



**SCOTTSDALE PARKS AND RECREATION
RETREAT MINUTES
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Scottsdale Stadium Banyan Room
7408 E. Osborn Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Chair Kurt Jones (left at 11:45 a.m.), Commissioners Maryann McAllen, Steve Masear, Susan McGarry, Teresa Kim Quale, Kristen Parrish (left from 8:55 a.m. to 10:38 a.m.)

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Eric Kurland

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Community Services Administrator Kira Peters; Parks and Recreation Managers Brett Jackson, Chris Walsh, Stephanie Tippet, Denise Clayton, Kevin McKee, Kyu-Bin Hyun; and Sunny Nakagawa

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as indicated above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who submitted comments.

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING REMARKS & OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Nick Molinari, Parks and Recreation Director, provided opening remarks and an overview of each department within the Community Services Division. Human Services department Community Assistance office, located at Paiute Neighborhood Center, provides rental housing subsidies, facilitates the homeowner's rehabilitation program, and manages federal grants and the Section 8 housing voucher program. Vista del Camino manages services such as rent, utility and mortgage assistance, a food bank, and career center, in addition to operating Vista del Camino Park maintenance. Granite Reef and Via Linda Senior Centers offer social services assistance and a wide range of services to senior citizens. Parks and Recreation department facilitates leisure education classes at both senior center locations. Youth and Family Services provides court-ordered juvenile diversion, a restorative justice intervention program, and coordinates the Mayor's Youth Council. Scottsdale public library system offers four library

locations, Civic Center, Appaloosa, Arabian, and Mustang libraries. WestWorld and McDowell Sonoran Preserve also fall under the Community Services division.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission has had a few occasions where they have met jointly with the Preserve Commission and Human Services Commission. He said that the TPC is one of four city-owned golf courses operated through a land-lease agreement. Chris Walsh acts as the contract administrator and the golf courses are operated by independent operators. Adaptive Services had been part of the Human Services department for many years and as of July 1, 2022, the program moved back into Parks and Recreation department. The decision to move back to Parks and Recreation was made because although that group requires a high degree of assessment of needs, most of their programs are recreation programs. Both departments work in collaboration with Adaptive Services. Director Molinari explained that all Community Services departments have recreation staff to coordinate activities and there is crossover with Parks and Recreation staff in many instances. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park has a self-supporting financial structure and reports through the Community Services business operations work group.

2. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Director Molinari provided a brief overview of the Parks and Recreation Department budget, organization chart, full-time employees, and key statistics. His presentation included a review of the current Parks and Recreation mission and vision statements. The current Parks and Recreation fiscal year budget, including both General Fund and special revenue cost centers is approximately \$25 million. Revenue from the past fiscal year was approximately \$7 million. He noted that McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park sits outside of the Parks and Recreation Budget. There are currently 503 regular employees, 358 of which are part time, and 90 vacancies. The most challenging areas to fill vacant positions are in Adaptive Services and Aquatics because they require specialized training. The Parks and Recreation department is responsible for managing 44 parks, Indian Bend Wash, Scottsdale Stadium, four aquatics facilities, two skate parks, two sports complexes (soon to be three), 37 playgrounds, 49 tennis courts, 21 pickleball courts, and 26 million square feet of medians and right-of-ways.

Director Molinari said that park classifications are developed as part of the Community Services Master Plan. Characteristics of a neighborhood park, community park, and specialty parks are outlined in General Plan 2035. He said that the topic could be agendized for a more in-depth discussion.

Director Molinari reviewed the Department's organizational chart. He noted that Erin McKallor-Quill is responsible for safety training division-wide, acts as a liaison with public safety, and is team lead for the Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI) team.

3. PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER PRESENTATIONS

Parks and Recreation Managers each provided an overview of their areas of responsibility based on the Department's organizational chart. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentations.

Kevin McKee, Parks and Recreation Manager, talked about his background and gave a

detailed overview of his areas of responsibility, which include Youth Development, Adaptive Services, special events, Mountain View Community Center, Mountain View Park maintenance, Horizon Community Center, and Horizon Park maintenance. Youth development programs are made possible through an IGA between the City and Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD), that leverages space and resources. Youth development programs include affordable after school programs, summer camps, and school break camps. It was noted that there is no connection between City school programs and private organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club; however, they do collaborate to ensure that all areas are being served.

