



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

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Eldorado Park Community Center
2311 N. Miller Road, Suite 100, Room 1
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

PRESENT: Chair Kristen Parrish, Vice-Chair Teresa Kim Quale, Commissioners Eric Kurland, Eric Maschhaupt, and Susan McGarry

ABSENT: Commissioners Kurt Jones and Maryann McAllen

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Parks and Recreation Managers Chris Walsh, Stephanie Tippett, Denise Clayton, Kevin McKee, Kyu-Bin Hyun; Community Services Operations Supervisor Dan Bachman

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as indicated above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2023

COMMISSIONER KURLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS KURLAND AND MCGARRY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER MASCHHAUPT ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. YOUTH SPORTS FIELD ALLOCATION POLICY UPDATE OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Stephanie Tippett, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided the Commission with the presentation she recently shared with City Council, outlining the highlights and impact of the draft Youth Sports Field Allocation Policy. She noted that the Youth Sports Field Allocation Policy (YSFA) dictates allocations for field resources in the park system and at select Scottsdale Unified School District fields. The policy does not include specialty fields such as Indian School Park, Scottsdale Sports Complex, Bell94, Westworld, Westworld sports fields, or Scottsdale Stadium. Her presentation included a breakdown of open space areas within the city park system; field inventory; a review of the sites included as part of the intergovernmental agreement with Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD); and talked about ballfield maintenance, noting that maintenance is done by the regular parks maintenance staff. She outlined the various uses and users, noting that adult sports is the biggest user; SUSD uses fields for many of their programs; youth sports organizations are the second largest users with approximately 13,450 participants, 8,982 of whom are residents; and tournaments and private rentals.

Ms. Tippett noted that in April 2022, staff received findings of an audit, talking about resource management. A key factor was the YSFA Policy and how resources are managed. A Policy Review Team was formed and has developed a recommended new YSFA Policy, which will eliminate partner organizations and will require each youth-based organization to submit applications annually. Ms. Tippett reviewed in detail the policy changes, including priority 1 through 5 classifications for users. Anticipated impacts and outcomes of policy changes include an increased number of organizations supported through the field allocation process; an increase in the number of residents served; enhanced quality of fields and playing surfaces, and decreased allocation hours for current partner organizations based on actual usage. Ms. Tippett noted that City Council had a few comments, but were mostly supportive of the proposed changes.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Discussion ensued regarding priority one organizations, which include City organizations and SUSD Schools; the anticipated reaction of current partner organizations to the new policy; prioritizing Scottsdale residents; field allocations based on priority level and usage enforcement; the historical relationships between the City and current partner organizations; the appeal process; a list of items highlighted in the audit that are being addressed; rest and recovery schedules; the new annual application process; and enforcing the reporting of current number of residents being served by each organization. New policies will be phased in in order to minimize impacts on current partner organizations.

Director Molinari anticipates that the new Youth Sports Field Allocation Policy will be completed and agendaized for adoption during the April or May Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

2. DISCUSSION ON NEW COMMISSION MEETING TIME

Chair Parrish led a discussion with the Commission and staff proposing a new monthly meeting time for Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO CHANGE THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING TIME TO 4:00 P.M. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND MCGARRY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

COMMISSIONER KURLAND MOVED TO BEGIN SCHEDULING THE NEW MEETING TIME AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND MCGARRY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. NAMING PROPOSAL – NEW WESTWORLD SPORTS COMPLEX

Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Manager, and Dan Bachman, Service Operations Supervisor, gave a presentation on the renaming of the new sports complex, located at McDowell Mountain Ranch Road and Thompson Peak Parkway, currently referred to as the “WestWorld Sports Complex,” to Reata Ranch Sports Complex.

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF "WESTWORLD SPORTS COMPLEX" TO "REATA RANCH SPORTS COMPLEX." COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND MCGARRY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. UPDATE ON BOND AND CIP PROJECTS

Stephanie Tippett and Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Managers, provided an overview and status update of 2019 Bond and Capital Improvement Program projects that fall within the management of the Parks and Recreation department. Projects included the following:

- **Ashler Hills Neighborhood Park** – Planned amenities include shaded playground, exercise equipment, open turf areas, restrooms, lighted sports courts, lighted parking lot, nine acres of natural area open space (NAOS) and walking paths. The Municipal Use Master Site Plan (MUMSP) has been approved. Current project estimated cost is approximately \$12 million, which is up from the original bond estimate of approximately \$6 million. Construction is slated to begin in fall of 2023 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.
- **Thompson Peak Park Off-Leash Area** – Project is in the conceptual design phase and is expected to be ready for public input by April 2023. The site will have unique characteristics, due to restrictions placed on the site by the three major power companies who have easements on the site, and will include public art elements.
- **Indian Bend Wash Lakes and Streams** – An area site plan was shown, depicting the various phases planned for the project. Area One will begin on March 20, 2023, and will include xeriscape conversion near the Boys and Girls Club and dredging and cleanup of the north lake. Area Two is pending approvals and is expected to begin in late fall of 2023. Areas 3 through 6 are currently unfunded and are slated for future years.

- **Reata Ranch Sports Complex – (formerly WestWorld Sports Complex) –** Construction is underway of areas including parking lots, drainage and gravel, irrigation, grading, sidewalks, electrical work, plumbing, and pumpstation wall footings. Mr. Walsh anticipates the site to be ready for "play" by late fall of 2023. A grand opening celebration will be scheduled once construction has been completed.

Director Molinari gave an overview of bond funding opportunities. He explained that Bell94 and the Reata Ranch Sports Complex are fully funded because they began shortly after the Bond 2019 election. Bond projects that are not fully funded, such as Ashler Hills and Thompson Peak Off Leash Area were approved based on FY 2017/18 estimated construction costs, which have gone up significantly. To address the additional costs, staff has included a request for supplemental funding through the City's FY 2023/24 CIP budget process. The City's executive team will initiate discussion with Mayor and Council about prioritizing during an upcoming City Council retreat. Alternative options for funding the bond projects include value engineering the project scope to fit within the original estimated budget or to transfer funds from another 2019 bond project that has not been started. He explained that transferring funds between projects approved under the same bond opportunity is legal and is a common practice; however, staff is hoping to find an alternate funding method.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Molinari reviewed upcoming events.

Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force Meetings scheduled for April 10th and 24th, 2023.

Thompson Peak inclusive playground ribbon cutting scheduled for March 31, 2023.

Bunnanza, Easter-themed event scheduled for April 8, 2023 at Civic Center. This will be the first event held at the new Civic Center. Director Molinari said that due to the recent inclement weather, it is likely that construction on the east side of the center will not be completed in time for the event.

Indian School Park master plan open house will be held April 26, 2023, at the clubhouse.

Pac -12 Tournament is scheduled for May 23rd through 27th, 2023 at Scottsdale Stadium.

6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Vice Chair Quale said that she attended the recent Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force meeting. She recently toured the west side of the new Civic Center and the Eldorado Skate Park.

7. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include:

- Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force meeting updates

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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