

Approved April 10, 2023



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
PROTECT AND PRESERVE SCOTTSDALE TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cynthia Wenstrom, Chair
Raoul Zubia, Vice Chair
Carla, Member
James Eaneman, Member
Nicholas Hartmann, Member
Jace McKeighan, Member
Daniel Schweiker, Member
Mark Winkleman, Member
John Zikias, Member

STAFF: Kim Campbell, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Sonia Andrews, City Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
Bill Murphy, Assistant City Manager
Nick Molinari, Parks and Recreation Director
Stephanie Tippett, Parks and Recreation Manager
Carol Banegas Stankus, Staff Representative
Gina Kirklin, Finance Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Request approval of minutes of the March 15, 2023 Regular Task Force Meeting.

Task Force Action: Discussion and action

VICE CHAIR ZUBIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2023 AS PRESENTED. MEMBER WINKLEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED NINE (9) TO ZERO (0) WITH CHAIR WENSTROM, VICE CHAIR ZUBIA AND MEMBERS CARLA, EANEMAN, HARTMANN, MCKEIGHAN, SCHWEIKER, WINKLEMAN AND ZIKIAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. **OVERVIEW OF PARK SITES, AMENITIES AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS WITHIN THE INDIAN BEND WASH GREENBELT**

Bill Murphy, Assistant City Manager, with the assistance of other city staff, will (i) provide a recap of the sites visited on the Task Force's tour of the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt system to show specific maintenance needs and floodwater impact to the parks and (ii) provide an opportunity for members of the Task Force to ask city staff questions about the sites or park needs and to make comments.

Task Force Action: Information, discussion, and possible recommendations to staff

Bill Murphy, Assistant City Manager, gave an overview of details and photographs from tour of the following City Parks:

- Vista del Camino
- Eldorado Park
- Coronado Golf Course/Thomas Road Bike Stop
- Indian School Park
- Camelback Park
- Chaparral Park - South Half
- Chaparral Park - North Half

Nick Molinari, Parks and Recreation Director, commented that during a previous presentation to the Task Force, there was discussion regarding the Indian Bend Wash and the origin of flood control. The original intent and design was as a concrete channel. When looking at the issues of erosion, this is a natural outcome of the true functionality of the Indian Bend Wash. Erosion in all areas is one of the most important considerations.

Member McKeighan stated that the Task Force will be making recommendations about a potential tax that may run for 10 to 20 years. The Task Force will not be making recommendations about particular projects. He asked whether the conditions and items observed today are representative of unfunded needs that occur over a one to ten-year basis and how this factors into a tax that may be in place for up to 20 years. Mr. Murphy stated that much of the discussion today involves master planning, primarily to address issues observed on the tour. Issues and conditions may change over the course of a couple years. For example, lake renovations must be coordinated to avoid the monsoon season. Funding for City park projects competes for General Fund dollars with various other City projects.

In response to a question from Chair Wenstrom, Mr. Murphy confirmed that Indian Bend Wash is among the top ten priorities. There is current funding to address lakes and irrigation work in the Indian Bend Wash, however, this only serves as a band-aid in terms of overall needs. Mr. Molinari stated that through the master planning process in 2017 and 2018, a number of items were identified in the Indian Bend

Wash Master Plan and approved by Council that involved public outreach and involvement. Through the process of identifying priorities through the bond, the elements included in the Master Plan, such as bathroom renovations, sport courts, relocation of off-leash dog park were not included and are currently unfunded. The Indian Bend Wash Master Plan improvements would likely be one of the top unfunded priorities in Parks and Recreation.

Member Hartmann asked if there is a program or element in the master plan specific to erosion control. Mr. Molinari stated that the City has used concrete to line lakes in terms of making design corrections. For example, the Indian School Park Lake on the west side has been lined with concrete. Similar design elements to low flow channels in lakes are seen within Vista and Eldorado. The goal is to provide long-term solutions, while being conscious of the value the natural open space provides to the community. Stephanie Tippett, Parks and Recreation Manager, added that the goal is to retain the appearance of a stream versus concreting the channel. There is not a one size fits all solution; each section has to be evaluated individually. In terms of a timeline, they are working on Area 1, including dredging the lake and starting the process for a new intake pike on the North Lake of Eldorado. Seven areas are to be addressed. Working with the Corps of Engineers through this process is expected to go through 2027.

Mr. Murphy addressed the renovation work at Camelback Park, which was a golf course at one time. The water running off the adjacent property was redirected as stormwater retention. The goal is to utilize the greenbelt for the purpose it was designed. This particular design included significant stormwater mitigation for waters coming off of Camelback Road, Chaparral Road and residences. For Indian School Park, drainage was taken off of Camelback Road and Glenrosa and re-piped for sufficient water movement. Such engineering opportunities take place where possible.

Member Carla asked whether potential tax funding for parks will be dedicated to southern Scottsdale for continual reinvestment, or whether the funding can be used wherever there is a need. Mr. Murphy stated that the answer to this question is not yet known. The Task Force has been specifically asked to look at Indian Bend Wash. If passage is successful for funding, work would ensue with the Treasurer's Office on prioritization. Budget considerations will be approved by City Council. Mr. Molinari added that hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure work is needed in the Indian Bend Wash parks. However, the Council adopted work plan talks about the Indian Bend Wash, but also Scottsdale parks. At this time, there are aging neighborhood parks in southern Scottsdale with similar issues as the Indian Bend Wash parks. Ultimately, some of these are decisions and recommendations of the Task Force.

Member Zikias recommended having discussions for needs in terms of perpetual care issues and needs. Mr. Molinari said that staff can provide this information. There are amenities within the parks and Indian Bend Wash that fall into life cycle replacement categories and time frames.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Task Force may request proposed topics for future agendas, but the Task Force may not discuss, deliberate, or take legal action on any matter in the "Identification of Possible Future Agenda Items" unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action. Additionally, the following previously requested items may be placed on a future agenda: Guidance on what may be included within "other needs" referenced in the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force Work Plan

- Guidance on the level of detail necessary related to "funding strategy" referenced in the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force Work Plan
- Sales tax revenue projections
- Information on Human Services' current efforts to address homelessness in the city's parks and

the role of park rangers

- Guidance on ballot question format and requirements
- Discussion related to how the parks and McDowell Sonoran Preserve is used by city residents
- Information on the unfunded needs of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
- Discussion related to funding operations of the parks and McDowell Sonoran Preserve
- Presentation from Public Safety on the activities and concerns of police and park rangers within the parks and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
- Brainstorming session on areas and topics to survey community opinions

Task Force Action: Information, discussion, and possible action

Several existing potential future agenda items were refined.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Vice Chair Zubia, 2nd by Member Zikias, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

AYES: Chair Wenstrom, Vice Chair Zubia, Members Carla, Eaneman, Hartmann, McKeighan, Schweiker, Winkleman and Zikias.

NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:

eScribers, LLC