



**ARIZONA PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION**  
**ETHNIC LEADERSHIP BRANCH**  
**September 8, 2006**

- I. Call to Order / Welcome – 8:47 am
- II. Attendance: Alonso Avitia, Cynthia Aguilar, John Mason, Augie Perez, Juan F. Rodriguez, Carmela Ramirez, Sherilyn Dean-Mason, Randy Babchuck, Lani Auwen, Emma Martinez
- III. Secretary's Report: Susan Aguire unable to attend this meeting; but provided meeting minutes for July 12, August 15 and 31, 2006. Alonso distributed the minutes to branch members. John Mason motioned to accept all meeting minutes with changes to the July 12 and August 15; Augie Perez seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: John Mason provided ELB Treasurer's Report. Member Juan F. Rodriguez motioned for the purchase of a tape recorder for the branch and not to exceed \$100.00. Lani Auwen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Chair Alonso Avitia presented that we create a designated amount of money to always maintain as a reserve account for the branch.
- V. Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez reported that the name change to Ethnic Leadership Branch was accepted by unanimous vote. He also shared with Branch members that there was meeting between some of the ELB Board members and Director Sara Hensley to discuss ELB. Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez presented solid material and information to Sara Hensley. Sara Hensley reviewed the information and encouraged members to go out and outreach to other cities for more involvement. Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez concurred and pointed out that the branch will consider the idea and be proactive for the future.
- VI. Chair's Report: Alonso Avitia provided a report as follows:
  - Branch Meeting Schedule – Chair Alonso Avitia suggested that meetings be held at alternate sites and also wanted to schedule a permanent calendar date and time of future meetings. Branch members agreed upon the first Friday of the month at 11:00 am and to be held at alternate sites.
  - ELB Master Calendar – A master calendar of meeting dates, workshops and events is being planned out. More information will follow.
  - ELB Events – ELB members discussed what events should the Branch considered for future involvement. It was decided that the Branch continue their involvement with the Maintenance Workshop and UMOM events; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event be omitted and replaced with a Golf Tournament.
  - ELB 2006/2007 Goals – Chair Alonso Avitia asked branch members to brainstorm ideas on the following issues: Professional Development, Marketing and Volunteer. He encouraged members to come up with at least 2 goals for each committee. Branch members shared ideas and wrote them down. Ideas and concerns will be shared and addressed at the October meeting.

- Web Site & New Logo – Marketing Co-Chairs are working on the web site and mentioned that they need pictures of the group and board members. Board members will present pictures and bio at next month's meeting. Chair Alonso Avitia proposed that we look into cost of printing of materials with new logo. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Golf Tournaments – Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez proposed that next golf tournament be held on a Saturday at a larger golf course and in the name of Mike Dean. He also mentioned the possibility of getting more sponsorships and donations for this tournament with Mike Dean's association.
- APRA Conference Sessions – Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez mentioned that the representation was good at the conference. He also talked about the possibility of increasing sessions that would be led by professionals on different minority issues and trends.
- Scholarships - Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez recommended that we continue to provide scholarships.
- Parks and Recreation Profession Career Presentations - Past Chair Juan F. Rodriguez mentioned that these presentations have been successful and that ELB continue to provide them. Members Yvonne Pastor, Juan F. Rodriguez and Lisa Quinonez have conducted past presentations at the local colleges.
- Continue diversified membership outreach – Members encouraged to out-reach more to part-time staff and other agencies/cities.

VII. Committee Reports:

Professional Development – Co-Chair Carmela Ramirez suggested that future workshops be put on hold until further notice. Member Yvonne Pastor will set up a meeting with Co-Chairs Jermel Stevenson and Carmela Ramirez. She also brought up the Awards Luncheon and that we provide her with some dates for scheduling purposes. December 1 and 8 was given to her with the location of the Burton Barr from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Carmela will look into location and get back to branch at the next meeting. Chair Alonso Avitia volunteered to work on the power point presentation and member Lani Auwen volunteered to work on the decorations/centerpieces.

VIII. New Business:

- On September 28 & 29 there will be a Board of Directors Leadership Planning Retreat at Bison Retreat Center in Overgaard, AZ. Chair Alonso Avitia mentioned that last year's meeting was well attended and the branch should continue to have representation at these meetings. Invitation was extended to all members. Chair Alonso Avitia and Vice Chair Cynthia Aguilar will attend. It was then proposed by the members that the cost and lodging fees be picked up by ELB.

IX. Next meeting – October 6 at 11:00 am; location TBD and forwarded to membership.

X. Meeting Adjourned at 10:01 a.m. Motion: John Mason; Seconded: Carmela Ramirez