



**City of Scottsdale
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting - MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Scottsdale Stadium – Press Level
7408 East Osborn Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Susan McGarry

STAFF: Senior Parks and Recreation and Preserve Director 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 Tippet; Management Analyst Marci Sanders

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Maschhaupt called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Written Comment Cards

No written comments submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Non-Agendized Items

Steve Sutton expressed his disappointment in the Commission's reaction to citizens coming forth about the dog park and requested quick action and support from the Commission in the future. Mr. Sutton provided an update on the situation now as he sees it, stating the new signs are overwhelmingly popular and he hopes to collaborate in the future.

MINUTES

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2025

Commissioner Arnold noted the vote recorded for the Annual Paths and Trails subcommittee appointment should read six (6) to zero (0) as she did not vote. Amending

the minutes to reflect Commissioner Arnold's change was agreeable to all Commissioners.

MOTION APPROVED TO APPROVE APRIL 16, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED: 6-0 by roll call vote; Commissioner Quale motioned; 2nd Vice Chair Vreeland, Chair Maschhaupt, Vice Chair Vreeland, Commissioners Alford, Arnold, Kull, and Quale voted in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Audio File Begins at 4:12 p.m., nine minutes into the meeting.

Chair Maschhaupt stated Item #4 will be removed from the agenda at staff's request.

Public Comment – Agenda Items

Steve Sutton provided comments on Item #3 in regard to the Commission rules and regulations. He suggested allowing public comments on agenda items to take place following the item's presentation, stating that doing so would give the public a chance to hear the presentation, discussion and proposals before deciding to speak or comment.

1. MCCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK ROUNDHOUSE PILOT FEES

Stephanie Tippett, Parks & Recreation Manager, presented a construction project update and pilot fee proposal for the nearly complete McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park (MSRP) Roundhouse. Ms. Tippett provided a brief overview of MSRP and details of the Roundhouse project which includes a splash pad and indoor play structure. She explained the ticket structure for amenities in the park which is one ticket costing three dollars or a packet of eight tickets costing 20 dollars for the rides, train, and carousel. An all-day wristband costs twelve dollars. The Roundhouse fees proposed are two tickets (or six dollars) for one hour of play or four tickets (or twelve dollars) for two hours of play, with the 1st adult being free with a paid child admission, and children aged two and under free with a paying adult. Ms. Tippett explained that MSRP operates under a special revenue fund by revenues generated at the park. She stated operating costs were balanced with the overall affordability of a community facing amenity and requested approval of a one-year pilot fee that would be effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at which point a determination would be made to go forward with permanent fees through the fees and charges process.

Ms. Tippett answered Commissioners' questions related to additional staffing needs, how the time of play is monitored, and what private entities MSRP compares pricing with. Ms. Tippett explained the proposed pricing provides a small profit margin, unless capacity is under 25%. She responded to additional Commissioners' questions related to ticket sales and capacity. Director Molinari explained that final capacity is determined at the time the Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

MOTION APPROVED TO APPROVE PILOT FEES FOR THE MCCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK ROUNDHOUSE AS PRESENTED: 6-0 by roll call vote; Vice Chair Vreeland motioned; 2nd Commissioner Arnold; Chair Maschhaupt, Vice Chair Vreeland, Commissioners Alford, Arnold, Kull, and Quale voted in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes.

2. STAFF UPDATES

Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Kevin McKee explained Staff Updates are now being agendized in a manner that allows for conversation with Commissioners and provides staff an opportunity to answer questions.

Parks and Recreation Manager Brett Jackson provided projects updates for Eldorado Park Phases 3 and 4, the recently completed Paiute Park restrooms, Sonoran Hills Playground, and Thompson Peak Park ballfield shade. Mr. Jackson mentioned the Stonegate Park playground and Horizon Park ballfield shade as upcoming projects.

Mr. McKee mentioned that shade is the top capital improvement request from the community in the master plan.

The Commission asked questions and staff explained criteria for installing trees versus shade structures and capitalizing trees as assets, described elements of the construction process and order of project completion, and noted partnerships with the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corp. of Engineers for the Vista del Camino/Eldorado Park projects. Chair Maschhaupt suggested marking if trees are applicable or not [for projects].

