



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

Wednesday May 20, 2026
McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park
7301 E. Indian Bend Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Teresa Kim Quale

STAFF: Deputy Director Kevin McKee; Parks and Recreation Managers Kyu-Bin Hyun, Chris Walsh, Principal Planner Eileen Baden; City Treasurer Sonia Andrews; Budget Director Scott Saline

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vreeland called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 April 15, 2026

VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 15, 2026 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ALFORD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

CHAIR VREELAND, VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD, COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, AND KULL, VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONERS MCGARRY AND MASCHHAUPT ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE

Scott Saline, Budget Director, and Sonia Andrews, City Treasurer, provided an update on the proposed Parks and Recreation Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. Saline gave an overview of the Budget and five-year CIP adoption timeline. He noted that the Budget Review Commission submitted their recommendations to City Council on May 5th and that final budget adoption is on City Council's June 9th agenda. He reviewed the City Council Ordinance 0.15 percent Park and Preserve tax allocations for Park Improvements, Preserve maintenance, park maintenance, fire mitigation and technical rescue, and police Park Rangers, including the dollar amounts allocated and breakdown of expenses for each area. Mr. Saline noted that there was an increase in the budget from last year, due to the addition of McCormick Stillman Park and Prop 490 funding. He reviewed allocations for the \$3.3 million park maintenance fund, the \$6.8 million park improvement fund, and the \$1.4 million police Park Ranger fund. The FY 2026/27 \$37 million Capital Budget parks and park improvements will include Vista del Camino Park lakes and irrigation repairs and the addition of a dog park to Thompson Peak Park.

Mr. Saline reviewed the Budget Review Commission's (BRC) recommendations, which included the following:

- Sales Tax structure review that would evaluate alignment of sales tax rates to city needs.
- 2004 Preserve Tax repurpose that would include evaluation of the possibility of repurposing the 2004 0.15 percent Preserve tax for other city needs.

Discussion ensued regarding the BRC's recommendations. Ms. Andrews explained that the BRC wants to look at the gap between what is being collected versus what is needed and if any realignment is needed to meet the community's priorities. She noted that any reallocation of voter approved items outlined in City ordinance would require a voter referendum. Reallocation of the 490 funds percentages would require a super majority vote of City Council. The second BRC recommendation to reevaluate paying off remaining debt and repurposing the 0.15 sales tax that expires in 2034 to major road/water/drainage maintenance programs as the City's needs may require. Before making any changes they would coordinate with the Preserve Commission to discuss additional land acquisition and other projects that could be identified. Commissioners expressed concern about the funds being comingled with the CIP and keeping the public informed about benefits they are getting. Ms. Andrews noted that they could retitle the list as restricted funds for capital projects. She said that the Parks and Recreation Commission has the ability to develop a policy to designate restricted capital each year for specific projects.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation. Mr. Molinari said that

the Budget Review Commission (BRC) likely does not have a clear understanding that Parks and Recreation Commission and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission both have oversight over projects that are approved for Prop 490 funding. Staff will ensure that the BRC has a better understanding of the commissions' roles. It was suggested that joint meetings between the groups could be scheduled.

2. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Eileen Baden, Principal Planner, provided updates on all active capital projects, excluding those funded by the Parks and Preserve Sales Tax. Her presentation included an overview of Area 4 of the lakes and irrigation project, located at Vista del Camino Park. She noted that the north and south lakes installation of lake liners and concrete edges, the new pump station construction is in progress, and irrigation trenching will begin soon. A fish habitat was constructed as part of the project just in case Arizona State Parks provided fish for the lake. The disc golf course site plan has been finalized. At the north lake, ballast dirt has been installed to protect the lake liner. The artist selected for the project will participate in a site visit on June 1st. Ms. Baden anticipates that the art will be some type of sidewalk etching. The north lake is in the process of being filled and the project is expected to be completed by early Fall. Chris Walsh, Parks and Recreation Manager, noted that water is going into the north lake, but water is being balanced while crews work on the channel, so that the water will not prematurely flow into the southern lake.

Ms. Baden gave an overview of the progress of the Thompson Peak Dog Park project. she shared photographs of the delivery and installation of the pedestrian bridge and the prefabricated restroom building. She noted that construction of the parking area and vestibules for entry to the dog park are in progress and reviewed the progress of other components of the project. Thompson Peak Dog Park is anticipated for completion by late summer.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Baden said that staff have been working with APS to address areas where tree height and lighting poles have height and location restrictions due to the power lines. Mr. Walsh said that WAPA and APS build requirements on the site impact the City planning requirements. The City responds to the challenges by amending the plan design, which requires Planning Department's review and approval. Staff anticipates that there will be complaints about not having enough shade and lighting. Musco lighting is available to the west of the park and shade structures are available, but it will take time for the trees to mature.

