



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

Thursday, February 18, 2026
Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

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

STAFF: Deputy Director Kevin McKee; Parks and Recreation Managers Kyu-Bin Hyun, Chris Walsh, Valerie Budnick, Stephanie Tippet, Hezekiah Allen, Chris Hawes; Principal Planner Eileen Baden; Operations Supervisor Scott Anderson; Operations Supervisor Sunny Nakagawa; Management Analyst Marci Sanders

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Maschhaupt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak nor any written comment cards provided.

MINUTES

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2026

Commissioner McGarry noted that agenda item 4 should say "Monthly Update".

COMMISSIONER MCGARRY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2026, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION RATES AND FEES ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/27

Staff provided an overview of proposed fee and charge adjustments for the Parks and Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 2026/27. Rates and fees proposals will be presented to the City Council on March 3, 2026, and are agendaized for adoption on May 19, 2026. Updated rates and fees will go into effect July 1.

Sunny Nakagawa, Operations Supervisor, gave a presentation outlining the proposed fees and charges adjustments and recommendations for the Youth Sports Field Allocation (YSFA) Partner Team field rentals during non-primary seasons. The proposed fee will increase from 50 percent of the resident rate to 75 percent of the resident rate during the Partner Team's non-primary season but will remain at 50 percent of the resident rate for primary season. Fees will align with the updated YSA policy recommendations. Ms. Nakagawa noted that the increased revenues is estimated to be approximately \$79,573, which will help with the increasing costs of maintaining high-quality sports fields and providing facility enhancements. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

Stephanie Tippet, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave a presentation outlining the proposed fee and charge adjustments and recommendations for the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Roundhouse. The proposed rate will remain the same as the pilot fee that has been in place since May of 2025. The Roundhouse entry fee for one hour of play will be \$6 or two ride tickets (two \$3 tickets) per child and adult, with one adult being admitted free with a paying child. Ms. Tippet gave an overview of the discounts available through purchase of a package or membership. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

COMMISSIONER MASCHHAUPT MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION RATES AND FEES ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/27. COMMISSIONER MCGARRY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR VREELAND, VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD, COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, KULL, MCGARRY, QUALE, AND MASCHHAUPT VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. CHOLLA PARK PICKLEBALL LIGHTING

Scott Anderson, Operations Supervisor, provided information related to written public comments received requesting early morning pickleball lighting at Cholla Park. He said staff received concerns in fall of 2025 about inadequate lighting at the Cholla Park pickleball courts, at which time they conducted research and determined that the lighting was inadequate. Funding was provided through the Facilities Division to fund upgrades to existing lighting and the addition of six new poles, resulting in a total of 18 poles on the pickleball courts. Following completion of the lighting project, requests were received from users asking for the court lighting to be turned

on 30 minutes prior to sunrise and remain on for 30 minutes after sunrise. Opposition to the lighting requests have been received from neighbors.

Mr. Anderson explained that Ordinance No. 3275, Ordinance No. 4117, and Ordinance No. 4163 restrict the hours that operation of lighting is permitted. In addition to the ordinance restrictions, consideration should be given to early morning noise and lighting impacting surrounding neighbors and to the additional cost of the energy used for extended power use.

Discussion ensued regarding the lighting project, pickleball court hours, impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, alternate pickleball options that are available, and the ordinance restrictions. It was the consensus of the Commission that Chair Vreeland will work with staff to compose an email to the inquiring parties explaining the reasons for denial of their request.

3. PARKS AND PRESERVE SALES TAX MONTHLY UPDATE

Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided an update on capital projects and other improvements funded by the Parks and Preserve sales tax. Updates were given on the following projects:

