



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Via Linda Senior Center Room #5
10440 E. Via Linda
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

PRESENT: Chair Kristen Parrish, Vice Chair Teresa Kim Quale, Commissioners Eric Kurland, Michael Vreeland, and Eric Maschhaupt

ABSENT: Commissioner Susan McGarry

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Parks and Recreation Managers Chris Walsh, Brett Jackson, Stephanie Tippet; Operations Supervisor Matt Osterhold; City Treasurer Sonia Andrews; Enterprise and Finance Director Gina Kirklin

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Work Study Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023

VICE-CHAIR QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER VREELAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, AND COMMISSIONERS KURLAND,

MASCHHAUPT, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023

COMMISSIONER VREELAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MASCHHAUPT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, AND COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

VICE-CHAIR QUALE NOMINATED KRISTEN PARRISH TO CONTINUE IN THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER KURLAND SECONDED THE NOMINATION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, AND COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

CHAIR PARRISH NOMINATED TERESA KIM QUALE TO CONTINUE IN THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER MASCHHAUPT SECONDED THE NOMINATION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, AND COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. APPROVAL OF THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Nick Molinari, Community Services Assistant Executive Director, gave a brief overview of the 2023 annual report.

COMMISSIONER KURLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER VREELAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, AND COMMISSIONERS KURLAND, MASCHHAUPT, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. PROTECT & PRESERVE SCOTTSDALE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Sonia Andrews, City Treasurer, provided an update on the work of the Task Force, including discussion of Task Force actions taken, financial considerations, and other information related to the work of the Task Force. Her presentation included a detailed review of priority unfunded needs. Staff has been directed to ensure cost inflation is factored into expenditure projection and to prioritize Indian Bend Wash Parks first and to project revenues to make sure it provides

funding for future needs that are not anticipated at this time, including funding for future improvements for parks in central and northern areas. The recommended allocation of the 0.15 percent tax after paying debt obligations includes 14 percent for parks maintenance; 18 percent for Preserve maintenance, preservation, protection, and education; 7 percent for police park rangers and open space security needs; 10 percent for the fire fuel mitigation program and Technical Rescue Team for parks and open space; and 51 percent for parks capital improvements. The Task Force recommendation is to extend the .02 tax that is expiring in 2025 for another 30 years with a .05 percent reduction. Ms. Andrews presented a comparison of city sales tax rates, showing that Scottsdale has a rate lower than many other cities. Task Force Members Raule Zubia, Carla, and Nicholas Hartman were on hand and offered additional input throughout the presentation and the question-and-answer period.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Andrews confirmed that \$25 million is in the ballpark of what is anticipated annually, starting July 1, 2025. She said that it is estimated that approximately 12 percent of sales taxes are paid by visitors that travel 15 miles or more to the city, and that number does not include bed tax. She explained that fire mitigation and technical rescue teams for the Preserve are currently funded by the General Fund and police rangers by Prop 207, so the idea is that some things would be transferred to dedicated funding for those specific needs instead of coming out of general fund. Carla clarified that the majority of invasive weed mitigation and fire mitigation is currently funded by grants, so a dedicated source is needed.

Ms. Andrews discussed the value citizens will see with the net decrease to the City's sales tax rate. She talked about the City's revenue situation, which includes the loss of the residential rental tax revenues starting January 1, 2025, which is a \$14 million loss per year, and the loss of State Shared Income Tax Revenues (Flat Tax). The City is considering a permanent base adjustment for the expenditure limitation, which would require voter approval and would likely be on the November 2024 ballot. Ms. Andrews gave a detailed explanation of the expenditure limitation.

The Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force will present their recommendations to City Council during the February 27, 2024, City Council Work Study meeting. Parks and Recreation Commissioners are encouraged to attend to show support.

4. NAMING PROPOSAL – ROOM IN HARTLEY & RUTH BARKER BRANCH BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN ELDORADO COMMUNITY CENTER

Matt Osterhold, Community Services Operations Supervisor, gave a presentation and asked for the Commission to recommend that City Council approve the Boys and Girls Club's request to name a multipurpose room (#111) within the Barker Branch Boys and Girls Club located within the Eldorado Community Center the "Panda Cares Center of Hope." Boys and Girls Club of America received a \$46,000 Panda Cares grant from Panda Express Foundation, enabling these renovations. Acceptance of the grant requires that Panda Cares signage be placed in the room and outside above the door. Mr. Osterhold noted that the City of Scottsdale and Boys and Girls Club of America recently renewed the lease agreement for another 20-year period, and part of the lease agreement details the naming rights of rooms at the Eldorado Community Center.

Discussion ensued regarding the naming rights and lease agreement. Director Molinari said that the City has an administrative regulation that outlines the policy for sponsorship and naming rights, requiring that organizations must go through staff, Commission, and City Council approval. The Community Services division has a history of looking for naming rights and funding opportunities.

Commissioner Kurland noted that he would not be supporting the request because he is not in favor of advertising unhealthy food to children.

COMMISSIONER VREELAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM (#111) WITHIN THE BARKER BRANCH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB LOCATED WITHIN THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY CENTER TO "PANDA CARES CENTER OF HOPE." VICE-CHAIR QUALE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ONE (1) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, AND COMMISSIONERS MASCHHAUPT AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER KURLAND DISSENTED.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Molinari announced that the Scottsdale Bobcats soccer team brought home gold in the December Special Olympics State Soccer Tournament, beating out Paradise Valley. They are coached by Scottsdale police aid and former Olympian Alex Sachs.

Scottsdale Parks and Recreation had several employees recognized at the City of Scottsdale Annual Employee Awards on December 13, 2023. Three of the teams brought home awards, and the Medians and Right of Way maintenance team received the Thank You award for the work they did with the SRP right place program. The Adaptive Services Team was selected for the People's Choice Award for their dedication to rebuilding the Adaptive Services program after the Covid-19 pandemic. Paul Germinaro, Kelsey Lamper, and Stacy Yoder took home the Value Diversity Award for work they did in securing grant funding and rebranding the Scottsdale Bobcats.

Director Molinari gave an update on the Parks Systemwide Master Plan. He said an in-person community meeting is scheduled January 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Scottsdale Civic Center. He reviewed statistics from the outreach efforts, including website visits, feedback responses, interactive map comments, big idea comments, budget activity respondents, intercept surveys, and social media connections.

Three or four concepts for the Indian School Park Master Plan will be brought forward during the next commission meeting and will be posted on the Indian School Park Master Plan website. The Cactus Park Master Plan focuses on the replacement of the Cactus Aquatic Center and an ingress and egress to Scottsdale Road. The timing of these master plans is working out well because they are in correlation with the Systemwide Master Plan.

Scottsdale Aquatics is gearing up for summer lifeguard recruitment. In the past, Scottsdale has been more successful in its ability to hire lifeguards since the pandemic. This year, however, neighboring communities are being very competitive, with some paying up to \$22 an hour and signing and referral bonuses. Staff is reviewing the budget, expenditure limits, and other options

as they relate to hiring lifeguards.

Director Molinari announced that Stephanie Tippet has transferred to the manager position at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park and that Denise Clayton has retired. There are currently two manager positions open.

6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Vreeland said he recently went to the Blue Zones event at Civic Center.

Vice-Chair Quale said she recently walked Civic Center and particularly liked the Cactus Garden. She has also been attending the Master Plan meetings.

7. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Civic Center programming

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.