



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

**ELDORADO PARK
2311 N. MILLER RD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85257**

PRESENT: Virginia Harris, Chair
Ron Chambless, Commissioner
Chris Thuman, Commissioner
Anne Wurth, Commissioner
Sherry Woodley, Commissioner

ABSENT: Todd Davis, Vice Chair
Michael Bouscher, Commissioner

STAFF: Kira Peters, Parks and Recreation Manager
Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager
Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreation Manager
Denise Clayton, Parks and Recreation Manager
Ryan Burris, IT

Call to order

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

Public Comment

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

Moment of Silence

Commission members observed a moment of silence.

1. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. **Regular Meeting: November 4, 2015**

Commissioner Chambless noted that in the Director's report, paragraph 8 should indicate that the work study session will be held on December 2nd, not November 21st.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBLESS MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2015 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER THUMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE CHAIR DAVIS AND COMMISSIONER BOUSCHER WERE ABSENT.

2. **Parks Maintenance Overview**

Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreation Manager presented an overview of the maintenance in Parks throughout the City. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for 937 acres of parks including 412 acres of turf, 39 acres of lakes, 133 acres of xeroscape, and 136 acres of parking lots and sidewalks. Mr. Pierce described maintenance responsibilities for many areas including volleyball courts; sport courts, which include pickleball, tennis, basketball, and shuffleboard courts; playgrounds; parks including drinking fountains, picnic tables, garbage cans, and grills; recreational softball and baseball fields; soccer fields; and off-leash areas. Parks and Recreation responsibilities also include maintenance of the tree inventory; coordination with construction projects; medians and right-of-ways; washes; and trails.

Mr. Pierce explained in detail the three service levels that are adhered to in the city. Service level one facilities are given the highest level of maintenance. Level one facilities include Downtown, the Civic Center Mall, the Giants baseball facilities, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park; and the Scottsdale Sports Complex. Service level two facilities include community parks, neighborhood parks, and satellite parks. The nature area between Hayden and Pima south of Indian Bend Road is the only service level three facility.

The presentation included a review of maintenance schedules; service contracts; important tools that are used in the maintenance of facilities; fertilizing and weed control processes; and Parks and Recreation's involvement in the flood preparation process and cleanup.

Commission Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Mr. Pierce noted that the park maintenance staff's primary focus is safety and curb appeal. Ms. Clayton noted that in addition to the eight soccer fields, the City has multi-use facilities that can be used for both soccer and football. Mr. Pierce said that contracts between the city and outside contractors are usually for one year with a five-year extension option.

3. **Accreditation 2019**

Kira Peters, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave a presentation outlining how Scottsdale Parks and Recreation is working towards maintaining the CAPRA Accreditation distinction in 2019. She explained the National Parks and Recreation Association CAPRA accreditation process, noting with a successful accreditation in

2019, the City of Scottsdale will have held that status for 25 years, which is one of the longest in the country. Ms. Peters gave a detailed explanation of the evaluation process and the preparation that staff goes through to ensure the City meets the 85% minimum of 151 standards, including 37 mandatory fundamentals during the five years between evaluations.

Ten committees are being formed that will each be assigned to review particular standards of the accreditation process. Ms. Peters requested that a Commission Member volunteer to be a part of the team working on creating a vision statement, which is a new fundamental requirement for the 2019 evaluation.

Cost of accreditation includes a \$480 NRPA annual membership fee, \$2,750 review fee, and the travel expenses for the evaluators. The 2019 evaluation will be in the spring or summer of 2019, which means the self-assessment sections must be completed in November of 2018 and submitted in February of 2019.

Ms. Peters stressed the importance of educating the public about accreditation, which improves the culture of excellence in Scottsdale Parks and Recreation.

Commission members were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Ms. Peters said that Tucson and Mesa have recently become accredited. She noted that many agencies nationwide are working towards accreditation although many cities are unable to afford the cost involved.

Commissioner Chambless offered to participate in the visioning process.

Ms. Erickson noted that the accreditation process offers the city an opportunity to discover things that will help the department maintain a high quality of service.

4. Pickleball Courts Update

Parks and Recreation Managers Kira Peters and Denise Clayton presented an update on the progress of the new outdoor pickleball courts at Cholla Park. Construction was set back by approximately two weeks because of a miscalculation in the placement of the concrete net post footers. An adjustment has been made and the courts are now expected to be completed by November 30th. The City has worked with the pickleball community in designing the courts, fencing, and areas surrounding the courts and has set up an online message board to keep the public updated on progress.

Provided the courts are completed by November 30th, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled on Friday, December 4th at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Lane will be invited to participate.

Ms. Clayton briefly reviewed upgrades that have been done including removal of the fence dividing the courts, addition of extra picnic tables, windspring replacement, and new signage.

Ms. Peters mentioned that there is a pickleball Meetup group that the City will be working with to coordinate court use. She discussed the options being considered to accommodate the group while maintaining court availability for the general public. Pickleball clubs are popular nationwide and there could be an opportunity to hold

pickleball tournaments in the future, possibly using facilities at WestWorld during the summer season. She outlined some other ideas under consideration such as contracting for short clinics for learners.

Discussion ensued regarding how to manage organized pickleball groups and drop-in users.

5. Commissioner Report

Commissioner Chambless said that he has compiled information about private sports groups and tax funded facilities for use at the upcoming study session.

Commissioner Wurth said that she has been several times to the Skate Park and has learned a lot about the process and has gotten comments from users. Once she has seen more, she might offer a report to the Commission.

6. Director's Report of Current Events

Kira Peters, Parks and Recreation Manager, reported that in October the Mountain View Park after school program had a Zombie Walk where the children dressed like zombies and interacted with park users. Youth Development is also offering an opportunity for after school participants to go to the Lost Dog Trailhead in the Preserve to meet with McDowell Sonoran Conservancy volunteers and learn about the Preserve.

Youth Sports basketball season recently had its end-of-season championship for boys and girls third through fifth grades. There were 15 teams from across the community participating this season.

Scottsdale Aquatic Club is implementing price increases in November with the following fee changes: adult lap swimming drop-ins raised to \$3 from \$2 and non-residents \$5; children drop-ins \$2 up from \$1 and non-resident children \$3.

Gym hours at Cactus and Eldorado will be changed based on use. The facilities will be closed from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Staff is working to find a revenue generating way to use those hours.

Ms. Peters noted that tennis court/pickleball court resurfacing is almost completed.

Handlebar Helpers recently joined with the Scottsdale Police Department in a community bike ride at Paiute Neighborhood Center.

The Veterans Day event at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park was successful and included an active military corporal giving a speech to celebrate servicemen and women.

Mountain View Park hosted the Turkey Bowl football game between Horizon Community Center and Mountain View Community Center today, November 18th. On November 19th Hohokam Elementary School will host a tournament.

The Fishing Derby is scheduled for November 21st from 8:00 am to 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Lights at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park will open with the tree lighting on December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Commission work study session is scheduled for December 2nd at 4:00pm at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

7. Public Comment

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

8. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz