



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

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Horizon Community Center
15444 N. 100th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

PRESENT: Chair Kurt Jones (left at 6:14 p.m.), Vice-Chair Eric Kurland, Commissioners Maryann McAllen, Steve Masear, Susan McGarry, Teresa Kim Quale, Kristen Parrish (arrived at 5:04 p.m.)

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Managers Brett Jackson, Chris Walsh; Water Policy Manager Gretchen Baumgardner; Irrigation Systems Supervisor Mike Snyder; Community Services Supervisor Paul Germinaro; Community Services Operations Supervisor Dan Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 – June 15, 2022

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 15, 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MASEAR SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JONES, VICE-CHAIR KURLAND, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, MCGARRY, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER PARRISH WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Commission Retreat Minutes – September 21, 2022

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RETREAT MINUTES. COMMISSIONER QUALE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JONES, VICE-CHAIR KURLAND, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, MCGARRY, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER PARRISH WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Policy Manager, provided an overview and update of the City of Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan, which included details on Scottsdale's water sources and Scottsdale's water conservation strategies and priorities, including how City parks are impacted. Her presentation included an overview of the Colorado River shortage, Scottsdale's water resource portfolio, managing the water delivery process, conservation programs, new initiatives, and public messaging and outreach. She explained that Arizona is currently in a Tier 1 water shortage, and reviewed conditions that would cause leaders to move to each different tier level and the restrictions that would come with each tier. Cities are statutorily required to have a drought management plan. The City of Scottsdale plan was last updated in 2020. Scottsdale was the first city in Arizona to enact the plan when the City went into a Tier 1 shortage. Ms. Baumgardner reviewed the steps that Scottsdale Parks Department is taking to conserve water, including xeriscaping in non-functional areas. The City will continue to maintain winter grass in some areas and will overseed in some activity areas. She described the incentive programs, which include incentive rebates, online training videos, commercial water audits, an HOA program, residential outdoor water efficiency checks, and a customer water-smart portal.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Baumgardner explained that when the time comes, City Council will make a decision to go into the Tier 2 stage, and will have a conversation about appropriate mandates at that time.

2. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WATER CONSERVATION

Mike Snyder, Irrigation Systems Supervisor, provided an overview of the Parks and Recreation Department's irrigation and water conservation practices, including details about historical water utilization and approach to water conservation, irrigation technology, and xeriscape projects. In FY 2018/19, \$1.3 million in CIP funds were used to purchase a computerized irrigation system capable of automatic shutdown triggered by mainline breaks or irrigation valve malfunctions. The system allows staff to remotely shut down systems as needed. The same funds were used to purchase Hunter Rain-Click devices, which sense water usage and reduce water waste. The City harvests rainfall, which is used for irrigation. Based on the 2022 ADWR management plan, the Parks and Recreation Department has been in a 15 percent reduction for approximately 20 years and will move into a Stage 2 reduction, implementing an additional 10 percent reduction on January 1, 2023.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari explained that the Department advocates for green space, but strives to conserve in areas not being used for recreational purposes. Brief discussion ensued about the pros and cons of artificial turf.

3. APPOINTMENT TO THE PATHS & TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairperson Jones initiated a discussion asking for a volunteer to be appointed as representative to the Paths & Trails Subcommittee of the Transportation Commission to serve and represent the Parks and Recreation Commission.

COMMISSIONER QUALE NOMINATED COMMISSIONER MARYANN MCALLEN TO SERVE AS THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER PARRISH SECONDED THE NOMINATION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JONES, VICE-CHAIR KURLAND, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, MCGARRY, PARRISH, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. HORIZON PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Paul Germinaro, Community Services Supervisor, provided an overview of operations and programming at Horizon Park and Community Center. Three areas have been identified as low activity and are being converted to xeriscape with curbing to help control water flow. As part of his presentation, Mr. Germinaro described the park amenities, noting that plans are underway for a project to replace the playground structures. Youth programming includes an afterschool program, which currently has approximately 40 registrants. Horizon Park will soon offer an eSports program and plans to work with Leisure Education to offer alternative youth programming in the near future. Eight pickleball courts, newly renovated with post-tension concrete, were opened last fall. Horizon Park Pumpkin Patch Family Night is scheduled for next week.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. It was suggested that bioswales be considered for areas of turf replacement. It was also suggested that consideration be given to housing a community garden for children at Horizon. Brief discussion ensued regarding bioswales and finding an appropriate location within the City for a community garden.

5. SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Dan Miller, Community Services Operations Supervisor, provided an update about recent and upcoming special events hosted by the City of Scottsdale's Community Services Division. As part of his presentation, he reviewed the role and responsibilities of the Special Events team and talked about upcoming events. He highlighted the recent Taste of Fitness event, which is designed to offer participants an opportunity to try different fitness styles through mini-sessions of a variety of class offerings. He said that the 51st Annual Fall Festival will be held on October 29, 2022 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Miller highlighted upcoming micro-events being planned by the Special Events Team for spring; events that are hosted by McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park with the assistance of the Special Events Team; and Community Services events that the team assists with. He announced that the new Bunnanza event, hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Library, is scheduled for April 8, 2023 at Civic Center, as part of the grand opening week celebration.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Molinari reported on the October 12, 2022 Bell94 Sports Complex Grand Opening. He noted that USTA League National Championships are ongoing at Scottsdale Ranch Park through the weekend of October 21st, 22nd, 23rd. He anticipates that Scottsdale tennis centers will be receiving new USTA designations relative to national tennis competitions.

Adapted Services recently held a celebration and ceremony to retire Bob the bobcat and welcome the new mascot, Bandit the bobcat, and to open the Special Olympics season. Director Molinari announced that the Adapted Services program leader position has been filled.

Youth Development recently held Fall break camp at Hohokam Elementary School, Mountain View Community Center, and Horizon Community center. Lights on After School initiative will begin next week.

The City is currently collaborating with SRP to implement the "Right Tree, Right Place" program, which identifies trees located under power lines that pose a risk to powerlines and to safety. SRP has agreed to replace trees at a three-to-one ratio.

Director Molinari said that the Commission can expect to have an opportunity to review and take action on the draft Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan by the end of the calendar year.

An architect and design firm have been chosen to work on the Indian School Park master plan. The Commission will begin receiving regular reports on the process in the coming months.

Initial design concepts for the Thompson Peak Park off-leash area are underway. The City is working with WAPA, SRP, and APS to determine what amenities can be placed under the powerlines before going out for public input.

Ashler Hills Neighborhood Park plans were recently approved by the Planning Commission and will go to Council for action on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

The Commission will receive an in-depth presentation on the Youth Sports Field Allocation policy once it has been completed.

7. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioners Quale and McGarry reported that they attended the Bell94 Sports Complex grand opening. Commissioner Quale suggested that Commissioners be given pins or badges to wear when attending events, identifying them as Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

Commissioner Parrish said that she attended the National Parks and Recreation Association Conference. Information she gained during the conference has prompted her to start her own playground audit of all the playgrounds in Scottsdale.

8. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include:

- Parks and Recreation Commission strategic plan review
- Youth Sports Field Allocation policy review

9. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR KURLAND, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, MASEAR, MCGARRY, PARRISH, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; CHAIR JONES WAS NOT PRESENT; THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES

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

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.