



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021
Meeting Held Electronically**

PRESENT: Chair Maryann McAllen, Vice-Chair Kurt Jones, Commissioners Alexandra Albert, Eric Kurland, and Teresa Kim Quale

ABSENT: Commissioners Ronald Lehman, Susan McGarry

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Managers Jody Pierce, Brett Jackson, Denise Clayton, Operations Supervisor Phil Herskowitz, and Stadium Supervisor Stephanie Tippet

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McAllen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as indicated above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair McAllen read a comment from Davyd Cash inquiring about the status of improvements to Eldorado Park and Vista del Camino Park and the greenbelt area between Thomas Road and McKellips Road that were presented during public meetings in 2019. The submittal will be placed in the permanent record and staff will respond to Mr. Cash's inquiry.

MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes – June 16, 2021

VICE-CHAIR JONES MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 16, 2021 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ALBERT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MCALLEN, VICE-CHAIR JONES, COMMISSIONERS ALBERT AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER KURLAND ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Nick Molinari, Director, introduced new staff members and announced new roles that existing staff have moved into.

Veronica Brauchli is the new executive secretary supporting Parks and Recreation as well as other Community Services Division functions. She will act as the primary contact for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Sunny Nakagawa has moved into the position of managing McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

Kyu Bin Hyun is the new manager of the Aquatics program and will oversee all four aquatics centers and aquatics maintenance.

Erin McKallor-Quill has expanded her role as safety and training coordinator to include the entire Community Services Department.

Mr. Molinari said that part-time staffing positions are still available.

2. PAC-12 BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Stephanie Tippett, Stadium Supervisor, gave an update on the recent City Council approval of the PAC-12 Baseball Tournament contract. She noted that the contract is for an inaugural baseball tournament to be held at Scottsdale Stadium beginning in May 2022, with additional tournaments scheduled for 2023 and 2024. She explained that the tournament would consist of eight teams that have reached post-season conference tournament status; the winners of the tournament will qualify for an automatic bid to the NCAA baseball tournament. The tournament will include a double-elimination bracket, held over a five-day period. She anticipates approximately 2,000 attendees for each game.

The City of Scottsdale will receive the following benefits under the contract:

- Inclusion in the Pac-12 official baseball tournament logo
- Logo inclusion in at least twelve social media posts
- The City name will be used in all event advertisements and promotions
- Four 30-second TV spots across the Pac-12 network, with two reserved for either the Mayor or Experience Scottsdale to create a message
- Two in-venue specific announcements
- Two 30-minute in-venue specific video promotions per game
- Opportunities to distribute promotional materials on property
- Complimentary tickets

3. PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Director Molinari gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, which was last updated in FY 2015/16. He asked that a member of the Commission be appointed to serve on the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan Committee. He mentioned that Commissioner McGarry had expressed an interest in participating on the committee

COMMISSIONER KURLAND MOVED TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER MCGARRY AS THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PARKS AND

RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER ALBERT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MCALLEN, VICE-CHAIR JONES, COMMISSIONERS ALBERT, KURLAND, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Director Molinari said that he anticipates the City will choose a consultant and enter into a contract within the next four weeks. The public engagement process will likely include both in-person and virtual options and will begin within approximately six months.

Chair McAllen requested that future agendas include an update on the progress of the strategic plan process.

4. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Brett Jackson, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave an update on the Department's water conservation practices and response to the Colorado River water shortage. City of Scottsdale created the current program in 2002 after the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) began measuring water and water levels. At the time the City determined that their allotment would be 15 percent less than set by ADWR.

Scottsdale's program consists of irrigation technologies, advancements, management practices, education, and tracking.

Technologies include utilization of program controls from the Corp Yard location. The control system was updated using \$1.3 million awarded through the FY 2018/19 CIP package.

Advancements include updated mainline pipes, updated control valves, and foundation improvement projects.

Management practices include water usage tracking reports, required maintenance, pivotal water audits, reduced overseeding, conversion of turf areas to low water usage, and performance reviews.

