



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

Wednesday, September 10, 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 (departed at 4:59 p.m.), Amy Arnold, Sandy Kull, and Teresa Kim Quale

ABSENT: Commissioner Susan McGarry

STAFF: Senior Director Nick Molinari; Deputy Directors Chris Walsh and Kevin McKee; Parks and Recreation Managers Kyu-Bin Hyun, Valerie Budnick, Stephanie Tippet, Chris Hawes, and Hezekiah Allen; Management Analyst Marci Sanders; Water Policy Manager Gretchen Baumgardner

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above. New Parks and Recreation Manager Chris Hawes introduced himself and discussed his professional background.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Written Comment Cards

No written comments were submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Non-Agendized Items

There was no response to the call for public comment.

MINUTES

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for [May 21, 2025](#)

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 21, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER VREELAND

SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, AND COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, ARNOLD, KULL, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Approve Work Study Minutes for [August 20, 2025](#)

COMMISSIONER ARNOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 20, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK STUDY MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KULL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, AND COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, ARNOLD, KULL, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items

There was no response to the call for public comment.

1. TURF MAINTENANCE AND IRRIGATION OVERVIEW

Deputy Parks & Recreation Director Chris Walsh conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed the following slides: Scottsdale's Bermudagrass Footprint; Bermudagrass Types by Use; Bermudagrass Growing Season; Why Bermudagrass?; Irrigation Water Sources; Maintenance Practices; Strategic Overseed Sites; and Overseed Impacts. He clarified that bermudagrass covers approximately 436 acres, not 442 as the presentation indicated.

Responding to Commissioner questions, Mr. Walsh stated the turf at Civic Center was changed from the Tifway 419 varietal to Tahoma 31 to maximize the growing period of the bermudagrass. He explained the process of shutting down Scottsdale Sports Complex to seed the fields and indicated Tahoma 31 is the same cost as the other varietals and is chosen because it works best with Scottsdale's environment.

Senior Director Nick Molinari explained cars are regularly parked at the WestWorld polo fields, which are designed to provide parking. Mr. Walsh mentioned hosting a carnival on that field, and the grass recovered within a week to a good playing surface because bermudagrass is very resistant to stress. He described why other grasses are unsuitable and explained the focus of summer maintenance is to make those areas as healthy as possible to sustain the wear they will endure during all Scottsdale activities.

Mr. Molinari highlighted that some areas used to be overseeded but no longer are, such as the polo field, allowing facilitation of events like an auto auction. Another such location is the Civic Center. Deputy Director Kevin McKee added that another benefit of changing Civic Center to bermudagrass is being able to relocate events such as the Fall Festival to Civic Center.

Mr. McKee discussed the challenges of using ryegrass as an alternative, and Mr. Walsh spoke about why Chapparal Park and certain golf courses are not overseeded. In response to follow-up queries, Mr. Walsh said ryegrass does not survive summer heat and that transition is one of the toughest challenges that turf managers face. While there are no significant differences in the cost of different bermudagrass varieties, Mr. Molinari stated, rye seed is significantly more expensive. Overseeding all fields could cost millions of dollars in maintenance and other expenses, and other communities only do it in areas where the fields are used on weekends.

Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Policy Manager for Scottsdale Water, concluded the presentation by reviewing slides with the following titles or descriptions: Scottsdale Water; Scottsdale's Water Conservation History; City Ordinance; 2024 Water Deliveries; Recent Hydrology; City Water Reduction Initiatives; Annual Examples of Public Outreach; and Overseed Media Campaign.

Ms. Baumgardner noted the City keeps its groundwater delivery low because of the reality that the Colorado River (CAP) water will shrink in the future. When that happens, new sources of water will be needed, because the Colorado River is in a 25-year drought.

Commissioner Arnold encouraged people to participate in the Citizen Academy.

In response to Commissioner questions, Ms. Baumgardner indicated the CAP negotiations have stalled because the seven affected states cannot agree on how to split up the water. They have until November 15, at which point the federal government will step in. She said Facilities and Parks and Recreation make up a very small portion of water usage.

