

Memorandum



City of Tempe

Date: December 8, 2010, 2010
To: Councilmember Mark Mitchell, Chair Sports, Recreation, Arts & Cultural Development Committee
From: Travis Dray, Deputy Director Recreation Services, Community Services – 480-350-5182
Through: Kathy Berzins, Community Services Director – 480-350-5464
Subject: Stand-up paddleboarding

Since opening in 1999, Tempe Town Lake has become a regional and national destination, welcoming millions of visitors each year. During this time, the opportunities available at the lake have significantly expanded beyond traditional recreational boating to include triathlons, regattas and other unique events. In response to the growing popularity of stand-up paddleboarding, staff recommends adding this sport to the list of recreational opportunities available to participants.

Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) is a surface water sport in which the participant stands on a large surfboard and uses a paddle to row. The operating range of the device is limited by the physical endurance of its operator, much like canoeing and kayaking.

In 2008, the U.S. Coast Guard classified SUP as a vessel. In accordance with Title 1 United States Code Section 3, any person using a paddleboard must operate in compliance with the same navigation rules, applicable carriage requirements and regulations as canoes and kayaks when operated outside of surfing areas.

Tempe Town Lake serves as an ideal venue to offer this popular water sport. Staff met with representatives from the Maricopa County in fall of 2010 to receive permission to expand the recreational uses at Tempe Town Lake to include SUP's. Maricopa County had no objection to the addition and stated that the partial body contact approval of SUP aligns with other recreational activities currently offered such as kayaking and rowing.

Staff found that SUP as a recreational water sport is thriving in peer municipalities. Austin, TX, Lady Bird Lake (formerly Town Lake) provides community classes, lessons and hosts SUP events. Other cities include Boulder, San Diego, Lake Havasu, Boise and Seattle.

After reviewing each of these cities' SUP rules and regulations, staff held meetings with Risk Management, Tempe Police and the City Attorney to establish Tempe's SUP Rules and Regulations.

Stand-up paddleboarding shall be permitted on Tempe Town Lake under the following conditions:

- Paddlers must adhere to all boating rules and regulations on Tempe Town Lake (ref City code Chapter 23)
- Paddlers must launch from the designated launch sites
 - Boat Beach
 - SRP Tempe Town Lake Marina
- Paddlers must wear either a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) or an ankle leash at all times
- Paddlers must purchase and display a Tempe Town Lake Boating Permit on the paddle board before paddling on Tempe Town Lake
- Paddlers that are 12 and under must be supervised by an adult and wear a PFD at all times
- Participants must be standing and using a paddle, no laying down or kneeling paddling is permitted
- Paddleboards can not be considered a swimming platform. Swimming is prohibited on Tempe Town Lake

Once the SUP rules and regulations were developed, staff presented the addition of SUP Councilmember Woods and Code Subcommittee and to the Parks, Recreation and Golf Advisory Board. The proposal for the new recreational water sport was very well received, and the board asked for this item to be brought forward for Council action.

The addition of SUP at Tempe Town Lake will require an ordinance change to the Tempe City Code; Sections 23-39, 23-40, 23-74, 23-75 and 23-77 will need to be amended accordingly.