3. PARKS AND PRESERVE SALES TAX MONTHLY UPDATE

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

- Tree planting and pruning projects. Seventeen trees were installed at Eldorado Park as part of the City's Arbor Day celebration. Mature trees were pruned at Indian School Park and Pima Park.
- Sod Installation. Review of areas receiving sod installation during May and June. It was noted that sod was available approximately a month earlier than usual. The project

when completed will include approximately four acres worth of sod.

- **Painting.** Painting of ramadas and restroom building at Northsight Park and fitness equipment at Comanche Park have been completed. It was noted that Osborn park was fitness equipment was painted and sod will be installed using dollars from the Civic Center Complex project as well as Prop 490 funds. Upcoming projects include painting of restrooms and ramadas at Pima Park, which will tentatively begin at the end of May.
- **Camelback Slope Maintenance.** Mr. Walsh said that the City has a maintenance agreement with Cameldale HOA to maintain the slope within Camelback Park. Maintenance is being done to repair approximately 900 feet of landscape slope that has been eroded from rainfall. Rip Rap will be installed to prevent further drainage erosion.
- **Comanche Landscape Improvements.** Improvements will include instillation of 19 trees, landscape renovation, reduction in turf, and remediation to protect newly installed tennis courts.
- **Other Fiscal Year End Projects.** Plans are underway for projects improving retention areas at Northsight Park, replace windscreens on Grayhawk, Sonoran Hills, Aztec, and Rio Montana tennis courts, and landscaping enhancements at the Sports Complex.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. McKee explained that all of the information is ready to be published once a webpage focused on highlighting projects and accomplishments is launched.

4. STAFF UPDATES

Mr. McKee noted that staff updates will be focused on programs and projects planned for the summer while the Commission is not meeting.

Overviews were given for the following:

- **Aquatics.**

Kyu-Bin Hyun, Parks and Recreation Manager, gave an update on the lifeguard program, noting that 71 lifeguards who will receive 40 hours of pre-season summer training. 1,030 have registered for summer swim lessons and programs for the month of June. Upcoming summer events dates and times will be included on the Commissioner's monthly update through the summer.

- **Recreation.**

Mr. Hyun noted that Youth Sports has received applications for new partner teams and will be reaching out to partners once review is completed. The allocation process goes into effect in January of 2027. Adult sports summer program registration is open.

Mr. McKee said that the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and MUSCAL lighting will be in town filming a special on the Chaparral Park basketball court lighting grant collaboration project. The City will host a "Lights on at the Court" celebration the evening of Wednesday, June 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In addition to filming about the lighting project NRPA and Musco will film interviews about the expansion of the Special Olympics Youth Sports programs. Youth development summer programs will run at three locations from June

1st through July 24th and Mountain View Community Center will host a one-week endless summer program between the 24th and the start of school. The teen summer program has been revamped and modeled after the Mesa teen programs. Adaptive Recreation will host a summer Top Golf season and a sendoff part for two Special Olympics athletes that have been invited to the USA games.

- Parks Maintenance

Mr. McKee reported that sports fields will be shut down in July to focus on regrading those areas. He noted that in an effort to reduce costs and improve quality of work, City staff will be doing the work in non-critical areas this year.

- Downtown – Old Town

Mr. McKee said that Old Town granite and landscaping improvements are ongoing. Ongoing projects include Sports Complexes grass renovations, median enhancements on rights-of-way along Hayden Road from Chaparral to Pima.

- Specialty Areas

Mr. McKee announced that City Council rejected the proposed \$6 fee for the Roundhouse at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, and alternately approved a \$3 fee from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Marketing efforts are being made to inform the public about the availability of the Roundhouse. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park has one more concert in the Summer Concert Series on this coming Sunday and they will be hosting the annual Red White and Choo-Choo event on Friday, July 3rd.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Alford said she enjoyed attending the Arbor Day event and the Xeriscape Garden tour.

Commissioner Kull enjoyed attending the Arbor Day event and the Summer Concert Series at McCormick-Stillman Railroad park.

Vice-Chair Arnold attended the Arbor Day event and rode an e-bike on the greenbelt from McDowell Mountain Ranch to Tempe Town Lake. She is looking forward to attending City of Scottsdale Billiards during the summer.

Chair Vreeland attended the Arbor Day celebration and attended the Summer Concert Series event last week. He said his kids will be starting on swim team in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Maschhaupt is looking forward to attending the final Summer Concert Series event this coming Sunday and plans to attend the Memorial Day event on Monday.

Commissioner McGarry visited Comanche Park and spent a day at Chaparral Park.

6. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kevin McKee, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, noted that there will be no meetings in June or July. A retreat/work-study session has tentatively been scheduled for August 19th.

Commissioners were in consensus that their preference would be to hold the work-study at the regular meeting day and time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER KULL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR VREELAND, VICE-CHAIR ARNOLD, COMMISSIONERS ALFORD, KULL, MCGARRY, 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 6:06 p.m.

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