Ms. Baumgardner spoke about social media and other outreach efforts. She mentioned that water leaks can be reported through ScottsdaleEZ and discussed the investment Scottsdale Water has made on automatic meter infrastructure which allows hourly data to be reviewed.

2. PARKS AND PRESERVE SALES TAX MONTHLY UPDATE

Deputy Director Chris Walsh noted staff is working on getting a request for proposal out within the next month for an on-call architectural services contract to help with several master plans and expects to use a current on-call contractor to work on improvements at Agua Linda and Paiute Parks.

Mr. Walsh provided updates on the Comanche Park restoration and redesign project, designs for the Pima Park project, and the Rotary Park playground replacement effort. Parks and Recreation Manager Valerie Budnick estimated the Rotary Park project should be installed by the end of the calendar year. Chair Maschhaupt felt three Commissioners should be present for that ribbon-cutting ceremony. Mr. McKee said the marketing team will be focusing more on expanding ribbon-cutting ceremonies to be utilized for projects paid for through the 51-percent funding source. Mr. Walsh said he plans to make a presentation to the Commission regarding operating budget components at the next Commission meeting.

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

Deputy Director Kevin McKee conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides entitled Powers and Duties; Duties of Officers and Commissioners; and Suggested Action. He remarked

that he would be the designee referenced in the proposed definition change for "Director".

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BYLAW AMENDMENTS AS PROPOSED DURING THE MAY 21, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER ARNOLD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, AND COMMISSIONERS ARNOLD, KULL, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Deputy Director Kevin McKee reviewed three slides about tentative future agenda items, noting that Commission members are always welcome to provide suggestions for agenda items and their content any time before the agenda is sent out for public review. Senior Director Nick Molinari pointed out that meetings do not always have to happen at the same time, and he suggested working backwards from the holidays to plan out the meeting schedule. He felt two or three meetings will be necessary for adoption of the budget.

Discussion ensued about scheduling the remainder of the Commission's 2025 meetings, with Mr. Molinari requesting that time-sensitive issues be heard before the November and December meetings. Recreation Manager Stephanie Tippett indicated McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is waiting on audio/video equipment and furniture so it can eventually host Commission meetings. Mr. McKee envisioned the Railroad Park as a potential home base for meetings. Commissioner Quale suggested holding future meetings at the Adaptive Recreation building.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Parks and Recreation Managers Valerie Budnick and Stephanie Tippett conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Parks and Rec Rewind; McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park; Halloween Events; and Youth Development.

Ms. Budnick added that laser tag will also be featured at the 90's Night event. She estimated that 15 vendors will participate in the event, though later Fall Festival events will have expanded participation. Deputy Director Kevin McKee spoke about how Councilmembers and the Mayor receive invitations for certain events. However, the Open Meeting Law needs to be considered when invitations are sent in this manner.

Mr. McKee brought up the previous master plan priority to expand Scottsdale's special events program, adding that they reallocated a staffing resource to and increased the budget of the program. The number of events has increased from 11 to 18, and existing events are also being expanded. He talked about partnerships with social media influencers to increase marketing for these events. Chair Maschhaupt thought there is an opportunity for the sale of Scottsdale-branded swag.

6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Kull lauded the efforts made at the dog park.

Vice-Chair Vreeland praised Chair Maschhaupt and Deputy Director Kevin McKee for their presentation to the City Council. Commissioner Quale mentioned the popularity of basketball at one of the parks.

Commissioner Arnold spoke about taking a City of Scottsdale billiards class, attending two Paths and Trails Subcommittee meetings, and visiting a pop-up biergarten in Des Moines.

Commissioner Quale discussed an indoor running track in the Flagstaff Aquatic Center.

7. ADJOURNMENT

VICE-CHAIR VREELAND MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER KULL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, AND COMMISSIONERS 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 5:49 p.m.