hiel, Chair

**Coconino County
Parks & Recreation Department**

Kayla Cooper
Kayla Cooper
Secretary to the Commission