



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Bunkhouse
7301 E. Indian Bend Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

PRESENT: Chair Kristen Parrish, Commissioners Maryann McAllen, Eric Kurland, Susan McGarry

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Teresa Kim Quale, Commissioner Kurt Jones

STAFF: Director Nick Molinari; Managers Kevin McKee, Sunny Nakagawa, Denise Clayton, Kyu-Bin Hyun; Community Services Supervisor, Valerie Budnick; Enterprise and Finance Director Gina Kirklin; Operations Supervisor Kristen Clark

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 – January 18, 2023

It was noted that Stephanie Tippett should be listed as in attendance of the January 18, 2023 meeting. A typographical error was noted in the Director's Report.

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, KURLAND, AND MCGARRY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. MCCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK CAPITAL PROJECT CONCEPT PRESENTATION

Sunny Nakagawa, Parks and Recreation Manager, Valerie Budnick, Community Services Supervisor, and Mike Braun, partner with DWL Architects, provided a presentation outlining upcoming capital improvements at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

Ms. Budnick explained that the indoor play area and splash pad projects came about as part of discussions about finding ways to engage the community during the summer months. The Bunkhouse replacement was initially approved for CIP funding in FY 2019/20 and the splash pad was funded through the 2019 bond. Both projects were delayed because of COVID. The Bunkhouse replacement project was reapproved as part of FY 2022/23 CIP.

Mr. Braun reviewed the Roundhouse project scope and goals, proposed site plan, floor plan, and exterior renderings, noting that the interior space will be approximately 4,000 square feet and will include a three-and-a-half level train play structure and a separate toddler play area.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Nakagawa said that staff is considering what type of fee structure there will be for entry into the Roundhouse. She said that the Executive Car will be converted to a birthday space. Mr. Braun said that there will be educational information posted in various areas throughout the facility. He said that his team has been working closely with Creative Machines, a company located in Tucson, in designing the play structure. Outdoor restrooms will be located near the splash pad and there will be separate indoor restrooms. The 1,000 square foot meeting space will be available for various types of programming. Mr. Braun said that the design will include sustainability features, with a goal of achieving LEED Gold standards. He explained that the large signage near the parking lot will act as a gathering space as well as a safety feature to the parking lot.

Commissioner Kurland suggested that consideration be given to converting one of the train cars into an adult bar car during adult events such as Summer Concert Series. Director Molinari recalled that in the past the car was intended to host more adult-like activities, but that the idea did not catch on, so it was converted into a birthday car. Eventually, consideration could be given to alternate programming.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROTECT AND PRESERVE SCOTTSDALE TASK FORCE

Gina Kirklin, Enterprise and Finance Director, provided an overview of the newly appointed Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force and how the work of the group will include the Indian Bend Wash, Scottsdale parks, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. She noted that during the May 2022 Council work study, staff was directed to form a citizen group to evaluate funding for perpetual maintenance, protection, and preservation of the city's open spaces, in part due to the pending expiration of the .02 percent Preserve Sales Tax. The Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force was established by resolution in September of 2022. The purpose and duties of the task force are to develop a recommendation and financial strategy to protect and preserve Scottsdale's open spaces, quality of life, identify and qualify unfunded needs for the protection, preservation, and perpetual maintenance of the City's open spaces, public safety, and other needs. The work plan will progress in multiple phases, including serving and

determining the priorities and public support for replacing the .02 percent Preserve Sales tax, defining and quantifying the priority unfunded needs, developing funding recommendations for the identified unfunded needs, and reporting and presenting recommendations to City Council. Ms. Kirklin said it was important to note that the ultimate goal of the task force is to develop the recommendation for financial strategy, which cannot be done without first hearing from city staff and identifying if there are unfunded needs.

The first Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force meeting was held February 8, 2023. The next meeting, scheduled for February 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., at the Community Design Studio, will focus on parks and recreation. Staff presentations will occur through August and a funding recommendation will be formed between August and November, with the intent of reporting to City Council in the November through January time frame.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari confirmed that presentations to the task force will include the Indian School Park master plan and the Eldorado/Vista del Camino project, which are unfunded projects located within the Indian Bend Wash.

