



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Chair Kurt Jones, Commissioners Maryann McAllen, Steve Masear, and Kristen Parrish

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Eric Kurland, Commissioners Susan McGarry and Teresa Kim Quale,

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Managers Brett Jackson, Chris Walsh, Stephanie Tippett, Kyu Bin Hyun, Kevin McKee and Denise Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as indicated above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

REGULAR MEETING

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – April 20, 2022

Commissioner Parrish noted that Stephanie Tippett was not listed as in attendance.

COMMISSIONER PARRISH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 20, 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER MCALLEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JONES, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, AND PARRISH VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. ASHER HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK MUNICIPAL USE MASTER SITE PLAN

Nick Molinari, Parks and Recreation Director, gave an overview of the Ashler Hills Neighborhood Park project, located at Ashler Hills Drive and 74th Way. The project was funded as part of the 2019 Bond and the \$6.1 million budget includes design and construction. Director Molinari reviewed the 2019 Bond description and the planned park amenities. Two virtual public meetings were held in Fall of 2021 to introduce the project and an additional open house was held in Spring of 2022.

Chris Brown, FASLA, Partner with Floor Associates, gave a presentation detailing the municipal use master site plan (MUMSP) for Ashler Hills Neighborhood Park. His presentation included a review of the site plan, the general design process, and the shade structure and walking trails. He highlighted sustainable elements, including stabilized DG for parking areas, nine acres of natural area open space, and waterharvesting bioswales. He noted that low-level lighting with zero light spill will be installed throughout the project, including on the sport courts, and will have an automatic off at 10:30 p.m. each night.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Brown explained that a drainage area with a connecting path will be built in the area between the turf areas. He said that approximately 50 percent of the paths be decomposed granite and paths around the exterior will be concrete. Pedestrian lights along the paths will be 14 feet high and the lighting in the sport court areas will be operated by a timed button. Lighting on the canopy in the west side of the park will have lighting under the canopy.

The following members of the public made comments:

- Tim Dryer (phonetic) – Representing Las Piedras at Sevano Village, expressed concerns about the increased size of the site plan from 2.8 acres to 6.8 acres and improvements encroaching on the community.
- Ron Coats (phonetic) – Expressed concerns that under the definition of a passive neighborhood park, the area is being overdevelopment, he particularly objected to the number of pickleball courts and the rumor that they are being partly funded through private funding.
- Russel Chatham (phonetic) – Expressed concerns that lighting at the park and in particular the sport courts will disturb the “dark skys” of the community.
- Mike Kyplus (phonetic) – expressed concerns about noise pollution coming from the sport courts and about lighting disturbing “dark skys” of the community.

Mr. Brown responded to citizen concerns.

Director Molinari responded to citizen concerns. He assured the public that the City has not received, nor been offered, private funding for pickleball courts and would not accept funding if it were offered. He also noted that the turf area is intended for “unscheduled play” and will not be available for league play or events.

Commissioners were given another opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Brown confirmed that the commercial development adjacent to the park does have full lighting in the parking area. He will look into whether or not security lights are used on the back of the building.

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ASHLER HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS MUNICIPAL USE MASTER SITE PLAN AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF THREE (3) TO ONE (1) BY ROLL CALL VOTE; CHAIR JONES, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN AND PARRISH VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER MASEAR DISSENTED.

3. INDIAN SCHOOL PARK FACILITY & BALLFIELD RESERVATION POLICY

Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided a presentation regarding the proposed reservation policy for ballfields and related facilities at the Indian School Park Complex. His presentation included a review of the history of the facility, which was built in 1979; a review of amenities and maintenance responsibilities; and the field reservation process. The field reservation process priorities include: Priority 1, professional baseball; Priority 2, Stay and Play Tournaments; Priority 3, full facility multi-day reservations; Priority 4, seasonal reservations.

Mr. Walsh said that the LG Twins, a Korean baseball team has entered into a contract for use of the facility, but has not been able to use it yet, due to the pandemic. He is in communication with them about their schedule. The Angels were able to use the facility during 2022 spring training when their usual facility was unavailable. He explained how the “Stay and Play” program, which entitles organizations to be eligible for rollover dates to the following year if they show a minimum of 100+ Scottsdale hotel room nights.

Mr. Walsh reviewed the current fee structure and the fee changes that will be requested during the July 7, 2022 City Council meeting.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Walsh said that the tunnels can be rented on an hourly basis, based on the availability of staff. He noted that improvements to the Club Sar parking lot will be included as part of the upcoming Indian School Park master plan development.

Director Molinari said that short-term rentals are not eligible to be included as part of the Stay and Play applications, in part because the City has no way to capture the data. The city works with the tournament organizers and stays in close communication with hotels to collect data for the program. Director Molinari noted that one of the things that impacted the decision to require 100 room nights is availability of nights during the period. If there comes a time when room nights are not available, the City will work with Experience Scottsdale to adjust the requirement.

COMMISSIONER PARRISH MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK FACILITY AND BALLFIELD RESERVATION POLICY AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCALLEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JONES, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, AND PARRISH VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Molinari said that the Pac-12 Conference was held May 25 through 29, 2022 at Scottsdale Stadium and was the first time staff was responsible for the management of a significant baseball event. He gave a recap of the 14-game double-elimination tournament. He noted that two of the games were the longest games in NCAA history. Pac-12 reported 1,400 verified Scottsdale room nights.

DC Ranch Neighborhood Park is expected to be completed in late summer. Director Molinari gave a brief overview of project amenities. He anticipates that there will be a second phase to the project in the future when funding is available.

Director Molinari announced that the lifeguard program is fully staffed. He mentioned that there is a nationwide shortage of lifeguards, which will cause approximately one-third of pools nationwide to be closed. Pool schedules have been restored to pre-pandemic hours.

Special events in recent months included Adaptive Services bingo night; a Dive-in movie night; the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Summer Concert Series, which was held Sundays throughout the month of May; and the recent Bring on the Summer event held at Eldorado Park.

Summer Youth Programs are currently being offered at Mojave, Cocopah, and Desert Canyon Middle Schools from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chaparral Park is undergoing extensive soccer field turf renovation. The renovation is expected to be completed in time for Fall scheduling. Director Molinary said that he is hoping to implement a rest and recovery schedule for fields and turf areas in the future.

Over the past two weeks staff planted 54 trees along Scottsdale Road, between McKellips and Thomas Road, to replace trees lost during last year's storms.

Upcoming Priorities include the Parks and Recreation strategic plan, which has moved into the next phase and a consultant is working with staff to establish strategic priorities; Indian School Park Master Plan development; the Park Ranger Program; and Bunkhouse replacement and splash pad have been approved as part of the CIP for this fiscal year, after being cut from the budget during COVID budget cuts.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Parrish commended staff for their work on the Pac-12 tournament.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include:

- Pac-12 cost benefit analysis

The next meeting will be the retreat scheduled for September.

7. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JONES, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, AND PARRISH VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.