



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

Thursday, March 18, 2026
Eldorado Community Center
2311 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

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

ABSENT: Chair Michael Vreeland

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 Dan Miller; City Planner Nick Carroll

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Arnold 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.

MINUTES

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2026

Vice-Chair Arnold noted that under the Commissioner Comments section, she did not play pickleball at Cholla Park.

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2026, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER KULL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD, COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, KULL, MCGARRY, QUALE, AND MASCHHAUPT VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. SHADE AND TREE PLAN FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Nick Carroll, City Planner, presented the draft Scottsdale Shade & Tree Plan for the Built Environment (11-DR-2025), providing an overview of the Plan's contents and organization, how it related to other City development tools, and how the guidelines would coordinate with current City practices in the development review process. He gave an overview of the progress that has been made since the last presentation in 2024, noting that the Development Review Board has initiated the process, and public feedback is now being solicited.

Mr. Carroll's presentation included an explanation of the regulatory standards and guidance being used, including the Zoning Ordinance, the Design Standards and Policies Manual, and discussion of what the plan is intended to accomplish. The Shade and Tree Plan, produced with the assistance of the Design Laboratory, will implement the General Plan 2035 policy to address community heat mitigation. It was initiated based on an Arizona State University Cooler Scottsdale Study that highlighted the need for shade throughout the community.

The plan will identify practical solutions to enhance shade and cooling strategies; be a user-friendly guide for residents, businesses, City staff, and policymakers; optimize water usage on trees; integrate practices for longevity; and enhance community resilience. The primary deliverable of the plan will be The Tool Kit, which will include definitions of trees, structures, water harvesting techniques that can be implemented, and precise locations where they are the most viable and useful. The Tree Plan will go into detail about types of trees, the pros and cons of each tree, and what type to use in certain locations, and it will include an appendix containing detailed information about each tree species.

The Shade Structure Plan will include recommendations about types of structures and the most appropriate locations. The Water Harvesting Plan will provide information on developing on-site water harvesting tools to support trees. Mr. Carroll reviewed the next steps and encouraged everyone to attend open houses and public events. The plan will go before Development Review Board for final adoption in May. Information regarding the plan can be found at Scottsdaleaz.gov by searching "Shade and Tree Plan".

Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

2. 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 – Upcoming projects include the planting of 9 trees at Northsight and 30 trees at Scottsdale Sports Complex. A project to plant two new trees at Civic Center has been completed.
- Painting projects – Painting projects at Florence Ely Nelson and Scottsdale Ranch Park have been completed. The Eldorado Park ramada painting will begin the week of March 23. Park entry signage at Agua Linda and Osborn Parks has been completed, and signs at Pima and Eldorado Parks are nearing completion.

- Comanche Landscape Improvements – Mr. Walsh gave an overview of enhancements.
- Ironwood Tennis Court – Repairs and reseal are expected to be completed within two weeks. Prop 490 funds may be available for future full replacement of post-tension concrete tennis courts in the coming fiscal year.
- Park Furnishings – ADA accessible picnic tables, trash cans, and grills will be installed at Eldorado and Osborn Parks. Furnishings will be replaced in other parks in future fiscal years.
- Operational Updates – The maintenance foreman position has been filled. Recruitment for the urban forester position will be reopened for applications.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. It was noted that interviews for the three new park ranger positions are ongoing this week. Security cameras are being installed as part of the City's municipal security system. The first set of cameras has been installed at Indian School Park.

3. STAFF UPDATES

- Special Events

Kevin McKee, Deputy Director, and Dan Miller, Operations Supervisor, reviewed the history behind special events in Scottsdale, including the retirement of Mighty Mud Mania and the evolution of Fall Festival. It was noted that special events' structure has evolved in an effort to expand programming and meet growing community demand as outlined in the 2024 Master Plan, with a focus on bringing large free events to Civic Center.

The special events program's growth includes the addition of a recreation leader senior, an increase in special events funding, and relocation of operations to Horizon Park. Focus is on creating signature events, enhancing the guests' experience, and increasing community participation through social media engagement. Future plans include hosting approximately 15 events next year, growing the three signature events, expanding Fall Festival to accommodate demand, creating programming to celebrate Scottsdale's 75th anniversary, expanding the Emo picnic series, increasing interest in Western Week programming, and continuing to add small community park events throughout the year.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. McKee explained that efforts are being made to update the City's event calendar system to include all City events and meetings, as well as other things happening within the City.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Alford said that over the past month she visited Cholla and Horizon Parks and had an opportunity to tour the Scottsdale Water facility.

Commissioner Quale recently walked through Cactus Park. She visited parks in Salt Lake City and was impressed with the maintenance of Scottsdale's parks in comparison.

Commissioner Kull noted she spent time at Chaparral Dog Park and enjoyed walking through the xeriscape area and around Chaparral Lake.

Commissioner McGarry had no update but asked who played the leprechaun in recent social media posts. Mr. McKee noted that his son happens to be a redhead and was able to fill that role.

Commissioner Maschhaupt enjoyed his recent visit to Rio Montana Park.

Vice-Chair Arnold said she visited McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center on March 9, which was the reopening date. She attended Rail Fair at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park and walked through the greenbelt.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kevin McKee, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, presented a summary of the proposed agenda for the April 15 meeting and tentative future agenda items for meetings through summer.

8. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER QUALE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 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 5:18 p.m.

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