



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 21, 2023  
McDowell Mountain Ranch Park  
15525 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

**PRESENT:** Chair Kristen Parrish, Vice-Chair Teresa Kim Quale, Commissioners Kurt Jones (arrived at 4:03 p.m.), Eric Kurland, and Maryann McAllen

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Eric Maschhaupt and Susan McGarry

**STAFF:** Director Nick Molinari; Parks and Recreation Managers Chris Walsh, Denise Clayton, Brett Jackson, Kevin McKee, Kyu-Bin Hyun, Stephanie Tippett; Operations Supervisor Phil Hershkowitz; Tourism and Events Director Karen Churchard

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present as indicated above.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 17, 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR QUALE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS JONES, KURLAND AND MCALLEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. TOURISM AND EVENTS STRATEGIC PLAN**

Karen Churchard, Tourism and Events Director, gave a presentation outlining Scottsdale's Tourism and Events Strategic five-year plan, focusing on plan elements that are closely associated with Scottsdale parks, special events, and other recreational activities. She noted that the strategic plan was developed in close collaboration with Experience Scottsdale, and in collaboration with Resonance Consultancy. She gave an overview of the phases involved in developing the plan, which included public outreach, benchmarking and stakeholder engagement, evaluation and recommendations, implementation and development of an action plan. She highlighted some of the plan priorities, including community well-being, which will include supporting Honor Health's initiative to make Scottsdale a Blue Zone; principles that have an alignment with parks and recreation, including festivals and events; expanding activities and promotional efforts at Civic Center Mall, Scottsdale Stadium, and WestWorld; and strategies for outdoor pursuits/sports tourism. Next steps in the process will include formation of working groups that will focus on each of the principles. The full plan is available at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov/tourismplan](http://ScottsdaleAZ.gov/tourismplan).

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Churchard explained that the goal is to target the "active adventurers" and the "all-in enthusiasts" because the Scottsdale market most closely aligns with their interests. She said that the number of "frugals" visiting Scottsdale will likely drop significantly, because of the rising cost of accommodations. Director Molinari noted that the Parks Strategic Plan will align significantly with the Tourism and Events Strategic Plan as far as specific areas such as the Triple Crown Sports tournament and establishment of criteria for sports complexes. Commissioners stressed the importance of keeping focus on events for Scottsdale's citizens. Ms. Churchard explained that there is a nexus of connecting visitors/tourists in the "mega events" while also focusing on providing funding to the smaller non-profit events that serve the community.

### **2. CHAPARRAL DOG PARK MAINTENANCE**

Parks and Recreation Manager, Stephanie Tippett, and Operations Supervisor, Phil Hershkowitz, gave a presentation about maintenance practices, use, signage, and community outreach done at the Chaparral Dog Park. Ms. Tippett gave an overview of maintenance and operations, including an overview of the maintenance process, maintenance costs, facility hours, gate automatic operations, and cell rotation. As part of the maintenance review, Ms. Tippett talked about maintenance of the Bermuda grass, maintenance during the summer when the grass goes dormant, and challenges associated with overuse of the facility. Mr. Hershkowitz talked about outreach efforts he and his staff have done over the past few months and the input they have received from dog park users, both in-person and through a survey that has been circulated. Park users had complaints about grass maintenance and were interested in information about the new off-leash area at Thompson Peak. He explained the reasons for changing the areas from "active"/"passive" areas to "large dog"/"small dog"; talked about instances where there is aggressive behavior, overuse of the facility, and the percentage of people that are coming from other cities to use the facility. He stressed that City staff does not staff the park and does not get involved in situations with aggressive dog behavior or emergencies; they instead will call police non-emergency or 911 as appropriate.

Ms. Tippett said that the next element of community outreach will be the implementation of Doug the Dog Hello Dog Park at various park locations, which will offer a QR code link to an interactive platform offering information and a questionnaire about Thompson Peak Dog Park.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari said that there is already an increased police presence in the parks and he anticipates that the new park rangers will be added to that patrol. He said that the new parks master plan will likely include dog parks throughout the city, including in the Eldorado/McDowell corridor.