Education and Certification Programs include partnership with Ewing Irrigation, which includes access to their training courses, which include basic training topics as well as advanced training topics.

Tracking follows different sources of water including SRP, potable effluent, and Central Arizona Project. Information on water usage at each park location can be found on the City's website.

The City of Scottsdale officially declared state 1 water shortage on August 17, 2021. Mr. Molinari reviewed areas in which water reduction measures will be seen throughout the City.

Mr. Molinari noted that the City of Scottsdale has been operating in tier-1 shortage for the past 20 years, which positions the City in a good position. The City will strive to address the shortage with as minimal impact to citizens as possible.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Molinari said that storm damage cleanup and tree replacement has been ongoing since the June 22 monsoon storms. Many large trees were lost due to ground saturation and the microburst damaged over 300 trees throughout the park system, medians, and rights-of-way. The City's initial response was to clear downed trees to create a safe environment. Vendors were then brought in to clear root balls and clear trees out of medians. Approximately half of the trees have been replaced and the remaining trees will be strategically placed throughout the City. APS has committed to providing up to \$10,000 in trees, and individual donations are being accepted for tree replacements.

350 participants are registered for after school programs throughout the City at both community centers and SUSD locations. Recently, Mayor Ortega proclaimed October 28th as Lights on After School Day.

The aquatics summer program had over 2,500 participants. Currently 630 participants are registered in aquatics programs. Mr. Molinari noted that the City is experiencing challenges recruiting lifeguards.

There are 2,600 participants currently registered for leisure education classes, approximately 70 percent of the pre-pandemic participation. Many programs are at indoor facilities. Staff have developed several new outdoor program offerings.

Adult Sports has seen a recent increase in participation. There are currently 329 teams registered for fall leagues.

The City of Scottsdale recently hosted the USTA National Championships at Indian School Park and Scottsdale Ranch Park. The event benefited the City's recreation centers as well as the City economy.

Mr. Molinari noted that the Giants recently moved the minor league to Papago Park through an IGA between the City of Scottsdale and Phoenix. The fields that had been used are now part of the City's inventory and to date have hosted 300 tournament games.

Civic Center Mall renovations began last month and are expected to continue until January 2023. Mr. Molinari noted that water conservation is a priority in all City capital projects. Civic Center renovations will include approximately a 50 percent reduction in water usage. The various events that typically use the space throughout the year are being relocated, some to the newly renovated Scottsdale Stadium.

Ashler Hills Park virtual public process will be open to the public through November 1, 2021. The project will likely include turf, a playground, and lighted sport courts. Some residents have expressed concerns about the lighting, because the location is part of a dark community.

The Merci Train at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park was relocated to a more prominent location in the park on September 27, 2021. The relocation is part of the multi-phased master plan for the park. The master plan includes plans to replace the aging bunkhouse with an indoor activity space and to add a splash pad once the projects can be funded.

Bell Road Sports Complex is under construction and is expected to be open by spring of 2022.

Existing Horizon pickleball courts are being renovated and two additional courts will be added, making a total of 12 courts at the location. Completion is expected in December 2021.

6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Vice-Chair Jones noted that he uses Chaparral Dog Park and is glad to see that the fences have been fixed. He asked if there have been any complaints about the turf at Horizon Park. Mr. Molinari said that a new dog park at Thompson Peak was included in the Bond 2019 package. The Ashler Hills community has expressed an interest in including a dog park in the area; however many people have expressed concern that a dog park would bring additional noise and traffic.

Commissioner Quale said that she recently had an opportunity to go to McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. She and her guests enjoyed their visit.

Chair McAllen encouraged everyone to attend Dunkin' for Pumpkins at McDowell Mountain Ranch on Sunday, October 24, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. She encouraged the City to continue issuing tickets for McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park events moving forward. She said that the practice created an opportunity for attendees to have prime seating and ample parking opportunities.

7. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include:

- Overview of 2019 Bond projects

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.