



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

Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Eldorado Park Community Center
2311 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

PRESENT: Chair Kristen Parrish, Vice-Chair Teresa Kim Quale, Commissioners Amy Arnold, Sandy Kull, Eric Maschhaupt, Susan McGarry, Michael Vreeland

STAFF: Community Services Assistant Executive Director Nick Molinari; Parks and Recreation Managers Brett Jackson, Kyu-Bin Hyun, Chris Walsh, Stephanie Tippett, Kevin McKee; Community Services Management Analyst Marci Sanders; Community Services Operations Supervisor Sunny Nakagawa; Parks Maintenance Foreman Skyler Glessing

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as indicated above.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Written Comment Cards

There were no written comments cards presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Non-Agendized Items

There were no non-agendized items presented.

MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2024

VICE-CHAIR QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER VREELAND

SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS ARNOLD, KULL, MASCHHAUPT, MCGARRY, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. INDIAN SCHOOL PARK MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

Marissa Pellegrini from Kimley-Horn and Mike Braun, DHL Architect, provided an update on the Indian School Park Master Plan. Ms. Pellegrini presented an overview of the outreach summary; project timeline; both online and statistically valid public feedback; and an overview of the systemwide master plan amenity priorities. She reviewed the four concept alternatives and the final concept, which is a culmination of all four concepts, but primarily a mix of priorities from concepts one and four. Her presentation included a detailed visual tour of the final concept. Mr. Braun gave a detailed overview of the proposal for the multi-generational center. Ms. Pellegrini noted that feedback indicated that the majority of people are interested in a family-friendly focus, rather than a sports-oriented focus. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Director Molinari said that once Indian School Park Master Plan is approved, it can be rolled into the system-wide master plan document. He explained that the concept for Club SAR amenities is that they would be transferred into the multigenerational center. There would need to be discussion about whether to include the boxing ring. Ms. Pelligrini said that the turf and covered area are designed to take advantage of the natural elevation and supplement drainage and grading constraints of the site.

Chair Parrish suggested that the playground design concept pictures be saved to be hung later near the play structures to show that input from the public was used.

COMMISSIONER MASCHHAUPT MOVED TO APPROVE THE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK MASTER PLAN. COMMISSIONER ARNOLD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIOENRS ARNOLD, KULL, MASCHHAUPT, MCGARRY, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. CHAPARRAL DOG PARK PRESENTATION

Sunny Nakagawa, Community Services Operations Supervisor, and Skyler Glessing, Parks Maintenance Foreman, provided an update on Chaparral Dog Park's operations and maintenance practices. Ms. Nakagawa gave an overview of the history of Chaparral Dog Park, park amenities and visitor statistics. Mr. Glessing reviewed dog park maintenance practices, including the maintenance schedule, weekly tasks, and required maintenance of the bermudagrass. He highlighted changes and improvements that have been implemented at the dog park since January of 2024 and reviewed challenges associated with overuse, dog owner responsibilities and pet supervision, and turf management and renovation. Mr. Glessing provided examples of existing dog park signage, which include dog park rules and the reason

for the “large dog” and “small dog” designations. He gave an overview of plans for the future of Scottsdale’s existing dog parks, noting that the parks and recreation master plan includes a high priority capital need for dog parks.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari said that the most common surface in other Valley dog parks is turf. He said that when researching for Thompson Peak Dog Park, they learned that many areas are not conducive to natural grass and in those cases wood chips are most popular. People said that their biggest concern is having ample shade, and that park downtime is problematic for those who rely on the park for exercising of their dogs. Director Molinari noted that bermudagrass was identified as one of the most ideal surfaces throughout Indian Bend Wash, but it does not grow well in shaded areas. Bermudagrass also goes dormant during peak season from October through April, leaving the dog parks with no grass during the highest usage periods.

Director Molinari said that there is no data to confirm the amount of usage or the number of users that are not Scottsdale residents, but general usage has dramatically increased over the past ten years. Ms. Nakagawa said that the Doug the Dog Campaign survey results showed that 34.8 percent of users were traveling from outside of Scottsdale. In the past, consideration has been given to developing a control mechanism to give priority to Scottsdale residents, but that is not currently being explored. Director Molinari reviewed the anticipated timeline for Thompson Peak Park construction. He said that once Thompson Peak Dog Park opens, there should be a significant relief on Chaparral Dog Park, based on a survey of current users. He noted that the dog park at Horizon is one cell and has a decomposed granite surface.