3. PARKS AND RECREATION FEES & CHARGES

Kristen Clark, Community Services Operations Supervisor, gave a presentation outlining the proposed fees and charges adjustments and recommendations for programs in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Aquatics:

A \$1 increase is being proposed for drop-in rates, lap swimming, public swimming, and fitness centers, due to exponential increases in operational costs.

Parks:

Special Use Permit fees will increase from \$400 to \$500.

Sports Complexes:

Adjustments will be made to Sports Complex fees, including Bell94 and Scottsdale Sports Complex, and Westworld will establish fees.

Scottsdale Stadium:

Scottsdale Stadium fees will be increased by 15 percent. In addition, a quarter fee, field prep, and light fees will be reestablished.

Community Centers:

A fee will be established for non-team tennis tournaments, which will eliminate the current fee of \$5 per match and replace it with an \$8 per player fee for non-team tournaments. The fee increase will offset the increased costs of court maintenance and lighting. A hold fee of \$250 will be established to reserve dates for tennis tournaments. The fees will be refundable up to 60

days prior to an event.

Grass Volleyball court fees will transition to a flat \$5 per day. Sand volleyball tournament rates will move from a tournament rate of \$12 per hour to the current reservation fee of \$16 per hour.

The tennis court and tennis center rental fee for non-SUSD schools will be memorialized at a \$7 per hour rate.

Fees will be established for rentable patio spaces at Eldorado and Horizon Community Centers, mirroring the rates for reserving Community Center indoor reservable spaces.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park:

The fast pass fee for Holiday Lights is no longer being used and will be removed. The ticket pack fee will be memorialized at \$20 per pack, and the name of the pack will be changed to "Train/Carousel tickets". Special events ticket fee will move from \$5 to \$15, to include unlimited train and carousel rides during the event.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Discussion ensued regarding the patio rental fees. Director Molinari explained that park amenities are available at a first come, first served basis unless they have been reserved. Rentals offer users a guarantee that the space will be theirs during the requested time period.

Director Molinari explained that the parks department operates with a zero cost recovery model. The goal is not to recover a specific percentage, but to do what is best for the community and balance that with revenue vs. expenditures. He noted that fees are not being established for pickleball at this time, because of the high demand.

Commissioner Kurland said he would not support the proposed fees and charges, because he is opposed to charging fees for the patio space at Eldorado Community Center.

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ONE (1) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH AND COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN AND MCGARRY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER KURLAND DISSENTED.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Molinari said that the Thompson Peak Park Adaptive Playground is nearing completion. He anticipates construction to be completed within the next couple of weeks at which time the CPSI team will conduct their inspection.

Chaparral Pool renovation is still underway and will be completed in time for summer aquatics programs. He noted that Chaparral pool will serve a crucial role in accommodating aquatics clubs and community swimming groups during the Cactus pool renovations.

Indian School park field 1 LED Lighting was completed approximately two weeks ago, in time for the LG Twins team to use. The lighting project was funded through Bond 2019. Staff recently participated in the Indian School Park master plan initial meeting with the strategic

planning consultant. The first community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the Indian School Park Baseball Clubhouse. The Commission will be very involved with the master planning process as it develops.

Thompson Peak Park off-leash area site plans are moving forward. The dog park was originally identified as part of the Thompson Peak Park master plan. Staff is working with SRP, APS, and WAPA to identify restrictions that will apply to the area, such as shade trees and metal structures, prior to taking the project out for public input.

The lifeguard recruitment process is being finalized. A peak pay incentive similar to last year is being offered to all aquatics employees. Lifeguards will start at approximately \$16 per hour, plus the difference in what they current make over the minimum. Additionally, a \$125 employee referral incentive is being offered. The marketing campaign will be similar to last year's, but targeting the south area because there are a lot of vacancies at Eldorado Pool.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner McAllen gave a report on the activities of the Paths and Trails Subcommittee. She complimented the newly renovated Civic Center.

Commissioner Kurland complimented on the Civic Center renovations.

Chair Parrish complimented the Civic Center renovations and the work done by staff on the Waste Management Open.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include:

- Sponsorships and naming rights
- Possible bus tour of northern facilities – April
- Discussion on new meeting time
- Presentation on City efforts in preparation for the Waste Management Open
- Strategic plan amendments update

7. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER KURLAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, COMMISSIONERS MCALLEN, KURLAND, 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 6:23 p.m.

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