



Arizona State Parks

DRAFT MINUTES ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD November 16, 2016

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Daggett called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at the Arizona State Parks offices at 23751 N. 23rd Ave., Suite 190 in Phoenix. Monica Enriquez was present to take the minutes.

Members Present

Kay Daggett, Chairman; Bernard Sanden; Lisa Atkins, State Land Commissioner; Orme Lewis, Jr.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Atkins led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. BOARD MEMBERS ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated a quorum was present.

D. RECOGNITIONS

1. John Hays' contributions to Arizona State Parks (*10 minutes – Charles Eatherly*)

- Charles Eatherly gave background history on Mr. Hays, who passed away in June, 2016. Mr. Eatherly said Mr. Hays was appointed to the State Parks Board in 2000 and served a six-year term. While he was a state legislator, Mr. Hays created, helped fund and gave authorization for Catalina State Park, Roper Lake State Park, Patagonia Lake State Park, Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park and Riordan Mansion State Historic Park.
- In 1983, he moved to the Senate. As a Senator he was instrumental in passage of legislation for Slide Rock State Park, Red Rock State Park, Oracle State Park and Homolovi State Park. While Mr. Hays was chairman of the Natural Resources Committee in the Senate, he worked with the chairman of the Natural Resources committee in the House and park staff to develop a bill that could fund and acquire Kartchner Caverns.
- John Hays was instrumental in the establishment of at least 12 parks. Mr. Eatherly said Mr. Hays was a great friend to Arizona State Parks and great legislator. He truly was one of Arizona State Parks' most gracious and strongest advocates from the legislative side.
- Mr. Lewis said Mr. Hays was a good friend and spoke to him prior to this passing. He said he was enthusiastic that Mr. Lewis was on the Parks Board. He advised Mr. Lewis to see, visit and enjoy the parks. Mr. Lewis hoped he would be able to fulfill Mr. Hays' request. Mr. Hays' daughter Jane Sargent was in attendance with her family, husband Steve and children Harrison, Ben and Libby.
- Commissioner Atkins said she has known the Hays family for many years and that the state is a better place to live because of John Hays.
- Chairman Daggett thanked everyone for their words and thanked the family for attending.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of meeting minutes from July 20, 2016.

Motion: Commissioner Atkins motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Review and approve funding for the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) grant applications (10 minutes – Mickey Rogers) – Members will review submissions from the five project applicants from 1) AZ Peace Trail, 2) Coconino Trail Riders, 3) La Paz County, 4) Prescott National Forest and 5) Tonto Recreation Alliance and approve project funding.

- Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails, said there were five competitive grants submitted in July. He said the grants have already been reviewed by a committee made up of staff, users and advisory groups – Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) and Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC)
- He said they were all worthy projects and should be funded. However, there were questions for some projects. The AZ Peace Trail's request was reduced by \$38,452 because the committees thought the public meeting cost was too high. The grant was reduced to \$200,000.
- Coconino Trail Riders requested a truck and a trailer to use equipment. That equipment is not available yet and so the grant was reduced by the amount of the truck, flatbed trailer and cost related to that truck.
- La Paz County was a worthy project but ASP is requesting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) send a support letter to make sure the BLM is not making a trail in the same area.
- Prescott National Forest and Tonto Recreation Alliance should be funded fully. He noted there were people in the audience and on the phone who could answer any questions about the grants.
- Mr. Sanden asked how long it would be before La Paz County received the letter from BLM. Mr. Rogers said it should happen fairly quickly.
- Commissioner Atkins asked if there was documentation from the various agencies involved regarding the criteria. Mr. Rogers answered affirmatively and said they have up to 30 days to get the cultural clearance and NEPA documents after the project has been approved.
- Chairman Daggett asked how long the grant process takes from start to finish. Mr. Rogers said the grant applications were received on September 1, 2016 and reviewed by the different committees since then and once the Parks Board approves them they have 30 days to get the cultural clearances and NEPA to Arizona State Parks (ASP). Then they will receive a project agreement from ASP and after that they can begin on their project. Chairman Daggett asked how long the cultural clearances and NEPA take. Mr. Rogers said most of them have already been completed.

