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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:02]

Mayor Ortega: Hello. I call the September 5th, 2023, City Council Special meeting and possible Executive Session to order. City Clerk, Ben Lane, please conduct the roll call.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:16]

City Clerk Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor David Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

City Clerk Lane: Vice Mayor Kathy Littlefield.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Present.

City Clerk Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Here.

City Clerk Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Present.

City Clerk Lane: Barry Graham.

Councilmember Graham: Here.

City Clerk Lane: Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Present.

City Clerk Lane: Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

City Clerk Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

City Manager Thompson: Here.

City Clerk Lane: City Attorney Sherry Scott.

City Attorney Scott: Here.

City Clerk Lane: City Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

City Treasurer Andrews: Here.

City Clerk Lane: And the Clerk is present. Thank you, Mayor.

[Time: 00:00:37]

Mayor Ortega: We'll proceed with the possible executive session. May I have a motion to adjourn into executive discussion to discuss and consult with designated representatives of city in order to consider the city's position and instruction that could be the subject of future negotiations and/or to discuss legal advice, legal concerns and possible litigation with the city's attorneys all arising out of the Rio Verde Foothills Standpipe District that was formed in accordance with ARS 9-500.40 and the lack ever a planned water supply for developed homes and properties in the Rio Verde Foothills area located outside of the city of Scottsdale in Maricopa County. Do I have a motion?

Councilwoman Janik: So moved.

Councilmember Durham: And a second.

Mayor Ortega: We have a motion and a second. Please register your vote. Thank you. That's unanimous. We are now recessed into executive session.

[Executive session]

[Time: 00:59:11]

Mayor Ortega: So we are now resuming our special session, and just for the record, we did have an executive session and we adjourned that executive session. We will note that all Councilmembers are here, and I will -- do we have any music to cue until the Vice Mayor returns? I saw her just around the corner, okay? There she is.

So at this point, the next -- the purpose of our special meeting is to look at boards and commissions, and task force interviews and appointments. This evening, the City Council will be appointing individuals to four boards, commissions and task forces. I will now turn the meeting over to Vice Mayor Littlefield to begin the process.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you, Mayor. The Scottsdale City Council is responsible for establishing city policies and enacting laws in support of those policies. The Council relies on volunteer, citizen-based boards and commissions to research issues and make recommendations in support of the Council's mission and goals. The information and recommendations provided by Council-appointed advisory Boards is a valuable tool in helping Councilmembers in their deliberations. This afternoon, the City Council will be appointing Scottsdale residents interested in serving on various boards and commissions. I want to thank all of the willingness to volunteer their time in service to this community. Following the set of interviews, we'll vote on an appointment for the board or commission. That is under discussion. As I call your name, please approach the podium, and briefly cover the following:

For the record, please state your name and address and how long you have lived in Scottsdale. Please tell us how your education, employment, or volunteer experience relates to this board or commission. What is the top issue facing this board or commission? In your opinion. Please limit your comments to two minutes or less. We have a timer by the screen to help you manage your time. Following each nominee's response, I will ask Councilmembers if they have any follow-up questions for you.

Our first board this evening is the Development Review Board and there's one opening. The purpose of the Development Review Board is to review and approve architectural design and layout of proposed development plans. There is one vacancy and three nominees. Christopher Schroeder has withdrawn his application from consideration. The nominees are: Julie Berry, Thomas Kube, David Mason.

We will begin with Julie Berry, if she can come to the podium.

Julie Berry: Good afternoon I, Mayor and members of City Council, I'm Julie Berry. I live on East Granite Reef Road. I was born and raised on south Scottsdale and I grew up on the same street that my grandparents moved to the '50s. I attended the same elementary and high schools as my parents and I'm raising my four children from a neighborhood not too far from where I grew up. I have been in Scottsdale for 30 years.

As long-time resident and a Scottsdale native, I think I would bring a unique perspective to the development of our city and its future. I would use my diverse business skills from working with civil engineering and architecture firm as well as running a small real estate investment and management company to leverage the board members and stakeholders involved and to help take into account and valuing resident input to reach sustainable and viable solutions. I think one of the main issues facing the board right now is to improve the quality and the sustainability of future projects in our city.

