



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

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center
15525 N. Thompson Peak Parkway
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

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

STAFF: Senior Director Parks, Recreation and Preserve Nick Molinari; Deputy Parks and Recreation Directors Kevin McKee and Chris Walsh; Parks and Recreation Managers Hezekiah Allen, Valerie Budnick, Kyu-Bin Hyun, Brett Jackson, and Stephanie Tippett; Operations Supervisor Sunny Nakagawa; Assistant Police Chief Rich Slavin; Police Lieutenant Cody Dikeman

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Maschhaupt called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment – Written Comment Cards

There were no written comments submitted.

Public Comment – Non-Agendized Items

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

MINUTES

1. Approved Regular Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2025

Approved as part of Minutes agenda item 2.

2. Approve Work Study Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2025

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FEBRUARY 19, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND THE FEBRUARY 26, 2025 WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR VREELAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR

MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, COMMISSIONERS, ARNOLD, KULL, MCGARRY, AND QUALE COMMISSIONER ALFORD ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Public Comment – Agenda Items

Steve Sutton expressed concerns about safety, night visibility, and rule enforcement at Chaparral Dog Park. He suggested that solar spotlights be installed and that a park ranger be available on weekends to answer questions about the dog park rules.

1. ANNUAL PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

VICE-CHAIR VREELAND MOVED TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER ARNOLD TO REPRESENT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ON THE PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER KULL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, ARNOLD, KULL, MCGARRY, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. COMMISSIONER ARNOLD ABSTAINED.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY IN PARKS

Police Lieutenant Cody Dikeman gave a brief overview of Park Ranger activities over the past year, including services provided, the most common activities, priority projects, and goals for the coming year. He noted that with the passing of Prop 490, the Park Rangers unit is being given an opportunity to grow. Lieutenant Dikeman's presentation included statistics on the number of contacts, arrests, citations issued, and citizen contacts the unit has had. Activities that the Park Rangers are most commonly involved with include contacts with ebike users in both the parks and the Preserve, leash law violations, Game and Fish and City Code enforcement, and assisting with medical incidents.

Director Nick Molinari clarified that motorized devices are not permitted in the Preserve; however, there is an exception for users who fall under the ADA classification. Class A and B ebikes are permitted in City parks. Lieutenant Dikeman said that ebike safety is a priority, and the police department is hoping to address issues through education, enforcement, and utilization of security cameras. Assistant Chief Rich Slavin added that the police department is working with the legal department to explore statutes placing age restrictions for ebike users. He said that parents need to be educated that certain ebikes are classified as motorcycles.

Lieutenant Dikeman reviewed overall public safety in parks, noting that the Park Rangers are able to coordinate with Scottsdale's Realtime Crime Center, utilizing cameras that are placed in high-traffic areas to help in apprehending people. Director Molinari asked if there is a plan in place to identify high-priority areas for camera installation. Assistant Chief Slavin said that as calls for service come up, responding officers are able to receive real-time information from the Realtime Crime Center. Lieutenant Dikeman continued his presentation, reviewing the goals of the Park Ranger unit. With the expansion of the unit and assigning of a dedicated sergeant, the unit will focus on training and expanding specialized capabilities over the next year. He anticipates that the Park Ranger unit will provide coverage Tuesday through Saturday. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation and were given an additional opportunity to ask questions. Lieutenant Dikeman said that he anticipates the new Park Rangers will be in place by January of 2026. Brief discussion ensued regarding the influx

of people experiencing homelessness and how officers interact with those people. It was noted that with the increased number of officers, there will be more presence in the parks and more issues will be identified, resulting in higher numbers, but does not indicate an increase in crime. Mr. Jackson commented that when park users contact staff, they are able to provide the information to the Park Rangers and receive a rundown on the incident.

3. YOUTH SPORTS FIELD ALLOCATION POLICY

Sunny Nakagawa, Parks and Recreation Operations Supervisor, presented the proposed updated Youth Sports Field Allocation Policy, highlighting changes that were made based on the Parks and Recreation Commission's comments. She noted that staff is working with groups now to ensure everyone is prepared for the implementation of the policy in spring of 2027. Once approved by the Commission, the policy will be made available on the City's website. Ms. Nakagawa explained the next steps will include the creation of an online portal and a page listing all the partners and their percentages.

VICE-CHAIR VREELAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE YOUTH SPORTS FIELD ALLOCATION POLICY. COMMISSIONER ARNOLD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, ARNOLD, KULL, MCGARRY, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. PARKS AND RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FY 2023/24

Kevin McKee, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, presented the Parks & Recreation Department's fiscal year 2023/24 annual achievements and progress made on priorities identified in the 2023-2028 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan. He anticipated that, moving forward, reports will be made available in the fall each year on the City's website and in a printed brochure. Mr. McKee's presentation included an overview of the vision statement, mission statement, department values and priorities, and a breakdown of the operating budget as well as capital improvement plan budget sources and expenditures.

Mr. McKee gave a detailed overview of the following strategic plan priority areas, including goals for FY 2024/25 for each area:

- Inclusive, world-class recreation programs and events
- Environmental stewardship
- Marketing and communications
- Maintenance of exceptional parks, facilities, and spaces
- Reimagined parks, facilities, and community spaces
- Tourism and economic vitality
- Scottsdale resident access and participation
- Investment in parks and recreation workforce

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. McKee said that the Parks and Recreation Department's social media outlets will be utilized to communicate all the activities and recreation opportunities that are available and to announce the release of the annual report each year. The annual reports will be made available on the main page of the Parks and Recreation website. Director Molinari commented that the department will evolve in the way it communicates over the coming years as the master plan starts being implemented. Chair Maschhaupt suggested that where recreational activities are mentioned on social media or on the website, the items be clickable, so citizens are able to go directly to details about each activity.

5. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner McGarry said that she enjoyed attending the Little League season kickoff. She recently visited the Civic Center with friends from other cities and they were impressed with the renovations.

Commissioner Quale said that she attended the Ashler Hills ribbon cutting and on multiple occasions took people to see the Civic Center.

Vice-Chair Vreeland said he plans to attend Bunnanza on Saturday. He commented about parking at Mountain View Park during children's sports season.

Chair Maschhaupt said that he enjoyed attending the Ashler Hills ribbon cutting. He and his family went again on Sunday for a picnic and to enjoy the facilities.

Commissioner Arnold said that she has toured 30 parks in the last two months, for a total of 45 Scottsdale parks that she has seen so far.

Commissioner Kull said that she attended the Ashler Hills ribbon cutting. She was particularly impressed with the restrooms. She also attended the Little League season kickoff.

Commissioner Alford said that she has visited Pima Park and Agua Linda Park, attended a Spring Training game, walked the perimeter of Bell94, and attended the fire mitigation open house at DC Ranch. She noted that she is a regular user of the parks that have tennis courts.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items could include:

- Marketing and communications efforts
- Meeting schedule for the remainder of the year
- Possible retreat (September)
- Scottsdale Stadium tour

Director Molinari introduced new Parks and Recreation Manager Valerie Budnick and announced new roles of Kevin McKee and Chris Walsh as Deputy Parks and Recreation Directors.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.