Mr. McKee said that Adaptive Services recently transitioned back to Parks and Recreation from Human Services and is working to rebuild programs following the limitations of the pandemic. Core services that are provided for Adaptive Services include social programs, Special Olympics, golf, bocce ball, bowling, and inclusion services and accommodations. Future goals include activating the Adaptive services center and providing broader programming opportunities that will cover different demographics, encompassing all ages and disabilities. Discussion ensued regarding transitioning services for disabled members of the senior population and services available to help parents plan for care of adult children with disabilities once their parents are gone.

The presentation included review of goals and accomplishments of the special events team, which is housed out of McCormick Stillman Railroad Park, and highlighted popular special events, including Spook-Track-ula, Holiday Lights, and Fall Festival. Future goals for the team include activating new and unique meeting spaces, introducing new events and programs, being intentional about target audiences, balancing free and revenue generating experiences, and supporting tourism and events.

Parks Maintenance teams for Mountain View Park, Cactus Park and Horizon Park responsibilities include community parks, surrounding neighborhood parks, and various other public areas, sports field maintenance, irrigation maintenance, and tree and shrub trimming. Contractors are used for some specialized areas. Future goals include updating the tree inventory, identifying areas for turf conversion, and educating the community about maintenance operations.

Commissioners expressed an interest in having a presentation from the Water Department to discuss the City's drought management plan.

Brett Jackson, Parks and Recreation Manager, talked about his background gave a detailed overview of his areas of responsibility, which include downtown maintenance, medians and rights of way, Scottsdale Civic Center, landscape contracts, irrigation systems, and the herbicide and pesticide program.

Civic Center is currently under construction. The new design will allow for the area to be activated year-round. The city has a contract with Scottsdale Arts to program large events such as the Art Festival, Culinary Festival and Sun and Sounds (formerly Sunday A'Fair).

Downtown Scottsdale will be hosting ESPN as part of their Sports Center on Main Street between Scottsdale Road and Brown during the week of Super Bowl. Scottsdale Tourism and Events and the City's special event team are responsible for coordinating special events such as Scottsdazzle, the farmer's market, and Scottsdale Convergence. Mr. Jackson explained the

maintenance department's process for litter cleanup and cleaning up the streets after hours in the Entertainment District.

Mr. Jackson recalled his recent presentation about the new irrigation controllers and software, which can now be programmed to shut down the system during times of heavy rain and be operated remotely by staff via cell phone. His staff is responsible for managing the City's water allotment from ADWR. He noted that since 2002, the City has operated at 15 percent under the allotment and has over the past year gone under by an additional eight percent. Staff works with other parks staff to audit areas suitable for turf conversion. Irrigation staff is responsible for the more complex issues with water valve maintenance. The City utilizes a HURF funded contractor for maintenance of medians and rights of way. Staff does maintenance audits of medians and rights of way. In many cases, the City has an agreement with HOAs to maintain their medians. One staff member is responsible for administering service and commodity contracts, working with staff to hire labor for special projects, purchase orders, and writing scopes of work.

Mr. Jackson said his other responsibilities include being a member of the Emergency Response team, representing Community Services in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), supervising the Tree City USA program and the herbicide and pesticide program and the drought management plan.

RECESS WAS HELD FROM 10:04 A.M. TO 10:17 A.M.

Sunny Nakagawa, Parks and Recreation Manager, talked about her background and gave a detailed overview of her areas of responsibility as manager of McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. She reviewed her staff list, noting that staff consists of all ages from 15 to 83 and three railroad crew chiefs, two of which have been with the park for over 30 years. Park amenities include the Paradise and Pacific Railroad trains, Scottsdale Charros Carousel, a model train building, general store, Scottsdale Railroad Museum, nine reservable ramadas, picnic areas, and a playground. Ms. Nakagawa reviewed budget and revenue numbers, noting that the park is operated under a special revenue fund and is completely self-sustaining. The only General Fund assistance received by the park is for maintenance staff. Ticket revenue, special event revenue, and monetary donations go to support the park and park staff.

Scottsdale Railroad and Mechanical Society, a 501(c)(3) chartered in 1971 by Guy Stillman, has been responsible for acquisition of the majority of park amenities and continues to provide monetary support. Ride tickets are \$3 per ride and annual memberships are available for \$95 for the first person and \$40 for each additional family member.

Ms. Nakagawa gave a detailed overview of the 8,000 square foot Bunkhouse Capital Project, which has an estimated cost of \$8.5 million. A splash pad was approved as part of Bond 2019 and will be constructed as part of the Bunkhouse project. Those projects are expected to be completed within two years. Hartley's General Store is expected to undergo a redesign in June of 2023.