I think those projects need to enhance our brand as a resort community and our people as well. I think water conservation is one of the biggest areas within the sustainability arena that we can work on to keep our city moving forward. It's an honor to be considered with these other nominees and I would love the chance to serve this community that's helped to shape my life in so many ways. Thank you.

[Time: 01:05:03]

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you so much. We do have a question for you. Mayor?

Mayor Ortega: Yes, hello, Ms. Berry. Are you aware of our recusal policy and how that is required to recuse? Could you please let me --

Julie Berry: Sure. I'm not super specific with all the details but I do know if you are involved with a project in the city, then you recuse yourself from that.

Mayor Ortega: And your employer is a company owned by Ali Fakhri.

Julie Berry: I'm not employed. I'm a consultant that works on the accounting and financial side of his business.

Mayor Ortega: As I read your resume, it says you are working there but you are a consultant with Mr. Fakhri.

Julie Berry: Correct.

Mayor Ortega: So that may raise some questions. He recuses himself quite a bit from cases.

Julie Berry: Right.

Mayor Ortega: And that would put you in a similar position of either being a consultant, employee or direct employee. I think at one point he recused 42 times or so.

Julie Berry: Okay.

Mayor Ortega: That made the board a little short on, you know, membership on those cases. I just thought I would get that clarified, although you -- you -- that shows on your resume, that is the same company as Mr. Fakih. He terms off in December.

And then we are filling one board commission on D.R. board and three more in December. So just thought I'd get that clarification. It's pretty stringent as far as being related for financial interest in -- in any applicant.

[Time: 01:06:47]

Julie Berry: Yeah, for sure.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Are there any other questions from the Council? Thank you so much. Next we have Thomas Kube.

Thomas Kube: Good evening, Mr. Mayor and members of the City Council. I'm Tom Kube, a 26-year resident in Scottsdale having raised four great children here. I live at 12740 East Sunnyside Drive. And I thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the Development Review Board.

You have my complete application, and I was able to forward some additional information to further flesh out my background because you don't leave a lot of space on those applications to provide data. If I may just summarize some key points for you. I developed 12 residential facilities in Arlington County, Virginia, for developmentally disabled residents. I served on the Scottsdale unified bond oversight committee, facilitated the development of the K-12 equalization standards and similarly for the state of Ohio. And developed national planning guides for K-12 and college, addressing planning, design, environmental and sustainability concerns, construction, citing criteria and community engagement, older and historic buildings to evaluate current and repurposed uses and we actually use those assessment guides to look at all of Arizona's schools back when the equalization standards were put into place.

At the federal level, I managed grants and collaborated with agencies such as EPA, FEMA, the Department of Energy, the National Park Service on development and construction issues to improve building performance. Scottsdale is a wonderful place to live, and I think a well-run city. I would like to contribute to that ongoing success.

You ask our candidates the top issues on the Council and facing the DRB. You rely on your

boards and commissions and I think that the long-term issue facing the DRB is to remain focused and continue to help you, the City Council receive good, data-driven information to assist you to approve quality developments that contribute to the overall vision of Scottsdale, its long-term plan and the quality of life for its residents. I believe my background and contributions to thoughtful planning and development can contribute to the work of the DRB, and the work you do in evaluating proposals. If appointed, I look forward to serving and I'm happy to field any questions.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you very much. Are there any questions for Mr. Kube. Thank you so much, sir.

Thomas Kube: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Next, we have David Mason.

David Mason: Mr. Mayor and members of the Council, thank you for the privilege of being nominated to the Development Review Board. I believe that my background would add elements of real estate industry, engineering, and technology to the excellent work of the board that it's already doing. I hold a master's degree of engineering, and I have extensive experience with the United States government, plus I was a member of the Scottsdale working group on short-term rental properties and have an excellent of how it may affect housing affordability, housing availability and community.

