

**ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD
ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD ROOM
1300 W. Washington St, Phoenix, AZ
MAY 19, 2010
DRAFT MINUTES**

Board Members Present

Reese Woodling, Chairman
William Scalzo
Walter Armer
Maria Baier (arrived at 9:18 a.m.)
Alan Everett

Board Members Absent

Tracey Westerhausen, Vice-Chair
Larry Landry

Staff Members Present

Renée Bahl, Executive Director
Jay Ream, Assistant Director, Parks
Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director, Partnerships and External Affairs
Kent Ennis, Assistant Director, Administration
Monica Enriquez, Executive Assistant
Ellen Bilbrey, Public Information Officer
Brad McNeill, Chief, Information Technology
Jeanette Hall, Chief, Human Resources
Janet Hawks, Chief, Parks

Attorney General's Office

Laurie Hachtel, Assistant Attorney General
Joy Hernbrode, Assistant Attorney General

A. CALL TO ORDER FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION - ROLL CALL - Time Certain: 9:00 A.M.

Mr. Scalzo made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. Mr. Armer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Woodling called for Executive Session at 9:00 a.m.

- B. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Upon a public majority vote, the Board may hold an Executive Session that is not open to the public for the following purposes:
- 1. To discuss or consult with its legal counsel of legal advice on matters listed on this agenda pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3)&(4)**
 - a. Legal advice regarding settlement discussions in the Little Colorado River Adjudications and their potential impact on Arizona State Parks.**

C. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL – Time Certain: 10:00 A.M.

Chairman Woodling called the Public Session to order at 10 a.m. Roll Call indicated a quorum was present.

D. INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF

Board Statement - "As Board members we are gathered today to be the stewards and voice of Arizona State Parks and its Mission Statement to manage and conserve

Arizona's natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of the people, both in our parks and through our partners."

The Board and staff introduced themselves.

- E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Board must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.

Chairman Woodling noted that the Parks Board meeting was videotaped.

Drew John, Graham County Board of Supervisors, spoke in support of keeping Roper Lake State Park open. He said he hoped the Board would vote to enter into the agreement for Roper Lake. He thanked the Board for their stance on the Lake Havasu bill.

Dan Field, County Administrator, La Paz County said on Monday he was authorized to execute an agreement with State Parks. He said Vice Mayor John Cook has worked on fundraising efforts to keep Alamo Lake State Park open.

Mr. Scalzo commented that cooperation from Counties have led the way to keep parks open. He applauded the Counties and the Cities efforts. He said these are great partnerships that can be expanded upon to work in the future. Chairman Woodling noted that the Friends groups at the parks and individuals have also stepped up to the plate.

Marilyn Ruggles, spoke to the Board about the Legislature. She reminded the Board and public that some legislators did vote in favor of State Parks and some of the legislators should be kept and not voted out. She said this should be educated to others as well and to remember this when voting.

Claudine Mohny, Benefactors of Red Rock, spoke in support of Red Rock State Park. She said she wanted to thank a number of people that helped with the agreement. She thanked Supervisor Chip Davis. She said he was the first person to step forward on the Benefactors behalf. She also thanked Annie Welch, City of Sedona, Parks staff including Director Renée Bahl, Assistant Director Jay Ream, Janet Hawks, Ellen Bilbrey and the Parks Board.

Birgit Lowenstein, Benefactors of Red Rock, spoke about a long-term solution for the parks. She asked about legislation that might be introduced to get permanent funding. She was interested in knowing the process for legislation. She also spoke in support of Red Rock State Park. She asked if there could be more advertising or promotion that the parks are now open for business. Chairman Woodling noted that Ellen Bilbrey does a great job of getting news out and also said that down the road he had hope for an initiative for a permanent funding source. He noted these agreements are temporary fixes.

Mark LaResche, Friends of Lost Dutchman State Park, spoke in support of Lost Dutchman State Park. He thanked some people for their efforts in supporting Lost Dutchman. He thanked Mitzi Rinehart, Steve Filipowicz from the City of Apache Junction and he thanked the Parks Board. He also thanked parks staff including Jay Ream, Ellen Bilbrey and Rick Knotts who came to support the Friends of Lost Dutchman's fundraising event. He said the Board asked the Friends to raise \$24,000 and they raised \$30,000. He invited the Board to have the October meeting in Apache Junction.