Director Molinari explained that the operating budget for Chaparral Park is approved as part of the annual budget process. The operating budget is typically used to address minor equipment replacement and repairs. Ms. Nakagawa said that there hasn’t been a significant increase in complaints about owner responsibility and behavior coming into her office since the signs were changed. The bulk of calls regarding the dog park are from maintenance issues. Ms. Nakagawa will investigate whether or not NPRA has any published standards for dog parks.

Chair Parrish read aloud written statements from the following people:

- Chad Jacobs
- Heather Moos
- Sean Lang

Public Comments regarding Chaparral Dog Park were received from the following people:

John Sellman expressed concerns about Chaparral Dog Park and the change from “active” and “passive” areas to “large dog” and “small dog” areas. He opined that the change in signage has created problems, because the usage does not make sense to all dog owners, because large dogs can be passive and small dogs could be active.

Heather Moos expressed concerns about the lack of safe open space areas where people can take their dogs off leash within Scottsdale. She commented that not all dogs are comfortable at dog parks and there are areas within the city where people already take their dogs that could be officially designated as off-leash areas. She commended the staff at Chaparral Park for recent improvements.

The following people donated their time to Steve Sutton: Angela Sutton, Julie Brailsford, Jay Lazar, James Banzer, Loyd Brown, Joe Kay, Ashley Boratko, Cathy Hartnett, Calvin Mills, and John Selman.

Steve Sutton expressed concerns about the Chaparral Dog Park and commented about improving communication on signage and park rules and regulations and the problems that have ensued since signs were changed from “active” and “passive” areas to “large dog” and “small dog” areas. He talked extensively about the petitions that he has been circulating that recommend several new signs with specific verbiage that would address various issues including rules and regulations, and he mentioned that he has met with staff on these items. He commented that there is no data to back information regarding usage that was offered during the staff presentation, and he requested that the assistant city manager provide him with all documentation related to the presentation.

Dan Lare spoke briefly about his involvement with Scottsdale dog parks over the last 25 years. He talked about the importance of getting the drainage right in a dog park to dissipate the urine. He said that grass is the best thing, and it is important to use good quality plant materials.

Mr. Sutton continued his comments, detailing the four sign recommendations that are being circulated as part of his petition. He opined that it is important for the city to help create an environment where park users can be self-regulated. He suggested that consideration be given to developing a partnership with a dog washing business to generate dedicated income for the city.

3. RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Kevin McKee, Parks and Recreation Manager, and Kyu-Bin Hyun, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided a video update about recently completed and upcoming programs, special events, aquatics, tennis centers, youth development, and adaptive recreation activities during the last quarter.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. In response to a comment about the benefits of a lazy river, Mr. Hyun said that the idea of a lazy river has been recently considered. Mr. McKee said that around special events, areas that he hopes to increase are adding movie nights and events featuring live entertainment, including entertainment similar to a Shakespeare in the Park, additional fitness programming, and swim lessons. It is hoped that they can receive additional staffing so that special events offerings can be expanded.

Mr. McKee said that Scottsdale has had a long-standing partnership with the U.S. Tennis Association and both Scottsdale tennis centers are considered premier facilities. Staff is striving to highlight the partnership to the public, since tennis is a highly rated amenity in the master plan.

4. ANNUAL PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Chair Parrish was appointed to represent the Commission on the Paths and Trails Subcommittee.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Arnold commented that she enjoyed attending the 70's Rewind event.

Commissioner Vreeland said that he attended the 70's Rewind event and that it was fun for all ages.

Chair Parrish said that with the weather cooling off, she is increasing her efforts to visit all the playgrounds in Scottsdale. She thanked staff for everything they provide to Commissioners, residents, and visitors.

Vice-Chair Quale mentioned that she recently visited Pima Park.

Chair Maschhaupt commended staff for the fall programming. He noted that he recently used ScottsdaleAZ to submit a maintenance ticket and was pleased with the result.

Commissioner McGarry said she recently visited Ashlar Hills Park and was surprised to see how much of the construction has been completed. She gave an update on the most recent Paths and Trails Subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Kull said she recently toured Indian School Park and is looking forward to the pending transformation.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Youth sports field allocation policy
- Chaparral dog park history and signage

Director Molinari said that it might be necessary to temporarily schedule two meetings a month, or hold longer meetings or a special meeting, depending on the results of the vote in November.

7. ADJOURNMENT

VICE-CHAIR QUALE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER VREELAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS ARNOLD, KULL, MASCHHAUPT, MCGARRY, 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 6:23 p.m.