[Time: 01:10:40]

I have a 40-year background in the real estate industry, including all aspects of it. That includes land assemblage and development, property sales, design review, design development, architectural elements and sales, processing of analysis of -- market analysis, and residential real estate, commercial real estate and luxury homes. I believe that the top issue facing the design review board is to en -- is to continue to ensure that development enriches the lives of all the citizens of Scottsdale. Further the public safety in the general health welfare and contribute to Scottsdale being a city that we can all be proud of and live in. This means ensuring that development can balance the needs of -- the needs of development with the needs of preserving Scottsdale and Scottsdale's neighborhoods, character, livability and viability. If you have any questions, I would be happy to take them.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Are there any questions for this candidate? Thank you so much, sir.

David Mason: Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Next, I will now entertain a vote for the Development Review Board. And each Councilmember can vote for one nominee. And I would ask that we leave a moment or two between votes to give Rommel time to mark his board up there because sometimes we

run ahead of him. So appreciate that. We will begin with Councilmember Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Julie Berry.

Councilwoman Whitehead: David Mason.

Mayor Ortega: David Mason.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thomas Kube.

Councilwoman Janik: David Mason.

Councilwoman Caputi: Julie Berry.

Councilmember Graham: Mr. Kube.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Okay. Is that everyone? Yes. It is. And Mr. Mason –

Councilmember Graham: I think you need a majority. What do we do?

[Time: 01:13:06]

City Attorney Scott: Vice Mayor. Thank you, Sherry Scott from the legal department. This presents an awkward situation.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: I leave this to you!

City Attorney Scott: This presents an awkward situation. Normally we drop off the -- normally we drop off the applicant with the least number of votes. Here we have a tie. So I would suggest that Council vote again. Hopefully one of you will change your mind.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Okay. We can try that. Let me begin with Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: David Mason.

Councilwoman Caputi: Julie Berry.

Councilmember Graham: Mr. Kube.

Councilmember Durham: David Mason.

Councilwoman Whitehead: David Mason.

Mayor Ortega: David Mason.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Mr. Kube.

Rommel Cordova: Mr. Mason has been appointed.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: David Mason has been appointed. Thank you very much.

Mayor Ortega: And Vice Mayor, if I could mention again, there will be three positions on D.R. board coming up in December, as well as other applicants that may want to --

Vice Mayor Littlefield: And for those who did not get the application in tonight, your names will be on the applications for the next time we appoint. Thank you.

Councilmember Graham: Mr. Mayor, maybe we should contemplate language as far as tie breaking for the future.

Mayor Ortega: It worked.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: That was interesting. We did good. Our next board is the Library Board. The library has board advises the City Council on general policy relating to the programs, services and future development of the Scottsdale Public Libraries. There are two vacancies and five nominees.

[Time: 01:15:12]

The nominees are: Jan Dubauskas, Freda Hartman, Leslie Totten, John Wanat, Christine Wilson. Jan Dubauskas and Christine Wilson are not able to attend, and they would very much like to serve on the board. Our interviews this evening will begin with Freda Hartman.

Freda Hartman: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor, Madam Vice Mayor and Councilmembers. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Freda Hartman, and I live at 12106 East Weathersfield Drive in Scottsdale. I am a 16-year resident of Scottsdale. I'm very proud of that. It's a great community. I'm currently the vice chair of the Library Board and I'm friends of the liaison. And I last year served on the strategic planning for the public library that developed the five-year strategic plan which was a great experience. So libraries have been very much a part of my life. In addition to that, let me say a little bit about my background.

I have a bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree in business, and my career has been as you might imagine having those degrees in higher education and corporate education. I've been an administration and as faculty and teaching. In fact, I'm currently teaching and this is our first week of the term. So I'm very happy about that. Prior to moving to Scottsdale, I lived in another community in which I was very active as a library volunteer.

I served on their Library Board. And I chaired it for three years. So I have to say that libraries have been a central part of my life forever. And that's what drives my passion and my commitment. The top issue facing our Library Board. Well, there are many, but what I would say is the expansion of access, you know, our patrons have desires and needs what they would like to see our library to be and they know that Scottsdale is a world-class community and they want their world-class community to have a world-class public library.