Mr. Armer said he was in Tubac earlier in the week for the signing of the agreement. He said it was a wonderful event and many people were there. He said to the people there and wanted to say it again to not let the enthusiasm die down.

F. CONSENT AGENDA – The following items of a non-controversial nature have been grouped together for a single vote without Board discussion. The Consent Agenda is a timesaving device and Board members received documentation regarding these items prior to the open meeting. Any Board member may remove any item from the Consent Agenda for discussion and a separate vote at this meeting, as deemed necessary. The public may view the documentation relating to the Consent Agenda at the Board's office: 1300 W. Washington, Suite 104, Phoenix, Arizona.

- 1. Approve Minutes of April 21, 2010 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting**
- 2. Approve Executive Session Minutes of April 21, 2010 Parks Board Meeting**
- 3. Approve Minutes of April 29, 2010 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting**
- 4. Approve Executive Session Minutes of April 29, 2010 Parks Board Meeting**
- 5. Consider Re-awarding the RTP Motorized Portion Grant for Saffel Canyon Trail Renovations to the Economic Development for Apache County Corporation** – Staff recommends canceling the award of \$276,300 from the RTP Motorized Portion grant fund made to the Town of Eagar on November 13, 2009 for the Saffel Canyon Trail Renovation project, and awarding RTP Motorized Portion grant funds in the amount of \$276,300 to the Economic Development for Apache County Corporation for the Saffel Canyon Trail Renovation project.

Ms. Baier made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mr. Armer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Bahl said she had some good news to report since the last meeting. She said the 10th anniversary Verde Valley Birding Festival was held at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. She said State Parks received \$12,000 in revenue and this was the highest visitation for this event in 10 years.

Ms. Bahl said there is a display at the Tucson International Airport Park over baggage carousel one. She said it was designed in-house and features Catalina, Kartchner Caverns and Patagonia Lake State Parks. She said Tucson Airport receives 2 million visitors annually. She said it is a reminder not just for visitors but also for the local residents. The display will be up for a year-and-a-half. Chairman Woodling asked what the cost of that was and if it is part of the advertising budget. Ms. Bahl responded that it is part of the advertising budget and the cost was \$1,100. She said the airport gave State Parks a discount and it was designed in-house so the cost was printing.

Ms. Bahl said the Friends of Lost Dutchman have hosted fundraising events and have raised over \$26,000 as mentioned in the public comments. She said the Arizona Highways promotion, as mentioned in the last meeting, is a great success. She said when people subscribe to Arizona Highways, \$5 of the total subscription fee, will be donated to the park of their choice. She said in the first month over 100 new subscriptions have been collected and donations to parks have already been received. She said more is expected as

people renew their subscriptions. She said last meeting she also mentioned the Bashas' program. There, people could donate money to Parks, when they shopped at Bashas'. She said that promotion raised over \$20,000 in a one-month period. She said that is the most that any charity has made with them. Ms. Baier asked if it was all of the Bashas' stores across the state. Ms. Bahl responded affirmatively. She said the Foundation is talking to Bashas' about doing this promotion again next year. Mr. Scalzo noted that it was advertised in their food ads as well. Ms. Bahl said there was also a partnership through the Foundation with Dasani Water. When people bought Dasani bottled water, some of the sale amount was donated to the Foundation. She said the goal of \$5,000 was easily made. She said the money will be used to help with recycling and garbage bags. This promotion advertised State Parks for free for a whole month.

Ms. Bahl said on the 26th of May, a ribbon cutting for the new facility at Slide Rock, will take place. Park tours are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and the ribbon cutting at 11:15 a.m. She said, as Mr. Armer mentioned earlier, there was a signing ceremony on May 17 with Santa Cruz County and the Tubac Historical Society to operate Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. She said over 100 people attended and was standing room only. She said on May 29, there will be a signing ceremony with the City of Tombstone for the operation of Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park. She said this is good news all around. She said it is mildly bittersweet for State Parks but it is better to have an open park than a closed park. Mr. Armer noted that Channel 13 in Tucson did a short piece on the event. Mr. Chairman asked Mr. LeResche if another benefit ride for Lost Dutchman is scheduled. Mr. LeResche said it is scheduled for March 26, 2011.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Legislative Update

Mr. Ziemann referred to the attachment on the screen and said there was nothing to add to that. That is included with these minutes. Mr. Armer asked if Mr. Ziemann foresees a special session coming up in the near future. Mr. Ziemann answered that since Prop. 100 passed, he does not foresee a session in the near future. Ms. Lowenstein asked if there is anything on the horizon for the Legislature. Mr. Ziemann answered that it has been mentioned that Sustainable Funding is needed for State Parks. He said there will be discussions in the next meeting with the Parks Board and the Governor's Task Force on Sustainable State Parks will reconvene on June 2 and the discussion will be reported on in the next meeting.