Motion: Commissioner Atkins motioned to approve the grants as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Review and approve funding for Law Enforcement grant applications (OHV) (10 minutes – Mickey Rogers) – Members will review and approve project funding for three project applications from 1) BLM Hassayampa Field Office, 2) BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office and 3) La Paz County Sheriff's Office.

- Mr. Rogers said this is a new program. It's a supplemental grant program that enables funding to get on the ground quicker. There were three submittals for the Law Enforcement grants from BLM Hassayampa Field Office, BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office and La Paz County Sheriff's Office.
 - After review, the Hassayampa was reduced by \$1,500. They wanted five body cameras and the committee's recommended funding for one.
 - He said the Lower Sonoran asked for 10 winch kits and the committee's recommending funding for four.
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- La Paz County should be funded fully.

Motion: Commissioner Atkins motioned to approve the grants as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- 4. Cottonwood Sanitary Easement** (5 minutes – James Keegan) – The City of Cottonwood will assist ASP with the operation of the potable water and wastewater collection systems at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, and City has requested an easement to use ASP’s wastewater collection system for additional municipal customers. In addition, staff may report on and the Board may discuss other aspects of ASP’s partnership with the City of Cottonwood, including police services to the park.
- Mr. Keegan said ASP signed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Cottonwood in 2011 for assistance with operating the water and waste treatment facilities and collection systems on the state parks. It was a five-year term and that agreement has now expired.
 - There is a new agreement in the works where there are extended opportunities for the city to assist ASP in operating the park. It gives the city the opportunity to expand the lift station so they can offer more municipal services to people in the surrounding area. The ownership of the lift station will be transferred to the city who will be responsible for operating and maintaining it and any capital improvements needed for that. Mr. Keegan said ASP would like the Board’s authorization to continue with this agreement.
 - Mr. Keegan introduced Cottonwood City Manager, Doug Bartosh. Mr. Bartosh said Cottonwood is focusing on tourism in two areas - eco-tourism and tourism related to the wine industry. Both of those resources have a lot of interest in staying overnight. The city needs more development particularly overnight housing. He said the partnership with ASP began during the recession and an opportunity to save the Dead Horse Ranch State Park some money by offering help to keep the park sustainable. The city plans to not only maintain the lift station but also upgrade it with an investment of \$50,000. This is a continuation of that partnership where there is a win-win for both of us.
 - Chairman Daggett asked how far would the lift station have to pump uphill. Mr. Bartosh said the city is in the process of creating a state of the art reclamation plant at Riverfront Park which is right next to Dead Horse Ranch State Park so the pumping distance will be reduced significantly. It will be about a quarter of a mile distance and it will be completed in May 2017.
 - Mr. Lewis asked how the reclamation plant will be funded. Mr. Bartosh said it is funded by local money that has been collected over many years for these kind of capital projects. Chairman Daggett asked if there was a cost for ASP. Mr. Keegan said no. The city assumes all costs.

Motion: Commissioner Atkins motioned to approve the agreement. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Director Black asked Mr. Bartosh to talk about the city’s master plan and how the city and ASP are working together on that. Mr. Bartosh said the sustainability of the Verde River is important to the community. He said the city received a grant from the Nature Conservancy that allowed them to do a trails planning study for the Riverfront park area. It is right across the river from Dead Horse Ranch and includes the Jail Trail that predominantly goes through Dead Horse Ranch State Park with the idea of connecting the trail to Old Town which is one of the city’s tourist centers. The plan is to put in interpretive signing and trailheads and making that a destination from an eco-tourism standpoint. It capitalizes on the tourism economic engine in Old Town but also makes the connection to Dead Horse Ranch which is also a good economic engine for the city.
- Mr. Lewis asked how long the trail will be. Mr. Bartosh said he didn’t know the exact distance but said it starts in Old Town and goes along the river through Riverfront Park and back to the city.
- Mr. Lewis asked how many picnic table or spots can be used by families in the park. Director Black said there approximately 60 campsites and 8 cabins and ASP is looking to expand that. She said ASP is working on partnering further with the city so everything comes together and makes sense.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (10 minutes – Arizona State University and Arizona State Parks)