And so expanding access, expanding and extending materials, particularly digital materials with a lot more people online these days, reaching out to our seniors and members of our community who can't make it physically to the branches. It's very important. So we think that that is, you know -- access, digital resources and provided upgraded technology are the key issues. Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity and your support.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you also. Are there any questions? No? Next, we have Leslie Totten.

[Time: 01:18:49]

Leslie Totten: Thank you, good afternoon, Mayor Ortega and members of the Council. I'm Leslie Totten, and I live at 10665 East Saguaro Drive, and I have been a resident of Scottsdale for over 40 years. We have raised our family in the Scottsdale community and have participated in all of the library branches actively. I've served as a library volunteer at the library book shop when it used to be Palomino Branch at the Desert Mountain High School campus.

I continued to go to all of this City of Scottsdale library bookshops to stock my very popular free little library in front of our home. I am the chief people officer at the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, also known as "First things First". I have a degree in community from Arizona State University, and my master's degree is in early childhood education with an emphasis in early literacy. My passion and my focus is on early literacy for families.

And engaging them in literacy-rich environments, which is obviously our Library community. I understand that the library is a fairly young library for the city of Scottsdale as the Civic Center opened officially its doors in 1968. And I believe that the city has done a great job supporting library services, but I would hope to see increased access for our young families, as well as promoting tourism, because the library can act as a hub to support the rich culture of our city and offer resources and information for families and their visitors. So thank you for the nomination and your time today.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you. Next, we have John Wanat.

John Wanat: Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you. My name is John Wanat, I lived in Scottsdale for 13 years and 22 days to be exact. And I live at 9350 North

110th Street in Scottsdale, 85259. My background has been as an academic. I was a professor and administrator in universities all my life and I have spent a fair amount of time first in libraries as a user before the research I did for the articles and books I published and for the courses that I developed.

[Time: 01:21:33]

Subsequent to that, I shifted from teaching public administration and being a public administrator. I was a provost. I was the chief academic officer and the chief operating officer. In that role, I had worked with the libraries in those two universities very closely. Whether it was issues of acquisitions, patron safety, whether it was issues of interlibrary loans, electrifications and so on.

So I'm familiar with the library as a user and as a person in a supervisory role. The question is what are the major issues facing? I have to say that as a patron of the libraries here, I'm very pleased. I think they are doing an excellent job. I've seen that they have been growing since COVID times and they are increasing demand for all of their services and their collections. It's a fine library system.

I don't see any real -- the one little cloud I see on the horizon doesn't necessarily focus on our library here, but that's the whole question of restricting access. There's some people who are talking about, you know, banning books and so on. I think in a democracy, we have a marketplace of ideas and therefore, these things should be open and available to everybody, and I would hate to see us go down that rabbit hole of trying to restrict. It clearly there are vulnerable populations, youth in particular, but it seems to me that with -- where the control should be exerted there is at the familial level. Parents should be making decisions as to what is the appropriate material for their particular child at their his or her stage of development and maturity. And I'm happy to answer any questions if I can.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you so much. Are there any questions? Thank you. And Christine Wilson is not here this evening, although she is still interested in serving on the board. So we can take votes.

Each Councilmembers will have two votes. We will begin with Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Thank you, I will place my votes for reappointment of Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten. It's a hard decision.

Councilwoman Janik: Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten.

Councilwoman Caputi: Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten.

Councilmember Graham: Ms. Hartman and Ms. Dubauskas.

Councilmember Durham: Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten.

[Time: 01:24:35]

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you so much. Freda Hartman and Leslie Totten have been elected. Thank you. Again, all the candidates that were not appointed tonight are going to stay on the roster for future openings in the Library Board.