2. Update on revenue forecast, cash balance, operating budget, cash flow by fund and park visitation

Mr. Ennis spoke about revenues in the Enhancement Fund. He said there was a sharp increase in revenues in April. By comparison with last year, revenues are up this month by 50% with looking at the entire park system. He said the reason for the increase is due to the fee increase. That is particularly evident when system-wide park attendance is looked at. The attendance has declined compared to last year. He said that is due to unseasonably cold weather. Some of the parks have been doing phenomenally well including Catalina and Picacho Peak. He said, looking system-wide and year-to-date, attendance is down as a whole by 5.6%. However, looking at parks that State Parks manage now and year-to-date, the decline is only 1%. He said revenues are even more pronounced when looking at parks that State Parks still manages and take into account, decreased hours, etc. He said overall

the Enhancement Fund is good news. He said the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) continues to perform exactly on schedule and on forecast. He said State Parks will end up about 25% more than thought last August. The Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Fund is running about 10% below forecast. That is the decal fee that went into effect last year. He said overall about \$80-90,000 will be made over forecast. Mr. Scalzo commented that not all of the money made from the OHV Recreation Fund is put into the park system. He said some of it is given out through grants. He said the fees may increase when more grants are distributed. Mr. Ennis said interest funds continued to disappoint. This is because of the declining of revenue and balances.

3. Update on State Park Construction Projects

Mr. Ream said there are four major construction projects.

Mr. Ream said the Buckskin Mountain/River Island project is shoreline stabilization. He said the well has already been designed and should go out to bid. The shoreline stabilization and the River Island restroom/shower building are being designed in-house. The design for the River Island water treatment plant is being updated to meet standards. This project is a Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) project with federal funds matched by the Heritage Fund. Completion is expected in late Fall or Early Winter 2010.

Mr. Ream said the main problem at Jerome State Historic Park was the parapet wall. Now the wall has been relayed with new adobe. Concrete has been placed over the red brick that will carry the weight and hold in water. The project has been ongoing for over a year because the damage was extensive. Chairman Woodling asked if this project has remained within budget. Mr. Ream answered affirmatively. He said some smaller projects may be funded by the Foundation.

Mr. Ream said the project at Lost Dutchman State park will begin in late July after it is bid. It is another LWCF project with federal funds set aside for park projects such as this and matched by the Heritage Fund. It is expected to be completed in the Fall or Winter. The project includes a new restroom and shower building. It will be designed in-house and be similar to the one at Buckskin/River Island. The project also includes electrification of 38 campsites and making water available in the campsites as well. With the electrification, the fees will be increased so there is considerably more revenue to be made there. Chairman Woodling asked if the new restroom would be a modular unit that would be brought in and set. Mr. Ream answered that these are modular constructed concrete buildings. They are delivered on trucks and dropped off on cranes.

Mr. Ream said the final project is the water treatment plant at Slide Rock State Park. This is charged water from another wastewater treatment plant to help build up the filtering system. This is a state of the art system and uses biological barriers and filters the system to treat the water as it goes through. He said that is being charged up and will be ready for the ribbon cutting the following week. This is a LWCF project with federal funds matched by the Heritage Fund. This is also part of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) consent order. The water is treated because of potential pollution to Oak Creek Canyon. He said the water will be reused to continuously flush toilets. It will be treated, stored, and used again to flush. It will create a closed system and if it creates more water than can be used, the water will be used for irrigation or fire fighting. Mr. Scalzo asked if LWCF funds coming back will be matched. Ms. Bahl answered that right now there is no match and State Parks will need to find partners for those projects. Mr. Scalzo said if there was a project in a particular County or City and they could come forward with a match,

then State Parks could get LWCF money to projects in various counties and cities in this state and that would benefit State Parks. He said this might be a way to do projects and make the parks better attractions as far as economic development.

I. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Alamo Lake** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with La Paz County for the continued operation of Alamo Lake State Park.

Mr. Ream said, as Mr. Field mentioned earlier, Vice-Mayor John Cook held a barbecue. At this event \$30,000 was raised to help fund the agreement to keep Alamo Lake State Park open. The major components of the agreement include a one-year with two additional one-year increments. Arizona State Parks will staff the park and La Paz County will provide \$30,000 to operate the park in FY 2011. The Parks Board will retain all fees. Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with La Paz County for the continued operation of Alamo Lake State Park.

Maria Baier: I move the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with La Paz County for the continued operation of Alamo Lake State Park.

Mr. Armer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

- 2. Lost Dutchman** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with the Friends of Lost Dutchman State Park for the continued operation of Lost Dutchman State Park.

Mr. Ream said this has a revised board report. He said initially State Parks was going to enter into an agreement with the Friends of Lost Dutchman. However, the Friends has not formed as a corporation yet. Since they are an affiliate of the Arizona State Parks Foundation where the funds are deposited, the agreement will be with the Arizona State Parks Foundation. At the Arizona State Parks Foundation meeting, Cristie Statler, Executive Director, asked the Foundation Board to vote to provide \$24,000 to keep the park open. The Foundation did approve that. This agreement is for one year. Arizona State Parks staff will operate the park during the construction period. The trailhead and day-use areas will remain open while the campground is closed for construction from July 6-October 1, 2010. After that some parts of the campground that are not affected by construction will be reopened. Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement for the continued operation of Lost Dutchman State Park.

Bill Scalzo: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement for the continued operation of Lost Dutchman State Park.

Mr. Armer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

- 3. Picacho Peak** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with the City of Eloy for the continued operation of Picacho Peak State Park.

Mr. Ream said the City of Eloy was one of the first communities to contact State Parks when the Director sent out a letter for assistance from the communities. The agreement was funded by the City of Eloy from their General Fund. The agreement is a one-year agreement with an

additional two one-year periods optional. Arizona State Parks will operate the park and the City will provide \$24,000 for the operation. The Parks Board will retain the fees. Staff recommends the Arizona State Parks endorse the major components of the agreement with the City of Eloy for the continued operation of Picacho Peak State Park.

Maria Baier: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with the City of Eloy for the continued operation of Picacho Peak State Park.

Mr. Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

4. **Red Rock** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Yavapai County for the continued operation of Red Rock State Park.

Mr. Ream said no other agreement comes close to approaching this one in fundraising. The total agreement is for \$160,000. Yavapai County is the primary in this agreement but they couldn't do it with the City of Sedona and the Benefactors of Red Rock especially Claudine Mohny and Birgit Lowenstein. This will be a one-year agreement with two one-year periods. The total funding is \$160,000. Arizona State Parks staff will operate the park on a 7-day per week schedule. The Parks Board will retain the fees. Staff recommends the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Yavapai County for the continued operation of Red Rock State Park. Ms. Bahl clarified that the agreement is for one year with two one-year extensions. She said in hand there is enough money to keep the park open through October 31st. About a month before October 31st, Yavapai County will let State Parks know if they have the additional \$110,000 to keep the park open for the entire fiscal year. Chairman Woodling then clarified that if the extra \$110,000 is raised, then the park will remain open through June 30, 2011.

Alan Everett: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Yavapai County for the continued operation of Red Rock State Park.

Ms. Baier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

5. **Roper Lake** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Graham County for the continued operation of Roper Lake State Park.

Mr. Ream said this agreement is unique in that it is for in-kind services. The agreement is for one-year with two additional one-year periods optional for renewal. The Park will be operated by a reduced Arizona State Parks staff. The in-kind services will include vehicle repair, fire extinguisher and servicing, water sampling and testing, sewage pumping, and most importantly, inmate labor with supervision. They will take over much of the maintenance of the park and staff will be responsible for retaining fees, law enforcement and other duties. The fees will be retained by the Parks Board. Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Graham County for the continued operation of Roper Lake State Park.

Chairman Woodling asked if the Game and Fish department is involved in this agreement. Mr. Ream said the agreement is with Graham County. As property owners of the land that Roper Lake sits on, Game and Fish has been involved with this agreement and provided \$20,000 to keep the park open through this date. He thanked Game and Fish for the money

and said State Parks will continue to work with Game and Fish on other partnerships. Chairman Woodling asked if this agreement also ends June 30, 2011. Ms. Bahl answered affirmatively.

