

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona

July 19, 2000

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on July 19, 2000.

Present: Gheral Brownlow, Vice Chairman; John Olsen, Member; Bev Staddon, Clerk.

Absent: Chip Davis, Chairman, due to previous commitment.

Also present: Jim Boyd, Parks Coordinator.

ITEM NO. 1. Meet with Black Canyon City Community Association, in Black Canyon City, to discuss 5-acre park and \$50,000 donation from KZPZ. The following Black Canyon City residents participated in discussion: Linda Sortor, Arnold Tropf, Georgie Wetherill, Lee Johns, Bob Moore, Ray Lewis, Chuck Torrie, William Seales, Marcia Randolph, Kay Beckman, Shirley Holland, Harvey Horne, Esther Britain, Ida McCully, Leo McCully, Patricia Gibbons, William Beckman, Delores Lewis, Veronica Miller, Barbara Hargreaves, Karen Seemeyer and Jerry Mitchell. Vice Chairman Brownlow said that as a part of the approval to place radio towers in the Black Canyon City area, KZPZ Radio had agreed to donate a five-acre park site and \$50,000 for the development of the park. He said he was not sure how people had come to believe that the park would be an equestrian park. Ms. Sortor said the Saddle Club had submitted a proposal to build an equestrian park. Mr. Tropf said he had been at the Board meeting when the towers were approved and that KZPZ and ranch owner Howard Kale had committed to donate the land and money for the park, but that he had not heard anything more about the park since that time. He said he had been very surprised to read in the Canyon News that one organization was trying to control the park. He said he had nothing against an equestrian park but was not happy with the way things had come about. Ms. Johns said it had been her understanding that once the towers were approved anyone could come forward and offer to manage the park. She said the only thing the Saddle Club had done was to submit a proposal for the park, but that nothing had been approved. She asked if anyone else had submitted a proposal. Vice Chairman Brownlow said he did not believe there were other proposals. Mr. Moore said it appeared from the stipulations related to the towers approval that there would be public access to trails in the area in addition to the donation of five acres and \$50,000 so that no matter how the park was used the horse people would still have access to trails on public lands. Ms. Wetherill said there had been meetings of community leaders and that the people present at those meetings did not believe the intent was to make the park an equestrian park. She said that people thought the Board of Supervisors would issue a request for proposals for park so that interested parties could make proposals, but that people felt there had not been any direction from the County. She said she believed there were some other groups that might be interested in submitting proposals. Vice Chairman Brownlow said that Ms. Wetherill was probably correct about the lack of direction from the County, but reminded those present that since Board approval of the towers a lawsuit had been filed over the issue and it had been tied up in court, that then District 2 Supervisor Bill Feldmeier had resigned to go to work for the Governor's Office, and that Mr. Boyd had been hired as the County's first Parks Coordinator. Ms. Sortor said that perhaps the Saddle Club had jumped the gun a little by submitting a proposal to the County. She added that the proposal included providing for 4-H and other events as well as equestrian-related facilities. Mr. Lewis asked if there was water on the park site, saying he would like to see the land developed for the good of the community and not just for one organization. He said he would like to see a swimming pool, and that the community also needed a place for swap meets, horse shows, and the like. He added that the Albins Civic Center was the main building in the community for meetings, and that it was too small for the growing community. There was brief discussion about the park site and whether there was a well on it, during which Vice Chairman Brownlow said that the ranch owner had indicated that excess water from the site would be made available to the Black Canyon City Domestic Water Improvement District. Mr. Torrie said he had seen the contract and that it stated that the water necessary for the park area would be available and that anything in excess of that would be available to the water district. He said