Our next commission, actually, is Parks and Recreation. We have two openings for Parks and Recreation. This commission advises the City Council on the acquisitions of lands and facilities for use as parks and recreational centers. And on the operation, are use, care, and maintenance of these parks and recreational centers. There are two vacancies and the nominees -- and there are five nominees the nominees are: Jamie Alford, Robert Blackwell, Susan McGarry, Dennis Soeffner, Michael Vreeland, and the interviews will begin with Jamie Alford.

Jamie Alford: Mayor Ortega and Councilmembers, thank you for this opportunity. My name is Jamie Alford. I reside at 10248 East Penstiman Drive, 85255, located in McDowell Mountain Ranch Community. I have been a proud resident of Scottsdale for 20 years, having relocated here from Orlando, Florida, where there is a lot of parks.

My work history being I retired after 35 years in the automotive aftermarket as a strategic account manager. This role involved managing key accounts at the corporate level, security promotions, organizing events, supply chain, contract negotiations, P&L management and product compliance.

I have a B.A. degree in business and marketing from Marshall University. Community service involves, you know -- I was a community outreach position with a women's organization and I have volunteered and continued to support the Phoenix rescue mission. I also volunteer to collect signatures to help save our Gateway Preserve which is adjacent to where I live. I feel really blessed to live here in Scottsdale.

The -- they help me transition from my work experience, from work to retirement. During that transition, I took full advantage of the programs they offered classes, oil painting, bridge, tennis leagues, clinics, photography, securing meeting spaces, spring training and picnics at Horizon Park.

And most importantly, they were affordable and free and I wish more Scottsdale residents knew about what these offerings were. They -- I have made so many friends from that. Some of the issues, I think that would be a concern is that we need to prioritize safety in the parks and recreations facilities. Crime has been on the rise and our nation, our state, our cities. And it's overflowing into some of the parks. So I think it's important to take a look at that and then we also need to get ahead of it.

And then the second thing I wanted to add was the workforce, staffing and training. This is especially important in today's challenging work environment. I commend your efforts for getting ahead of this too with your mentoring and your internships. It's so important to develop young people to transition into the workforce. So I believe my work experience and my volunteer experience with the rescue mission and the account management would serve me well in this position.

And I wanted to tell you the top ten parks and recreations in the nation, and I must admit most of those cities I would not live in. And they do not compare to the lifestyle that Scottsdale offers. So thank you again. I really appreciate this. Scottsdale parks and recs has enriched my life. Okay? Any questions?

[Time: 01:28:57]

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you. Are there any questions? Thank you very much. Next, we have Susan McGarry.

Susan McGarry: I'm nervous enough as it is.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: That's okay.

Susan McGarry: Mr. Mayor, members of the City Council, thank you for this opportunity and thank you for the opportunity to serve on the commission for the last three years. I moved to Arizona in 1976 to go to school at ASU. Fellow Sun Devil. There's somebody in here I heard. And never left.

I've lived in Scottsdale for about 15 years, with a couple of year break when my husband and I thought we were going to be beach bums in Southern California, but we needed jobs. So we came back here. That's kind of a joke, but -- anyway.

[Laughter]

I'm a lifelong community volunteer in the state of Arizona, and the city of Phoenix, the city of Tempe, and the city of Scottsdale. I have a background in marketing and communications. So I probably bring a unique perspective to the Parks and Rec Commission, because I look at what the parks department does through that lens of marketing and communications.

Over the last three years, I mentioned this to one of the Council people the other day, I had no idea what it was going to be like serving on the Parks Commission. I into you what the parks were like. We all know what parks are like. We use the parks. They are important to us. But my life has been vastly improved by being involved on this commission.

[Time: 01:30:43]

I have, I believe, conquered the steep learning curve that goes into stepping into a responsibility like this, and I believe I can be an even more valuable commissioner going forward. I think the top issue facing -- I say parks in short for parks and recs is funding. Funding is going to be the biggest challenge, moving ahead, just as it's been the last few years. A prime example of when this funding concern will come up is in the current Indian Bend Wash Master Planning for the city's biggest -- not biggest, I'm sorry, the city's oldest parks in south Scottsdale, which are antiquated and they need to be upgraded.