Walter Armer: I move the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Graham County for the continued operation of Roper Lake State Park.

Ms. Baier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

6. Consider Alterations of Planned Park Closures – Staff recommends the Arizona State Parks Board consider revising park closure dates in anticipation of implementing operating agreements.

Mr. Ream began by discussing parks that are currently closed to the public.

- Homolovi Ruins State Park – He said staff is working with partners such as the Hopi Tribe, Navajo County and the City of Winslow. There is some potential for an agreement with those entities but talks are still preliminary.
- Jerome State Historic Park – He said the Board should see an agreement with Yavapai County, and possibly with the Jerome Historical Society, at an upcoming meeting.
- McFarland State Historic Park – He said the Board should see an agreement with the Town of Florence at the June Board meeting.
- Oracle State Park – He said this park is currently closed but there are special events going on there organized the Friends of Oracle State Park. One event is on June 13 from 7-9 p.m., Beau Renfro will perform. Mr. Scalzo asked if Oracle is in Pima or Pinal County? Mr. Ream answered Pinal. Mr. Scalzo asked if Pinal County was helping with any of the parks in that county. Mr. Ream answered that State Parks has no agreements with Pinal County. Ms. Bahl said staff have talked to Pinal County and will continue to talk to them. She noted that they have the most parks of any county in Pinal County. She said Rep. Pratt has been supportive and staff has also talked to at least one Board of Supervisor. Chairman Woodling asked when Oracle is open, is there parks staff there? Mr. Ream answered yes. Chairman Woodling asked if the trails are open? Mr. Ream answered that you can traverse through the Arizona Trail even though the Park is closed.
- San Rafael State Natural Area – Mr. Ream noted that this park has never been open to the public. He said, however, staff has been approached to discuss protection of the grazing there. An agreement to allow grazing on the acreage owned by Arizona State Parks may come at the June Board Meeting. Mr. Armer said he has supported this as a fire standpoint if for no other reason.

Mr. Ream then discussed parks open to the public by agreement.

- Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park – He said Boyce Thompson Arboretum is being operated by University of Arizona and Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Inc. Chairman Woodling asked if the Picket Post House was closed and protected? Mr. Ream answered affirmatively and said there are many volunteers there that take care of the grounds. He said it is not open to the public but it is open for special tours and fundraisers.

- Fort Verde State Historic Park – He said this park is being operated by Arizona State Parks with help from the Town of Camp Verde.
- Lyman Lake State Park – He said this park will open May 24 under an agreement with Apache County through September 7.
- Riordan Mansion State Historic Park – He said this is almost a finalized signed agreement with the Arizona Historical Society. This will be co-operated by Arizona State Parks staff and Arizona Historical Society staff. He said volunteers will carry the rest of the burden including fundraising.
- Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park – He said this park is being operated by the City of Tombstone. He noted that some of the City Staff include former State Parks employees.
- Tonto Natural Bridge State Park – He said this park is being operated through September 27 under an agreement with the City of Payson.
- Tubac Presidio State Historic Park – He said this park is being operated under an agreement with Santa Cruz County and the Tubac Historical Society.
- Yuma Prison and Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park – He said these parks are being operated by the City of Yuma.

Mr. Ream said the Board took action at this meeting on the Parks that were slated to close on June 3. These parks include Alamo Lake State Park, Lost Dutchman State Park, Picacho Peak State Park, Red Rock State Park and Roper Lake State Park.

Mr. Ream said there is some governance action needed for Lost Dutchman State Park. He said staff recommends the Arizona State Parks Board temporarily close the campground at Lost Dutchman State Park on July 6, 2010 and reopen campsites not affected by construction on or about October 1, 2010.

Bill Scalzo: I move the Arizona State Parks Board temporarily close the campground at Lost Dutchman State Park on July 6, 2010 and reopen campsites not affected by construction on or about October 1, 2010.

Ms. Baier and Mr. Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

Mr. Ream said the remaining nine parks were never slated to close because of their potential for revenue.