- Gyan Nyaupane, Brenda Campbell and Dale Larsen represented Arizona State University's School of Community Resources and Development. Mr. Nyaupane noted the report is still a work in progress. ASU looked at ASP and other agency reports that had already been done in outdoor recreation trends, benefits, open space and also collected data from working groups including a provider survey, millennial focus group and received input from the public through social media and website.
- Mr. Nyaupane said they are still in the process of analyzing data but some the data that has been analyzed already includes the outdoor recreation provider survey and the millennial focus group. He said they are still analyzing the public input that was collected through social media. He said some emerging themes came up through the 15-member working group, the outdoor recreation provider survey and the millennial focus group. These themes are political engagement, preservation youth and community engagement, education, funding, access and diversity, signs and stewardship.
- Ms. Campbell said the millennial focus group dove into how they recreate outdoors, what barriers or benefits exist to see if there were any new emerging themes and if there was any new information. She noted an information gap exists between providers and millennials. Even though ASP has a presence on social media, millennials are not getting their information from it. They are getting their information from friends who might post a picture of a park. She said millennials say they don't want to engage with technology in the outdoors but they do want to listen to music, use the phone for maps, take pictures and post them on social media.
- Ms. Campbell said the primary themes from the public input that emerged were similar to National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) pillars (conservation, social equity, thriving individuals and communities, optimizing system vitality) with a few changes. SCORP will be structured with these pillars and looking at the long-term and how ASP is going to optimize, improve it and continue to make improvements.
- Ms. Campbell said the SCORP priorities will be finalized at the next meeting on November 22, 2016. The team is working to complete a draft of the SCORP which will be completed by early December 2016. It will then go out for public comment and the comments will be compiled by early January 2017. Then it will be given to the Board for that process.
- Mr. Lewis asked about social equity. He asked ASU to comment on how to deal with different people enjoying the same facilities at the same time. Ms. Campbell said Arizona has changing demographics and ASP wants to provide opportunities to reflect the changing demographic. Mr. Nyaupane said they have looked at different groups individually including different ethnic groups and different incomes and how they are provided services. They found some gaps when doing that.
- Commissioner Atkins asked why there was a focus on millennials in the research. Mr. Larsen said previous SCORP's didn't address this population group. He said it was thought to be a good opportunity to see how that group approaches outdoor recreation since they do it completely different.
- Chairman Daggett asked how many participants were in the provider survey. Ms. Campbell said out of 322 names and addresses, 176 completed responses and were received back. She said 48% were from state type agencies and non-profits that service the entire state. Chairman Daggett noted there is more data from this group than from the millennials group.
- Mr. Sanden asked if there was any benchmarking done with other states such as main trends and what the solutions have been. Ms. Campbell said the national research used was conducted in 2012 by the National Forest Service. This shows the national recreation trends. She said they also looked at other states' SCORP's. The information will be incorporated into the document.

2. Update on the Strategic Plan (10 minutes – Arizona State University and Arizona State Parks)

- Dawn Collins, Chief of Resources & Public Programs, said the team from ASU and ASP who are working on the SCORP are also working on the Arizona strategic plan. They are working with the idea that there is connection at the national level using the pillars that are guiding the SCORP.

- She said a stakeholder meeting was held on November 3, 2016 that included some Parks Board members, Advisory Committee members, Friends group members, employees from state agencies and invested members of the public.
- The goals and objectives were constructed from the four pillars. Currently staff is putting together action items to figure out how ASP will achieve those goals. Once that is accomplished, those will go out for widespread comment from staff and volunteers.
- Mr. Lewis asked how ASP deals with motorized vehicles being a popular activity but how harmful it is for those who like the quiet and peace. Ms. Collins said one of the pillars ASP is organizing the strategic plan around is conservation. The working group came up with this question of balance - how do you balance use and protection; how do you balance user conflict. She said as ASP works on the strategic plan, staff is looking at what will the action plans will be to balance those goals.
- Mr. Sanden said these are complex issues but ASP will have to have metrics and someone will have to decide what the metrics are.