The population center is different than those parks serve and that's a prime example of a funding challenge for the parks department. I really appreciate, again, the opportunity and that concludes my little presentation.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you so much. Are there any questions? Thank you. Now, I go back to Robert Blackwell. Robert, I apologize. You were hidden under some notes here.

Robert Blackwell: Hi, Mayor Ortega and Councilmembers, I'm Bob Blackwell. I am live on East Sweetwater Avenue, 85259. I've been a resident of Scottsdale for 14 years, and thanks for considering me for the Parks and Rec commission. Several years ago, I felt that I wanted to serve the city and parks are an important aspect of that.

They elevate the city for the residents and tourists, when they are considered and built with care, at the play a role in cooling the city. And increase safety when handling stormwater runoff. The park system provides community and sports and relaxation and -- and in an online world that's becoming progressively more online.

To better understand how the city operated in 2019, I attended the Scottsdale 101 class and the Citizens Police Academy class and then resumed this year with the Water Citizen Academy. But of these experiences, I think serving on the board is relevant, where we get to research and decide on options for upgrading or maintaining property.

Second to that, grad school taught me to work well with others as we developed our business cases, and last, working in finance and receivables, I'm focused on fiscal accountability. As far as key issues for the parks, you have safety, regular maintenance, availability for all and continued investment. I think continued investment is paramount in a time of increasing costs and visitorship at the parks.

[Time: 01:33:59]

There's a convergence of trends putting pressure on the parks in the way of higher density living that we have in the city and then increased visitorship post the pandemic, but if appointed, I will work to ensure that these key issues are addressed and thoughtful in pragmatic ways. So thank you.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you so much. Are there any questions? Yes, Councilman Graham.

Councilmember Graham: Mr. Blackwell, what was the comment about post-pandemic development? Sorry, I just couldn't hear that?

Robert Blackwell: Oh, just that visitorship of the parks rose around the time of the pandemic. You could be outside and do things and it's basically stayed at that higher level.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you. Are there any other questions? Thank you so much. And next we have Dennis Soeffner.

Dennis Soeffner: Mr. Mayor and Councilman thank you so much for this opportunity to interview. My name is Dennis Soeffner, and I live at 31211 North 77th Way. That's in Scottsdale at 85266. That's in the HOA of Bellasera. And I'm proud to tell you that I have lived in Scottsdale twice, 1985 through 2001, and we came back in 2010, after a tenure with Anheuser-Busch for 30 years.

I retired as a pricing manager in a region office in Tampa, Florida, but the call to the desert is always paramount with us. Born and raised in Southern California, went to Long Beach State, a degree in business management. Attended the Scottsdale 101 class, I'm proud to tell you that that's one of the inspirations to come and interview for this board. And I would like to tell you that I have been a volunteer at Pinnacle Peak Park since 2010. Actually I'm the trail rover. Typically at this time of the day, I would be closing the park. This is time -- we're going to be locking the gate pretty soon. It's time for you to exit stage left. That's typically what I do for the city and I would like you to know that I'm a Realtor.

And I have an understanding of some of the things going, as far as property management and that sort of thing that would happen with the city as far as acquisitions. And management of the parks. I feel that the number one issue in this is getting ahead of what's going on with the parks. And by that I'm saying that what I read in the wonderful Arizona Republic here the other day, that the Council is inundated with requests for pickleball.

[Time: 01:37:18]

I was like, well, if we had known that, that wouldn't have been a surprise, and we would have been able to plan ahead of the curve. And I would like to be part of that process. Thank you very much. Appreciate your vote.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you so much. Are there any questions for this gentleman? Thank you. And finally, we have Michael Vreeland.

Michael Vreeland: Good afternoon. Mayor Ortega, members of the City Council, I'm happy to be here. My name is Mike Vreeland. I live at 830 North 36th Place. I live in the Trails neighborhood. I'm honored to be with you all today and I'm excited that I'm being considered for one of the open positions for the Parks and Recreational Commission. I feel like I'm an excellent candidate.