7. **Concession Contract at Dead Horse Ranch State Park** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into negotiations and a contract for concession services at Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

Mr. Ennis said Dead Horse Ranch State Park is a 423-acre park along the Verde River Greenway. He said about 175,000 people per year, camp, fish, hike and picnic there. He said there is not a concession there at this time. He said staff is proposing to put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to get bids to have a concession building there. There may also be an operator there for guided trail rides, boat rentals, bicycle rentals and appliance rentals. He said the RFP will be ready to go in late May and the process would take no more than 120 days. The concessionaire should provide in the bid plans to construct building of no less than 1,400 square feet to sell the picnic items. The contract would not

exceed 10 years. He said typically the concessions contracts are for a maximum of three years. The concession will also be required to have revenue sharing features. He said staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into negotiations and contract for concession services at Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

Chairman Woodling asked Reese if State Parks retains ownership of the building or does the concessionaire retain ownership? Mr. Ennis answered that it is our expectation for State Parks to retain ownership.

Alan Everett: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into negotiations and a contract for concession services at Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

Mr. Armer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

- 8. Consider Approving Proposed Adjustments to Kartchner Caverns State Park User Fees** – Staff recommends the Arizona State Parks Board authorize staff to seek public comments pertaining to the proposed Kartchner Caverns State Park fee revision, as presented, and return to the Parks Board for action in the Fall of 2010.

Mr. Ream said fees are generally reviewed by staff in the summer and are brought to the Parks Board in the Fall. At that time staff asks the Board to go out for public comment from the public and the Board. Finally, based on the public comment, staff brings a recommendation to the Board in January. He said this year that did not happen until March. Kartchner Caverns State Park fees are typically kept under separate review. He said it is now time to review both the fees and operations at Kartchner Caverns. Staff is asking the Board to look at both of these simultaneously as staff asks the Board to approve the public comments.

The fees that are being recommended to change are those of the Rotunda/Throne Room fee. It was kept lower than the Big Room Tour fee. However, this has caused confusion with the public as they thought the Big Room tour was better. In a way to keep the tours equal, staff is recommending raising the Rotunda/Throne Room tour to that of the Big Room tour. The cave tour would change from \$9.95 to \$12.95 for ages 7-13, and from \$18.95 to \$22.95 for adults. That fee does include a \$3.00 reservation fee within it. This fee funds the reservation system and the reservation staff. This will provide consistency in tour prices and the change will provide modification in cave operations that will better reflect the seasonality of the park today. The busy season is Christmas through April. The bat season, when the bats are in the Big Room, and only the Rotunda/Throne Room is operated. There is also a season in August, September and October where visitation declines. Another change would be to close the Rotunda/Throne Room and let it rest and only hold tours into the Big Room. Ms. Baier asked if the Board is authorizing staff to make the changes in operations or authorizing staff to seek public comments? Mr. Ream said staff is asking the Board to authorize staff to seek public comments. He said staff recommends the Arizona State Parks Board authorize staff to seek public comments pertaining to the proposed Kartchner Caverns State Park fee revision, as presented, and return to the Parks Board for action in the Fall of 2010. The changes in operations will be addressed in the budget actions.

Mr. Scalzo asked if the Board is required to take public comments? Ms. Bahl answered that it is not required but is something the Board has done in the past. She said if the public comments are taken and the Board approves the changes, the new fees would take effect when both caves reopened on December 15, 2010. She noted staff is still working on an online reservation system and time would help State Parks. Chairman Woodling said public comments are in the best interest of the Parks Board.

Maria Baier: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board authorize staff to seek public comments pertaining to the proposed Kartchner Caverns State Park fee revision, as presented, and return to the Parks Board for action in the Fall of 2010.

Mr. Armer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Westerhausen and Mr. Landry absent.

J. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Staff recommends that the next Arizona State Parks Board Meeting be on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 15-16, 2010.

Chairman Woodling said the next meeting is a two-day meeting for the budget. Ms. Bahl said the meeting will be at Tonto Natural Bridge and the Parks Board may stay at the lodge. Both days are open to the public. She said June 15th will be a discussion/brain storming and June 16th will be the board action items. There may be an executive session.

2. Board members may wish to discuss issues of interest to Arizona State Parks and request staff to place specific items on future Board meeting agendas.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Baier motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the acting ADA Coordinator, Nicole Armstrong-Best, (602) 542-7152; or TTY (602) 542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

APPROVED:

Reese Woodling

Reese Woodling, Chairman

Renée E. Bahl

Renée E. Bahl, Executive Director

8/31/10 4:40 PM