Discussion ensued regarding Chaparral Park cell rotation, possible redesign to include a fourth cell, alternate surface options pros and cons, and the benefits of using wood chips. Commissioners inquired about the possibility of having a membership program with a nominal fee for non-residents. Ms. Tippett said that a membership program has been considered. Technology is available and could be installed if they move forward with changing fencing to accommodate a fourth cell and make the facility more ADA accessible. Commissioners stressed the need for a fourth cell and suggested that the softball field next to the park be used as part of the expansion rather than reconfiguring the current three cells. It was argued that expansion of Chaparral Park dog park and development of additional dog parks in the city is vitally important, considering the number of users. Director Molinari reiterated that dog parks are a priority in the master plan process and the process will include stakeholder groups specifically for dog park users.

### **3. THOMPSON PEAK PARK DOG PARK SITE PLAN**

Parks and Recreation Manager, Stephanie Tippett, in conjunction with Michael Park from EPG, design contractor, presented the Thompson Peak Park Dog Park conceptual site plan. The presentation included information about site restrictions, size, design, and public process update. Ms. Tippett noted that the original bond initiative funded the project at \$4.6 million, but through the current year's budget process, the project is now funded at \$6.8 million. The presentation included information on cell rotation, surface options, site conditions, restrictions that have been imposed because of powerline restrictions, and the public outreach process. Mr. Park explained that the Planning Commission wanted the 30-foot setback from the property line in order to match the setbacks for the commercial shopping center across the street. Public outreach has included information on various surface options, with a majority of input coming in support of the use of wood chips. It was noted that the design could include a combination of several options, including grass, strategically placed depending on the amount of shade in various areas. The public art component has a budget of \$36,000 and the selected artist is currently working with the design team to bring her concepts into the design elements.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Tippett explained that the facility will be fully ADA accessible. Consideration of a card entry can be considered as part of the design process. Commissioners suggested that the conceptual site plan include expansion to four cells as a future expansion option. The next step will be taking the 90 percent plans to the Development Review Board for input before going to City Council for approval of the construction contract.

COMMISSIONER JONES MOVED TO APPROVE THOMPSON PEAK PARK DOG PARK CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN. COMMISSIONER MCALLEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR

QUALE, COMMISSIONERS JONES, KURLAND, AND MCALLEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**4. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES FOR PROTECT AND PRESERVE SCOTTSDALE TASK FORCE**

Commissioners reviewed, discussed, and provided feedback on a Commission developed memorandum recommending Parks and Recreation Department priorities to send to the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force for consideration in executing the objectives of the Task Force's work plan. Discussion included an in-depth review of an amended version of the memorandum, presented by Vice-Chair Quale; suggestions regarding content and language; the most appropriate way to refer to the tax; the importance of including additional information about the priorities throughout the city; and the inclusion of the aquatics' centers. Director Molinari noted that staff is not recommending the inclusion of Scottsdale Stadium or the TPC. Staff will work with the Chair to ensure that the document is in line with the Commission bylaws.

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO DIRECT THE CHAIR TO WORK WITH STAFF TO FINALIZE THE MEMORANDUM FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PROTECT AND PRESERVE SCOTTSDALE TASK FORCE, BASED ON FEEDBACK GIVEN DURING THIS MEETING. COMMISSIONER KURLAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS JONES, KURLAND, AND MCALLEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Molinari gave an update on the Indian School Park Master Plan process. Public outreach workshops have been held both virtually and in person and have so far resulted in approximately 45 public comments. Further public hearings are scheduled for September. Following the September public meetings, Director Molinari anticipates that the Indian School Park Master Plan will be put on hold until the completion of the systemwide Parks Master Plan has been completed.

Director Molinari reviewed recent and upcoming events.

Adapted Services Grand Slam Breakfast was held at Scottsdale Stadium on June 10, 2023.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park will continue hosting Sunday evening concerts through this coming Sunday, June 25th.

McDowell Mountain Ranch Glow Up family swim party was held on June 17, 2023.

Director Molinari recognized Commissioner Jones for his years of service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner McAllen said she has enjoyed going to the Summer Concert Series and likes the addition of food trucks to the event.

Commissioner Jones said he has been going to Chaparral Dog Park and recently attended the Summer Concert Series.

Chair Parrish congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department for Civic Center being awarded the APRA award. She made staff aware of a recent TikTok challenge to climb the restroom building at Agua Linda Park.

**7. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items were suggested.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

VICE-CHAIR QUALE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER MCALLEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS JONES, KURLAND, AND MCALLEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.