that the Saddle Club had just submitted a proposal, and that others could do the same. Ms. Beckman asked if there was a deadline for submitting proposals, after there was brief discussion regarding the need to set a deadline. Vice Chairman Brownlow asked if there was any group other than the Saddle Club that was willing to take on the park. Mr. Tropf said he believed people in the community just wanted to be aware of what was going on, and that the County should have told people that the lawsuit over the towers was finished and that it was okay to start working on the park. Mr. Horne said the park site was part of property that had always been used for horses and that Mr. Kale had stated on several occasions that he would like to see the property continue to be used for horses. Mr. Tropf asked whether the access road to the park site was adequate. Ms. Gibbons asked if the County would be obligated to provide financial assistance for the development of the park. Vice Chairman Brownlow explained that the only money the County has available for parks comes from cable television and that it must be divided up between the three supervisorial districts. He said that whether or not the County could help financially would have to be negotiated, but that people could be sure that it would not be a free ride. He said that eventually the possibility of obtaining some Community Development Block Grant funds might come into play, but that there were requirements that would have to be met in order to qualify for funding and that those funds also are split between the three districts. There was brief discussion regarding volunteer efforts for the park, during which Mr. Torrie said the Saddle Club had discussed this issue and that manpower was a big problem. He said that the Saddle Club had looked at forming coalitions and partnerships with companies that would be able to provide grant money, but that that they did not anticipate trying to raise money in Black Canyon City. Vice Chairman Brownlow said it would be possible on this day for the Board to give an indication of what it felt would be a reasonable deadline for submitting proposals, but that it could not take any action until the Board's next regular meeting. Supervisor Olsen said he felt that a maximum of 60 days was appropriate for a deadline. Mr. Moore said he believed that was too soon because many of the people who live in Black Canyon City leave the community during the summer months. He said that the meeting on this day was also the first public meeting on the issue, and he suggested that a six-month deadline would be better. Vice Chairman Brownlow said he believed that if someone could not put a proposal together in 120 days, it was not going to get done. Mr. Boyd said he had a copy of the Saddle Club's proposal that was available for those who wished to read it, and Ms. Sortor said she would be happy to provide copies of the proposal to interested individuals. Ms. Seemeyer said there was a great deal involved in building a park, that construction would have to begin within two years and that six months of that two years was already gone. Mr. Boyd noted that whoever gets the park will have to enter into a management agreement with the County and follow certain regulations. He said that the Saddle Club and the group managing High Desert Park had said they would help each other with the parks. Mr. Lewis suggested making the deadline for proposals the first of the year. He said he saw nothing wrong with what the Saddle Club was doing but felt that the entire community should know what was going on and what was available. Supervisor Olsen said the Board would take this day's discussion under advisement and let the community know what it felt the deadline for proposals should be. He said the Board would do its best to make as many people as possible happy. Ms. Lewis said she believed the Saddle Club should attend the Community Association meetings and report on what they are doing. Ms. Hargreaves said she thought the community should consider itself fortunate that there was one organization willing to develop the park, but that other groups in the community should be able to help. Vice Chairman Brownlow said that current ranch owner Jerry Mitchell had offered to keep the grass area of the polo field available for soccer and for youth soccer clinics. He said that Yavapai College was also interested in playing soccer in Black Canyon City during the winter, and that there had been some discussions about the possibility of the college also using High Desert Park for baseball games. Mr. Mitchell said it was his understanding from dealings with the radio station and Mr. Kale that the park was to be an equestrian park, but that he had encountered many surprises since taking over the ranch. He said he had agreed to maintain the ranch as a horse property and not build houses on it. Mr. Mitchell said he was willing to help in any way. He said that if water was needed for the park site he had an irrigation well and would pump water to the site and pay for the electricity. He said he was willing to do whatever he could to help, because the park would benefit children and it was possible to make a difference with children. Vice Chairman Brownlow said he felt the deadline for submitting proposals should be no more than 120 days.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Change hearing on establishment of Peeples Valley Fire District from 9:45 a.m. on July 26, 2000, in Clarkdale, to 10:45 a.m. on July 26, 2000, in Prescott. Approved by unanimous vote of those present. Motion by Supervisor Olsen,

second by Vice Chairman Brownlow. No comments from the public.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman