



**SCOTTSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING APPROVED MINUTES
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Eldorado Park Community Center
2311 N. Miller Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85257**

PRESENT: Chair Todd Davis, Vice-Chair Sherry Woodley, Commissioners Michael Auerbach, Kurt Jones, and Jason Watton

ABSENT: Commissioners Alexandra Albert and Fred Klein

STAFF: Director Reed Pryor, Managers Terry Erickson, Brett Jackson, Jody Pierce, Erin McKallor-Quill, and Chris Walsh; Library Director Kira Peters; Planner Susan Conklu, Police Commander Joe Nichols

Call to Order

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting – October 17, 2018

VICE-CHAIR WOODLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 17, 2018 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER WATTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DAVIS, VICE-CHAIR WOODLEY, COMMISSIONERS AUERBACH, JONES, AND WATTON VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Bicycle Station Study

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Bicycle Station Study done by the Transportation Department with funding received from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). In May of 2017, the City applied for and received a MAG Design

Assistance Funding Grant to be used in designing parking areas for both bike share and personal bikes.

Jason Harrington from Harrington Planning and Design and Y2K Engineering gave a project overview, noting that the project began as a bike share study and evolved into a study on parking stations throughout southern Scottsdale. His presentation included identification of 27 recommended locations, an outline of the project goals, analysis plans, and station concepts. Three types of parking stations are envisioned: small, medium and large, addressing a variety of functions and citizen needs, including an expansion zone for tricycle and ADA device parking.

The core elements recommended for bicycle stations include a bicycle rack mounted to a stable surface, a way finding panel, a space defining element, seating, lighting, litter bins, shade, vendor kiosk, an advertising panel, drinking fountains, and a repair station. Stations would be branded throughout the city with unifying/branded features. The study brought the project to the 15% design level. A budget has been identified and further design and installation will move forward on a case-by-case basis, likely in phases, as determined by the City.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Harrington said that his finalized report will be available on both the MAG and the City websites. The stations are designed so that they can be expanded if necessary and can be easily moved to an alternate site. Once developed, stations will be a modular kit that will enable additional locations to be easily installed as needed.

Ms. Conklu explained that the MAG Grant funding has been completely expended on the project study. Further steps would likely be funded by the Transportation Department through the CIP process. She anticipates that the next opportunity for grant funding for this type of project will be in FY 2023/24.

Chair Davis expressed interest in learning more about how the bike stations could impact the City's parks. Ms. Conklu said that the recommendations include two stations within Indian Bend Wash. Director Pryor stressed the importance of the Transportation Department and Community Services communicating during the development of the Parks Master Plan.

2. Homelessness Task Force

Kira Peters, Library Director, gave an update on the activities of the Homelessness Task Force. She commented that homelessness is a complex social problem that impacts the community and there are no easy solutions.

About a year ago, Scottsdale Police Department initiated formation of a group of City employees from various departments to meet regularly to discuss the issue of homelessness. One primary goal is to educate citizens, staff, and people experiencing homelessness about resources and laws associated with homelessness and panhandling. The General Fund has money budgeted to provide funding to various agencies that provide services to those impacted by homelessness. Vista del Camino Community center has staff who can direct those in need to the appropriate resources.

The Navigation Team maintains a Homeless in Scottsdale page on the City's website with links to resources and information as well as an opportunity to submit comments and concerns. Ms. Peters noted that the City of Scottsdale participates in the National Point in Time Count together with other Arizona cities.

Commander Joe Nichols discussed recent changes to laws pertaining to homelessness. The Urban Camping City Ordinance and the Panhandling Ordinance are being amended in accordance with the recent 9th Circuit ruling that determined them to be unconstitutional. Commander Nichols explained how to submit complaints or concerns through the website. Once citizen reports are submitted to the website, they will be routed through Human Services to the appropriate people, who will immediately address the situation. A PDF listing of resources is available through the website for citizens to print and share with those in need.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Commissioner Auerbach offered condolences to victims of the Camp Fire in California. He expressed concern about the safety of homeless individuals living under the overpass at Indian School and Hayden. He also commented about the unsightliness of having people camping in city parks and rights of way. Commander Nichols explained that the Police Department has regular contact with that group as well as many other homeless individuals living in the area. During times when the wash is expected to flood, the police make sure people in the affected areas are cleared.

Commander Nichols said that many homeless people are down on their luck and appreciate help, but many others choose to live homeless and/or have mental illness. He explained that many panhandlers are not homeless. He suggested that donating to organizations that offer assistance to the homeless is a more effective use of resources for individuals who wish to help.

Chair Davis told a story about a homeless veteran who while going through the process of getting assistance, discovered he had missing benefits that were enough for him to get a home and live comfortably. He suggested that it could be helpful to form a modified ranger program to monitor the parks. Commander Nichols said the city did at one time have a Park and Preserve Unit that was ultimately dismantled and resources were redirected.