On a personal level, I have spent years swimming laps at Eldorado Aquatics Center and Chaparral pool which underwent an amazing renovation. I have ridden my bike countless times in along the green belt and I have ridden the train at the railroad park countless times with my little kids. I can see it in my sleep.

On a community level I have coached my daughter's soccer team for nine seasons, and I have been able to use the parks as a place to practice to go from different places depending on where families live for each different season, knowing that there's a space there and a place for us to be. Now I watched as both of my kids get to learn to compete in the pool because they are part of the summer rec season for parks and rec for the summer swim team and through -- on a citywide level through organizations like Scottsdale Leadership, I would be able to -- I have come to appreciate that there's a special role that parks and recreation plays in creating the character of Scottsdale and you see that through the parks and the pools but you see that through things like adaptive and senior services and the different programs that are taken advantage of by distinctive individual populations in our city.

The biggest issue facing the commission, I believe, is how we continue to create and reimagine a truly exceptional series of spaces for our community. For example, the Indian Bend Wash and the Sonoran Desert Preserve are incredible and unique assets to our city. Due to the foresight of those who came before us, hopefully they will outlast us all. Those projects are decades from their creation now.

So it begs the question, what role does parks and recreation play in the next great project. This idea is expressed in the parks and recreation strategic plan, it's goal BR-2 and it talks about building parks for the future. When I read that, I zeroed in on it like a laser. Scottsdale has been building the parks of the future. The parks of the future is the term that's used in the report. I'm eager to do what Scottsdale can to build the parks of the future for the next 70 years and I invite any questions that you have.

[Time: 01:40:21]

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Are there any questions? Thank you so much, sir. That concludes our applicant nominees. And we can now entertain a vote for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Each Councilmember will receive two votes -- gets two votes. So we will begin with the Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. We are blessed with wonderful volunteers and people applying tonight. And I really -- we really appreciate that selections. My selections would be Michael Vreeland and Susan McGarry. Again, thanks to all applicants.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you. I will vote for Susan McGarry. And Michael Vreeland.

Councilwoman Janik: Likewise, Susan McGarry and Michael Vreeland.

Councilwoman Caputi: Robert Blackwell, Susan McGarry.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Vice Mayor. I will vote for Ms. McGarry and Ms. Alford.

Councilmember Durham: I will vote for Susan McGarry and Michael Vreeland.

Councilwoman Whitehead: I will echo that, this is a great list of candidates. I will vote for Susan McGarry and Robert Blackwell.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you. It looks like Susan McGarry and Michael Vreeland have been appointed. Thank you so much.

Next, we have the Transportation Commission. The Transportation Commission advises the City Council on matters relating to the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, transit, pedestrians, and bicycles. The commission provides a public forum to hear citizen complaints and requests regarding transportation matters. There is one vacancy and three nominees.

The nominees are: Denise Doctor, Lee Kauftheil, Robert Marmon. We will begin with Denise Doctor. She is our first interviewee and she will be telephonically here. Hopefully.

[Time: 01:42:54]

Denise Doctor: Yes, hello. Sorry I can't be with you today. I'm in Chicago. My name is Denise Doctor and I live at 13297 East Summit Drive, Scottsdale 85259. We purchased our full-time retirement home two years ago.

So five things I believe I could bring to the board are my strong engineering and project management from pipeline and plant projects which is a little bit different than roads, to computer system implementation projects I have done companywide. I have a very strong negotiation background with over 77 years of contract drafting, and contract management and

contract litigation and resolution, for over 200 contracts ranging in the hundred millions up to billions dollars worth.

The third thing I was in human resources managing global talent management for the company I work for for over eight years. Where I learned even though I'm an engineer, most issues can't be solved exclusively by technical solutions even they would like that to be. But there's a huge human and emotional.

And I have seen that with roads and things that go on with the transportation system in the city also. I have lived in eight states and 11 cities so my husband and I have seen a whole lot of issues related for transportation. I have a passion for biking and running, and in my current age, more walking. Where the transportation systems either impede or improve those issues.

The top issue facing Scottsdale, this is kind of like the all encompassing thing is prioritizing and managing the necessary capital expansion I believe that has to be done as the city of Scottsdale changes and grows in one inflationary environment and two extremely spread out city. It's extremely long not typical of a very concentric type city and a city with very diverse multiuse interests. So I think I have lost you guys.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: No, we're here.

Denise Doctor So thank you for your consideration. I value the Council's time and the service that you do to Scottsdale. So thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you very much. Are there any questions? Thank you so much. Next, we have Lee Kauftheil.

[Time: 01:45:41]

Lee Kauftheil: All right. First off, just thank you for the nomination. My name is Lee Kauftheil. My address is 7726 East Thomas Road, Scottsdale. I've been here for just about 12 years now. I was fortunate enough to join our community then. My experience with transportation has been varied.

For several years, I delivered -- I did food delivery professionally to large -- to large chain stores, grocery stores and things like that. I also did pest control where I drove all around the valley, experiencing all the roads and all the different ways that the municipalities put that to go. And -- and I'm also a diverse road user. So not only was my job to drive around, but these days, I have ridden a bike. I have walked through Scottsdale. I have driven through Scottsdale. I used our buses; our trolleys and I have -- and ride share and things like that. The top issues, you know, there's transportation -- transportation is so much.

One of the things I think a lot about is once -- when I did pest control, I was driving in Tempe,

and there was no buffer between the sidewalk and the road that I was on. And I was driving legally, below the speed limit. There was a child who was just walking and stepped off the curb at just the wrong time, and I hit that child. And we were all -- you know, we were all behaving, legally, normally, but because of that transportation issue, I -- I never found out how that person -- how they fared afterwards but it's something that I think a lot about, that transportation affects all of us in all the different road user ways and I would like to make sure that Scottsdale continues to be a safe place for everybody who uses the road and the transportation corridors that we provide. I guess that's my time.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you. Are there any questions? No? Thank you so much, sir. And next we have Robert Marmon.

Robert Marmon: Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor, Council thank you for this opportunity. I'm Bob Marmon. I live at 9087 East Saguaro Drive with my wife and the dog. And I've been here about 17 years and I'm a licensed professional civil engineer. Scottsdale is evolving its road construction process, finishing up some major projects and evolving to using what we have, making it better, using the infrastructure that's in place to service the community.

We still have developers coming which will put pressure on capacity. We have an evolving demographics which we have more stay in place seniors which need some transit opportunities. We have children and young families coming in. So we have a lot of different needs. I'm also looking forward to working with your staff who have prepared some really good plans and construction documents and aren't afraid to do something new.

So I thank you for this opportunity. And I'll take some questions.

[Time: 01:49:59]

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Are there any questions? Thank you, sir. I will now entertain a vote for the transportation commission and each Councilmember can vote for one nominee. And I will begin by voting for Robert Marmon. Betty?

Councilwoman Janik: I vote for Lee Kaufheil.

Councilwoman Caputi: Lee Kaufheil.

Councilmember Graham: Mr. Marmon.

Councilmember Durham: Mr. Marmon.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Lee Kaufheil.

Mayor Ortega: Lee Kaufheil.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Okay, Mr. Lee Kauftheil has been appointed. Thank you. Okay. This concludes our appointment process for today.

I would like to thank all our nominees for their interest in serving on a city Board or Commission. We are fortunate to continue to receive qualified applicants for the positions on our Boards and Commissions. They are important.

Even if you were not appointed today, your application will remain on file for consideration at a future date if there are additional vacancies. City staff will contact the individuals appointed this evening and provide them with information on next steps regarding their appointment. The City of Scottsdale is very fortunate to have such dedicated and talented individuals who are willing and ready to serve for our city. Thank you all very much. Mayor, I turn the meeting back over to you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. That concludes the appointment process. I move to adjourn the City Council special meeting. Do I have a second?

[Time: 01:52:00]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Second.

Councilwoman Janik: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. Please record your vote. Unanimous. We are adjourned and we will begin our regular meeting at 5:00. Thank you.