



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

Wednesday, December 17, 2025  
McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park – The Roundhouse  
7301 E. Indian Bend Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

**PRESENT:** Chair Eric Maschhaupt (arrived at 4:14 p.m.), Vice-Chair Michael Vreeland, Commissioners Jamie Alford, Amy Arnold, Sandy Kull, Susan McGarry, and Teresa Kim Quale

**STAFF:** Senior Director Nick Molinari; Deputy Director Kevin McKee; Parks and Recreation Managers Kyu-Bin Hyun, Chris Walsh, Valerie Budnick, Stephanie Tippet, Hezekiah Allen, Chris Haws; Principal Planner Eileen Baden

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Vreeland 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 comment cards submitted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Non-Agendized Items**

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

**MINUTES**

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2025

COMMISSIONER ARNOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 19, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KULL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. VICE-CHAIR VREELAND AND COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, ARNOLD, KULL, MCGARRY, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **Public Comment – Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

#### **1. PARKS AND PRESERVE TAX CAPITAL BUDGET**

Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Manager, lead a discussion with the Commission about the draft Parks and Preserve Tax capital budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year (FY). He presented the current FY 2025/26 Capital Budget with a five-year financial forecast, highlighting expenditures and capital improvement program (CIP) projects that have been identified. He noted that the approach to project delivery will be to execute the design portion of each project in order to establish project estimates, thus ensuring an accurate scope of the total budget. Priorities remain aligned with the Parks and Preserve Tax budget and the budgeting profile. Design spending will occur earlier, making project costs look different across fiscal years.

Nick Molinari, Senior Director, explained that typically design sits in a project budget, leaving the project estimate with no design. The Scottsdale City Charter calls for CIP projects to have a five-year plan, which includes placeholders for the outer years. Thanks to the dedicated sales tax, preliminary design can be done for projects, giving a more accurate forecast that will align with the sales tax.

Mr. Walsh continued his presentation highlighting FY 2026/27 budget items and the proposed FY 2026/27 Capital Budget, including the five-year financial forecast, expenditures, and capital projects. Discussion ensued regarding the tax collection process. It was noted that the revenue projections are based on last year's numbers and that the budget office will update the numbers in January 2026. He gave an overview of the discussion held between staff and the City Treasurer.

Commissioners were asked to consider making a recommendation to the City Council regarding the FY 2026/27 City Parks Improvement Budget.

COMMISSIONER ARNOLD MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE FY 2026/27 CITY PARKS IMPROVEMENT BUDGET, WHICH WILL BE FUNDED THROUGH THE 0.15 PERCENT PARKS AND PRESERVE SALES TAX. VICE-CHAIR VREELAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, AND COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, ARNOLD, KULL, MCGARRY, AND QUALE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. STAFF UPDATES**

- McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park updates

Stephanie Tippet, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave an update on activities at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Her presentation included a review of park hours; paid attractions, which include the carousel, train, and the Roundhouse; splash pad; playground areas; two museums; ramadas and picnic areas; a model railroad building; the snack shop; and Hartley's General Store. She highlighted the park's special events, including the signature Halloween Spook-Track-ula and Holiday Lights.

Ms. Tippet gave an overview of the estimated annual attendance, special revenue, use of General Funds, the support from the Scottsdale Railroad and Mechanical Society, and an overview of facility staff and their responsibilities. Discussion ensued regarding the history of the railroad park, contributions of the Mechanical Society to operations of the facility, the two steam engines and the seven steam engineers responsible for operation and maintenance of those trains, and the train sheds and the long-time crew chiefs. Ms. Tippet noted that the park recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

## **3. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Arnold said that this month she walked nine miles on the greenbelt. She gave an overview of the activities of the Paths and Trails Subcommittee.

Commissioner Kull said that she has spent a lot of time walking the greenbelt and recently started hiking in the Preserve.

Vice-Chair Vreeland said that he has been spending a lot of time in the Preserve. He said he has been impressed with the work of the Steward volunteers.

Chair Maschhaupt reported that he has been playing a lot of tennis. He commented that 2025 was a tremendous year for the Parks and Recreation department.

Commissioner Quale said that she arrived early to this meeting and walked around the park.

Commissioner McGarry commented on the popularity of the Railroad Park.

Commissioner Alford said that she visited Thompson Peak Park and Horizon Park. She commented on efforts to educate dog owners about picking up after their pets and suggested that social media be used as a tool for educating dog owners about their responsibilities.

## **4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Kevin McKee, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, presented a summary of the proposed agenda for the January meeting and tentative future agenda items for meetings through summer.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

VICE-CHAIR VREELAND MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER QUALE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR MASCHHAUPT, VICE-CHAIR VREELAND, AND 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 5:28 p.m.

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