Parks and Recreation Manager Hezekiah Allen presented updates on the Scottsdale Sports Complex Fields 5 and 6, the Goldwater/5th Avenue park, Downtown spruce-up, Civic Center parking garage, and Reata Sports Complex new play structure projects. Mr. Allen also provided a recap of the Spring 2025 activity at the sports complexes.

Staff answered and responded to follow-up questions and comments from Commissioners related to the Civic Center parking garage project, sports complex activities and associated vendor participation.

Parks and Recreation Manager Valerie Budnick provided updates on Adaptive Recreation programming, recapped the 2025 Bunnanza event, reviewed recent activities for tennis centers and courts, and highlighted Youth Development's afterschool and summer programs.

Mr. McKee and Ms. Budnick responded to Commissioners' questions and comments about afterschool programming.

Parks and Recreation Manager Kyu-Bin Hyun presented staffing and hiring updates, 2024 summer swim lesson participation numbers, and a recap of water park hours from last season, for the Aquatics department.

Mr. Hyun answered Commissioners' follow-up questions about visitation numbers at Cactus and Chaparral aquatic centers.

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S RULES AND REGULATIONS ("BYLAWS")

Kevin McKee, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, gave a detailed review of the Parks and Recreation Commission's Rules and Regulations ("Bylaws") and proposed two changes to be voted upon at the next commission meeting. Those changes are:

- Add language in Section 1.0 related to the Commission's new role in tax oversight to read, "For the term of the 2025 0.15% Tax described in Section 16-52 of the Scottsdale Revised Code, serve as the citizens' oversight committee for the implementation of the 2025 0.15% Tax as it relates to the use of the 2025 0.15% Tax revenues for all park improvements, capital projects, and master plans relating to the use of the 2025 0.15% Tax with an emphasis on restoring and updating the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and other aged parks."
- Update language in Section 3.0 to correctly identify the Parks and Recreation Director ("Director") as "Senior Director of the Parks & Recreation and Preserve Department" and add "or designee" to allow for flexibility. Mr. McKee confirmed this language is the recommended language by the city attorney's office.

Mr. McKee stated these changes will be an agenda item to be voted on at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Molinari responded to a Commissioner's request to clarify New Commissioner Orientation and explained the process of annual ethics trainings.

4. SCOTTSDALE STADIUM TOUR

Item was removed at staff's request.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Kull said she toured Aqua Linda, Chesnutt and Pima parks.

Commissioner Quale mentioned she attended a tree planting and took a walk through the new underpass at Chaparral, and it makes it so much easier.

Chair Maschhaupt stated he attended Tracks N Tunes, and the family had a great time.

Vice Chair Vreeland attended the Bunnanza event saying it was a big success and amazingly challenging. He also toured Stonegate and Rio Montana parks.

Commissioner Arnold said she attended the Arbor Day event at Comanche Park and visited the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park to see the improvements before they open in July.

Commissioner Alford visited Asher Hills Park, stating the design is beautiful. She also went to Doc Cavalier Park and friends call it a little gem and it is really pretty. She also visited with staff at Pinnacle Peak Park and attended a training at Horizon Park. Her tennis team also played in sectionals at Scottsdale Ranch Park and her teammates enjoy the nice staff and ease of getting a court. She also said she is going to do a 22-mile challenge in Indian Bend Wash, starting at the most southern end and walking the entire greenbelt.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Vreeland stated he's previously mentioned the topic of communications around Prop 490, and he will be eager when the Commission has that conversation in the future.

Commissioner Arnold mentioned she appreciates that Scottsdale Stadium is offering tours June 13 & 14.

Commissioner Alford asked if the city ever partners with other parks and had it on our websites. She said we are a tourism city and to let tourists know there are other parks here and cultural avenues to visit. Mr. Molinari said this is a topic we could take a look at and bring back in the fall on a future agenda.

By agreement of all Commissioners a discussion of partnerships with other regional parks is requested to be placed on a future agenda.

Mr. Molinari also mentioned we will probably make recommendations about timelines and budgets in the early fall.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN APPROVED: 6-0 by roll call vote; Commissioner Quale motioned; 2nd Vice Chair Vreeland; Chair Maschhaupt, Vice Chair Vreeland, Commissioners Alford, Arnold, Kull, 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 6:00 p.m.