Park historical markers include Gabe Brooks machine shop, Blue Star Memorial, Family Circus Pavilion, and Model Railroad Building. Signature events include Spook-Track-ula, Holiday Lights, Rail Fair, Exclusively Little, Tents by the Tracks, Summer Concert Series, Red, White and Choo Choo, and Slide the Rails.

Ms. Nakagawa described the City's memorial program, which consists of opportunities for families to purchase memorial benches and memorial trees.

Discussion ensued regarding parking during special events. Lower attendance because of the pandemic has meant fewer parking issues and the City has an agreement with an adjacent business for overflow parking.

Stephanie Tippett, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave a detailed overview of her areas of responsibility, which include community and neighborhood park maintenance, youth sports field allocation, sports field reservation office, youth sports field allocation user field projects, intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and school field maintenance. She reviewed in detail the responsibilities of the maintenance staff, which includes maintenance of the five community centers, 14 neighborhood parks, areas around the senior centers, low-flow channels, some underpasses, gray areas of the Greenbelt (owned by the City but not within a park), and maintenance and preparation of 30 sports fields. In addition to regular duties, maintenance staff do basic irrigation maintenance safety inspections, and in conjunction with Scottsdale Police Department, enforce park rules.

Ms. Tippett talked about the damage caused throughout the park system by the storms off summer 2021, noting that one of the goals is to get the tree numbers back up. She noted that the Neighborhood Advisory Commission funded \$15,000 worth of trees and the City has worked closely with APS to plant trees. As part of a project with SRP, powerline areas are being evaluated and SRP has agreed to give the city three trees for every tree that has to be taken out.

Director Molinari said that the new Urban Park Ranger program is part of the current fiscal year budget. The program will include three park rangers who will be housed out of WestWorld and will rove the parks and the Preserve on bicycle and offroad vehicles. He anticipates the park ranger program to be in place by late spring, after the completion of Super Bowl and spring training.

Ms. Tippett gave a detailed overview of the responsibilities of the Sports Field Reservations Office (SFRO) and Youth Sports Field Allocation (YSFA). The team is hoping to do an in-depth look at how fields are being allocated across the city parks and school fields, with the goal of developing a policy to ensuring that residents are being accommodated. She talked about the process of accommodating large tournament reservations and the related economic impact study and notifying the public in advance about possible inconveniences related to upcoming events. Ms. Tippett gave an in-depth review of the projects she is currently managing, which include Ashlar Hills Neighborhood Park, Indian Bend Wash Lakes and irrigation project, and the Thompson Peak Dog Park project.

Discussion ensued regarding unused buildings located at older neighborhood parks. Ms. Tippett said that staff has been considering possible options for the use of the park house at Chestnut Park. Buildings at Pima Park and Agua Linda Park will be removed as part of the restroom renovation projects.

Analysis is being done of neighborhood parks and the feasibility of adding pickleball courts to any of those areas. Problems with putting pickleball in neighborhood parks include noise pollution, light spillage, traffic, and parking.

4. LUNCH & "PARK IT" SCOTTSDALE HISTORY PRESENTATION

Scottsdale Community Historian Joan Fudala gave a presentation on the history of Scottsdale's park system, including the development of the Indian Bend Wash, facility openings, special events, and other key milestones. Her presentation included detailed information about public involvement in developing recreation opportunities, dating back to the founding of the City in 1888. She went through the timeline from 1888 through 2022, highlighting topics such as the history of golf and baseball in Scottsdale, development of the Indian Bend Wash, city parks, Civic Center, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, and aquatics centers. She stressed the importance of considering historical factors when renovating certain areas within the City.

5. PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER PRESENTATIONS – CONT.

Denise Clayton, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave a detailed overview of her areas of responsibility, which include adult sports, Leisure Education, facility booking, tennis centers, Club SAR, court maintenance projects, and playground projects.

Currently 320 teams are registered with the adult sports program, which is run out of Chaparral Park. Chaparral Park also is home to an inclusive playground and one of the City's urban fishing programs. The facility booking office is housed out of Eldorado Park. Facilities booking books facilities citywide, works with vendors to ensure they have the appropriate certifications, and issues permits to people wanting to provide classes or bootcamps in the parks.

Ms. Clayton said that a variety of different classes are offered through Leisure Education. She said that this season more workshop-type activities are being offered. Leisure Education staff consults NRPA and other municipalities to find out what classes are popular.