- Tree Pruning and Planting projects: projects were completed at Chaparral Park and Scottsdale Ranch Park, including installation of 36-inch box trees and pruning.
- Painting projects: painting projects are scheduled at Florence Ely Nelson, Mountain View Community Center, and Scottsdale Ranch Park. The paint color choices for Eldorado Park's ramadas have been chosen and voting is closed. The park entry signage schedule was discussed.
- Eldorado Playground Repairs: new pour-in-place surfacing was washed away during a September storm and replacement has been completed. The project is awaiting sand replacement.
- Rotary Park playground replacement is anticipated to begin in early March and it is hoped to be completed by the end of April.
- Chaparral Park Master Plan: staff is working with an on-call consultant to determine the scope of the project and estimated costs.
- Three new Pro Gators are available for use by park staff at Chaparral, Cholla, and Thompson Peak Parks.
- Operational Updates: a new maintenance technician was chosen for Chaparral Park. Two pull-behind turf aerators have been acquired, which are expected to improve flexibility in aerification practices and reduce turf maintenance costs. Gopher control services have been put in place for several parks, and irrigation improvements at Comanche Park have been completed.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Walsh explained that the additional funding from Prop 490 allows for the park enhancements to be completed instead of prioritizing the most important infrastructure projects. Mr. McKee noted that the City Treasurer's office is tentatively agendaized to give the Commission a presentation on the financial outlook during the May meeting. Staff plans to give a year-end recap of accomplishments that were made possible because of Prop 490 funds.

4. STAFF UPDATES

Staff gave updates on the following capital projects:

- General Updates: Eileen Baden, Principal Planner, provided an update on improvements at Pima Park and the solar panel project at Scottsdale Ranch Park. She noted that 60 percent of plans have been completed for the Pima Park improvements but will be deferred until funding from partner agencies becomes available for the Granite Reef Wash Project.
- Scottsdale Sports Complex Pumpstation Project: Hezekiah Allen, Parks and Recreation Manager, reviewed the project background, noting that the pumpstation has been servicing irrigation needs of the TPC Champions Course and Scottsdale Sports Complex since 2005. The project will include replacement of existing skids, pumps, and hardware. He gave an overview of the status of each component of the project, noting that the project is on budget and expected to be completed by April 14, 2026.
- Horizon Park ballfield shade: Chris Hawes, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave an update on the project to install a shade structure over the baseball field bleachers at Horizon Park. He said that the project is expected to take approximately 13 weeks and will be completed in May of 2026.
- Lakes and irrigation project at Vista del Camino Park: Ms. Baden said that the project is funded through Bond 2019 and will include increasing the depth of the lakes, lake liners, concrete edging, a new low-flow channel between lakes, a new irrigation and pump station, realignment of multi-use paths, planting of new trees, and disc golf course improvements. The project is estimated for completion in late summer 2026.
- Thompson Peak Dog Park project overview: the project funded by Bond 2019 and is expected to be completed in late summer 2026.
- Cactus Pool feasibility study: Ms. Baden gave an update on the status of the feasibility study.
- McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center: Kyu-Bin Hyun, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave an update on the progress of the aquatic center improvements. He noted that the waterslide tread replacement is postponed, and the repairs are expected to be completed by the Facilities Department during the next fiscal year. The pool is expected to reopen March 9, 2026.
- Playground Replacement CIP, year 5 of 5: Valerie Budnick, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave an overview of playground replacements and engineered wood fiber replenishments throughout the city parks. She said that there will be equipment replacements where needed at multiple park locations throughout the city. Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of using engineered wood fiber in place of sand. The Vista del Camino Park splashpad is expected to be completed in May 2026. She commented that the extensive project list is able to be completed thanks to the Prop 490 funding.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Alford said that she visited Northsight and Scottsdale Ranch Parks. She complimented staff on the social media communication regarding parks and about the project which resulted in the planting of 75 trees in recognition of the City's 75th anniversary.

Commissioner Quale said that she has started volunteering with Adapted Recreation. She said she has been impressed with the Special Olympics Bobcats. She relayed comments by parents that the Scottsdale Adapted Recreation program is superior to programs in other Valley cities.

Vice-Chair Arnold said she attended the February Paths and Trails Subcommittee meeting, which focused on bicycle-friendly community and the Cactus Trail fence project. She played ping-pong at Horizon Park, and walked around the pickleball courts at Cholla Park.

Chair Vreeland said he participated in Parada del Sol as part of the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park group. He encouraged everyone to participate in the parade next year. He spoke about the monthly Mercantile Market held at Civic Center.

Commissioner McGarry is looking forward to attending the family sports event scheduled for Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She gave a brief history about the namesake of Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park.

Commissioner Kull said she enjoyed participating in Parada del Sol.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kevin McKee, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, presented a summary of the proposed agenda for the March 18 meeting and tentative future agenda items for meetings through the summer.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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