3. Naming of the Eldorado Barker Branch Boys & Girls Club Teen Center

Erin McKallor-Quill, Interim Parks and Recreation Manager, presented a request to name the Teen Center at the Barker Branch of the Boys & Girls Club the "Executive Council Charities Teen Center". She reviewed the history of the relationship between the City of Scottsdale and Boys & Girls Club and explained that Executive Council Charities is partnering with Boys & Girls Club in a \$1.25 million agreement to provide ten years of general program funding at the Barker Branch Boys & Girls Club Teen Center. Approval of the naming will allow the Boys & Girls Club to recognize the Executive Council Charities with a sign on the interior of the building in the size and manner approved by the Parks and Recreation Director. There is no City financial impact.

COMMISSIONER AUERBACH MOVED TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE TEEN CENTER AT THE BARKER BRANCH OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB THE "EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHARITIES TEEN CENTER". COMMISSIONER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DAVIS, VICE-CHAIR WOODLEY, COMMISSIONERS AUERBACH, JONES, AND WATTON VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Eldorado Park Operations and Maintenance Update

Jody Pierce, Manager, gave an overview of maintenance responsibilities related to Eldorado Park, including maintenance of Thomas Road Bike Shop, Paiute Park, Pima Park, and Paiute

Neighborhood Center. Strengths of the park include an urban lake, football field, multiple playgrounds, a bike path connecting to Tempe, a Skate park, and breakaway fences on the ball fields. Ongoing challenges affecting maintenance are flooding from rain events, limited space for maintenance staff storage and vehicles, and vandalism/graffiti at the skate park. Threats/challenges include dealing with aging infrastructure and trees, erosion along pond banks and sediment buildup along the bike path following rain events.

Erin McKallor-Quill, Interim Parks & Recreation Manager, gave an overview of Eldorado Park from an activities perspective. She talked about the City's agreement with the Boys and Girls Club Barker Branch, adult sports leagues, leisure education classes, the City's partnership with Arizona Game and Fish, and the annual Fishing Expo. Strengths include ramadas, picnic areas, multipurpose path, an open gym that offers basketball and volleyball, and leisure education classes. In an effort to increase adult recreation opportunities, a new program offering open gym time is being offered to senior citizens. Opportunities include partnership with the library to offer parent tot classes, marketing services at Eldorado to new communities along McDowell Corridor, and the Skate Park Committee. Threats and challenges include managing problems with alcohol, drugs and fighting after hours and an increase in the transient population - Eldorado staff is working with the Scottsdale police department to address these problems.

Terry Erickson, Manager, gave an overview of the aquatics center at Eldorado. She said that strengths for the center include increased water aerobics class numbers, full adult swim classes, and increasing drop-in lap swim numbers. Opportunities include Ironman participants using the facility to train before the November 18th event, commercial lane rentals, and increased marketing efforts. Challenges include low gym usage, high gym equipment maintenance and lifeguard retention. Threats include a shortage of class instructors and an increased number of transients paying to use the shower facilities.

Chair Davis asked that in the future items pertaining to parks be put closer to the beginning of the agenda so that they get the Commission's full attention and informational items be placed later in the agenda.

5. Director's Report

Director Pryor reported that the Eldorado Park Fall Festival had approximately 9,000 attendees this year. The wristband program for the new bounce house area was successful and brought in some revenue.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park movie night had approximately 4,000 attendees. The train and tunnel were decorated in Halloween motif.

McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center Dunkin for Pumpkins event had approximately 400 attendees.

The Office of Communications and Parks and Recreation will be hosting a public meeting on November 15, at Scottsdale Stadium, starting at 5:00 p.m. to present design plans for the stadium renovations.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Holiday Lights opens on November 30th.

Cactus Pool will be closed from November 26, 2018 to January 6, 2019 for chlorine equipment installation.

Director Pryor invited Commissioners to attend the annual staff holiday lunch potluck and safety meeting on December 12th at Granite Reef Senior Center.

Operation Fix it has secured funding from Public Services to plant 70 trees and shrubs and to establish a butterfly garden at Rotary Park. Staff and volunteers will be working from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 15th to complete the project. Mayor Lane will speak at 2:30 p.m., acknowledging volunteers and donors for their efforts.

Director Pryor gave an update on the neighborhood meetings at DC Ranch, Thompson Peak, and Sonata Village. He noted that Sonata Village had a high interest in developing a park in their neighborhood. He will forward citizen comments from all three meetings to Commissioners for review.

Chair Davis stressed the importance of directly inviting Commissioners to attend public events, rather than just offering a general invitation. In particular when the Mayor and/or Council members are present, someone should be representing the Commission.

6. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Watton said he has been involved with soccer teams at Mountain View Park.

Chair Davis attended the Eldorado Fall Festival and McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park's movie in the park. He complemented staff on the progress that is being made cleaning up from storm damage along the bike path.

7. Possible Future Agenda Items

- South Area Parks update
- Youth Development update
- Fees and Charges update

Director Pryor noted that the first meeting in January will include election of officers.

Chair Davis asked that a discussion about volunteer opportunities and rules pertaining to groups such as churches volunteering at City events be agendaized for a future meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19th in the Kiva Forum.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Auerbach, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

AYES: Chair Davis, Vice-chair Woodley, Commissioners Auerbach, Jones and Watton

NAYS: None

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