The City works closely with USTA to offer a variety of different programs at the Tennis Centers and partners with them to host national tournaments for juniors and adults. Scottsdale Ranch Park was named facility of the year in 2019. The City also works with the Arizona Interscholastic Association to host state tournaments. Ms. Clayton noted that Scottsdale saw a 17 percent increase in interest in tennis during the pandemic and the level of interest has remained at that level.

Ms. Clayton reviewed the history of Club SAR. The Department has been working with the Community Development Grant program and recently issued an RFP for Apache Park playground replacement. She anticipates that the playgrounds at Grayhawk, Horizon and Thompson Peak Park will be completed this fiscal year. Ms. Clayton is a certified playground safety inspector and will be part of the team working on the new playground at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park next year. Parks are selected for renovations based on age and usage.

Ms. Clayton said that two tennis centers recently had post tension concrete court replacement as part of Bond 2019 funding. Replacements were also done at Grayhawk, Aztec, and Cholla tennis courts, Horizon pickleball courts, and Horizon basketball court. Efforts are underway to prioritize safety issues and damage for other courts throughout the City.

Ms. Clayton explained that class offerings are chosen based on popularity and instructor availability. She noted that parks are designed with seating near the playgrounds to encourage

parental supervision. She implied that the City relies heavily on the playground development companies in designing playgrounds and choosing playground equipment. The City is moving toward replacing sand and rubberized surfaces with wood chips. This is ADA accessible, increases critical fall height, and requires less maintenance.

Kyu-Bin Hyun, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave a detailed overview of his areas of responsibility, which include aquatics facilities, aquatics maintenance, and accreditation. Scottsdale is one of ten accredited cities in Arizona and will have been accredited for 30 years when it successfully achieves accreditation in 2024. He manages the year-round centers at Cactus, Eldorado and McDowell Mountain Ranch and one seasonal center at Chapparral Park, and is responsible for maintenance of the City's 15 decorative fountains.

The city offers aquatic programming for all ages, including swim lessons for ages six months and up, specialty classes such as diving, log rolling, and artistic swimming, recreational swim and dive, water fitness classes, junior lifeguard program and lifeguard certification classes. He explained the process of lane reservations, noting that lane usage is prioritized for City programs first and then IGAs and partner teams. There is one contracted team of swim double masters that uses Cactus pool. The USA National Triathlon team and the Canadian National team also train at Scottsdale facilities. Aquatics special events include Safety Luau at Eldorado pool, Dive-in movie, Wet and Wild at Chapparral Pool, and Dunkin' for Pumpkins at McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatics Center.

Mr. Hyun gave an overview of the successful spring lifeguard recruitment campaign conducted in partnership with advertising group HAPI. The City successfully hired 61 new lifeguards and was able to offer full summer programming for the first time since 2019. Incentives offered to lifeguards included a lifeguard certification class fee reimbursement program and peak-season pay increase program. Lifeguards were offered an increase from \$12.90 per hour to \$14.50 from May 22 through August 27. The junior lifeguard program was brought back for the first time since 2019. The junior lifeguard program is a recruitment for 13- to 15-year-olds and this year had 47 participants, ten of whom received certifications and are in the process of being hired by the City.

Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Manager, talked about his background and gave a detailed overview of his areas of responsibility, which include serving as the City's golf liaison, DC Ranch Park, Bureau of Reclamation liaison, Fleet, Ironwood Park, Scottsdale Stadium, Sports Complexes, WestWorld Polo Field, Indian School Park Maintenance for professional baseball.

Mr. Walsh said that Scottsdale Sports Complex is a 74-acre parcel that offers sand-based sports fields suitable for flat-field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, and rugby. The fields are irrigated with reclaimed water pulled from Champions Course lake. The main line is currently in the process of being relocated and a wellsite is being built. The facility is promoted as a national regional tournament level facility, and hosts local league play, club practice, and high school play as well hosting the Bird's Nest and parking for the Waste Management Phoenix Open and Barrett-Jackson. Bell94 Sports Complex, the sister property to Scottsdale Sports Complex, was completed in 2022 as a Bond 2019 project. DC Ranch Neighborhood Park is home for a lake and pump station that supplies water for irrigation needs at Bell94. Different turf varieties are being tested at this location for salt tolerance. Phase II of the project will be explored in future years. It was noted that the DC Ranch project involved a high level of community engagement. Although there was significant opposition, the park has attracted a high level of usage. The

WestWorld Sports Complex is under construction and is expected to be completed by summer of 2023. Once WestWorld is completed, the City will have a total of 21 fields, which is expected to attract more large tournaments.