3. Boyce Thompson Arboretum (5 minutes – Jim Keegan)

Commissioner Atkins left the meeting. Christopher Munns, Assistant Attorney General, noted it was technically no longer a meeting with the loss of quorum. Chairman Daggett said the remaining items are discussion only.

- Mr. Keegan said the current director has announced his retirement effective January 15, 2017. The position is fully funded by the University of Arizona. U of A has created a search committee to find a new director. The search committee consists of members of the University, BTA Board of Directors and members from ASP including Chairman Daggett, Mr. Keegan, and staff members, Sarah Steele and Debby Lopez. The committee is chaired by Betsy Arnold from the University of Arizona with two vice-chairs, Jim Reynolds and Mr. Keegan.
- The committee will be reviewing all the applications that come in with first review on November 23, 2016. They plan to have recommendations by mid-December and a new director by mid-to-late January 2017.
- Mr. Lewis asked if they could describe the type of qualities the committee is seeking. Mr. Keegan said they are looking for someone who can lead and manage the overall aspect of operation.

4. Arizona State Parks Committee Vacancies: AORCC, ASCOT, OHVAG and NAPAC (5 minutes – Dawn Collins)

- Ms. Collins said ASP is currently recruiting for the committees and boards.
- AORRC, who review funding for the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF), Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) and statewide plans, there are four seats available – two at large and two parks directors.
- Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT), non-motorized user and land managers, there are nine seats available including people that have stopped participating and those whose second term is coming to a close.
- OHVAG, motorized group, there are three seats available.
- Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee (NAPAC), scientists who advise on natural areas but also on resource management issues for the agency, there are five seats total available from people who have termed out and some who could no longer serve.

Recognition of Achievement

Ken Sliwa, Community Relations Administrator, said ASP is excited to announce some of the recent awards and recognitions it has received. He showed a slide show of photos from the awards presentations.

5. Tourism Spirit of Service Award for the AZ Family Campout Program from the Arizona Governor's Conference on Tourism
6. Excellence in Innovative Marketing for Social Media from the Arizona Governor's Conference on Tourism

7. Citation of Merit Award for the Arizona State Committee on Trails from the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association
8. Outstanding Cultural Awareness Program for the Arizona Site Steward Program from the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association
9. Professional Award for Kelly Moffitt from the Arizona State Parks and Recreation Association
10. Arizona Capitol Times Leader of the Year Award – Sue Black

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Those wishing to address the Board must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Presentation time may be limited to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair; the Chair may limit a presentation to one person per organization. The Board may direct staff to study or reschedule any matter for a future meeting.

- William Thornton said he has been following the news about ASP adding 100 new cabins. He asked what the revenue potential would be for these cabins. Mr. Munns said ASP cannot answer during the meeting since it is not an agenda item. Mr. Thornton commented he is excited the Wallace Desert Gardens is going to Boyce Thompson Arboretum.
- Lonnie Lott, Executive Director, Arizona Heritage Alliance said the Arizona Heritage Alliance will be celebrating 25 years in 2017. The Alliance was created to protect the Arizona Heritage Fund. One of their current goals is to aggressively look at sustainable funding to help replace the ASP Heritage Fund.
- Beth Woodin, Arizona Heritage Alliance, said she has been president of the Arizona Heritage Alliance for the past 7-8 years and will be stepping down next month. She thanked the Board for their service and enjoyed working with different Parks Board members throughout the years. She hoped the Parks Board will continue to be around and provide an opportunity for public input.

H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

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

- Mr. Lewis said he would like to tentatively set Parks Board dates and locations set in advance for an entire year. Chairman Daggett said that would be helpful. She hoped the Board would meet again in January.
- Director Black said it would depend on when ASU finished with the SCORP and strategic plan but possibly meet the second or third week in January and at that meeting look to the future.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Group is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, 23751 North 23rd Ave., Suite 190, Phoenix, AZ 85085. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Monica Enriquez at 602-542-6997 or email pio@azstateparks.gov.

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