Mr. Walsh said that Scottsdale Stadium improvements were made possible through a 2019 Baseball Facilities Agreement. He highlighted the areas of renovation and technology upgrades, noting that phase II of the project is currently in design phase and expected to begin construction with the left field berm improvements and broadcast relocation after the end of spring training 2023 and be completed before spring training in 2024. The City has entered into multiyear partnerships with Delaware North Corporation to exclusively provide food and beverage at the stadium. Mr. Walsh noted that the City has a three-year agreement, with two one-year options, with the PAC-12 conference.

Mr. Walsh said that the LG Twins, a Korean baseball club, has an agreement to train at Indian School during the January/February time frame. As part of the recent budget approvals, funds were identified to begin master planning the entire Indian School park, including the baseball fields, and Club SAR. Renovations would be a ground zero plan with extensive public involvement.

Mr. Walsh is liaison for the City golf courses, which include TPC Scottsdale, Stadium Course, Champion's Course, McDowell Mountain Golf Club, Silverado, and Coronado golf courses. He briefly talked about the land leases with Bureau of Reclamation, considerations associated with Silverado Golf Course, which lies within the Maricopa County Flood District wash, and economic points associated with contracts. He described working with the Phoenix Open contract.

6. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Kira Peters, Community Services Administrator, provided an overview of the Department's strategic planning process and a tentative timeline for a draft plan. Strategic planning consultant Matt Lehrman of Social Prosperity Partners has been working with the planning committee and the parks and recreation leadership team to prioritize input received through interviews with City staff, the community, and stakeholders. Once the draft plan has been completed, it will be brought to the Commission and put out for public comment.

Ms. Peters reviewed results of the community survey, noting that the following rose to the top of the list: Well-maintained open space, water conservation, increased tree inventory, independent recreation opportunities, pickleball opportunities, real-time communication about what is happening in parks, resident priority, indoor recreational activities, affordability, inclusivity, programmable adult activities, and public engagement in decision making. Priorities from the anonymous staff survey had a lot of overlap with the community survey. Priorities that rose to the top were as follows: Better community collaboration, creating infrastructure to meet community expectations, increase use of technology, multigenerational spaces, community events, analyzing data, marketing parks and recreation opportunities, conservation, assisting the unhoused population, self-service recreation, support of youth sports, and Indian Bend Wash.

Ms. Peters said that as part of the project, the group is reviewing the Parks and Recreation vision and mission statements, with the goal of making them simple and to the point. She presented the top two options being considered for each.

After reviewing the survey results, the planning committee has agreed upon the following priorities:

- Environmental stewardship
- Supporting tourism and economic impact through Scottsdale parks and recreation programming, events, and facilities (need to describe tournaments benefit to tourism)
- Maintaining high-quality, safe parks and facilities
- Build, reinvest, and reimagine facilities and parks
- Providing inclusive world-class recreation programs and events
- Investing in parks and recreation workforce
- Prioritize Scottsdale residents' participation in programs and opportunities

Next steps will include developing a plan with the goal of presenting a draft plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission for action during the November meeting. The final strategic plan will be uploaded into the City's Envisio software system, which will track progress and measure success of each priority. The plan will be revisited each year to ensure that priorities are still relevant.

7. 2019 BOND PROJECT & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE

Director Molinari provided brief updates on the status of the following 2019 Bond and CIP projects:

- Bell94 Sports Complex

Bell94 Sports Complex has been completed.

- DC Ranch Neighborhood Park

Phase I of DC Ranch Neighborhood Park project has been completed.

- Ashler Hills Neighborhood Park

Ashler Hills Neighborhood Park has been recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission and Development Review Board and is on the Planning Commission Agenda for action on September 28, 2022.

- McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Bunkhouse Replacement (CIP) and Splash Pad (Bond 2019)

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Bunkhouse replacement and splash pad have been fully funded through two separate funding sources. The Bunkhouse is being funded through the CIP for this year and the splash pad was part of the Bond 2019 approval. Design and construction are expected to be done together and will take more than a year for completion.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari said that an update on all bond projects will be agendaized for a future meeting. It was noted that City Council has formed a task force to review the McDowell Sonoran Preserve tax.

8. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER PARRISH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, MCGARRY, QUALE 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 2:20 p.m.

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