

**AUGUST 25, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND WORK STUDY SESSION MINUTES
CLOSED CAPTION TRANSCRIPT**

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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:0]

Mayor Borowsky: Good evening, everybody. Welcome back to City Hall for those of you not here last week. At this point I would like to call the August 25, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting and Work Study Session to Order. City Clerk Ben Lane, there he is over there now new place, please conduct the Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Ben Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor Lisa Borowsky.

Mayor Borowsky: Present.

Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Jan Dubauskas.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Here.

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Ben Lane: Councilmembers Barry Graham.

Councilman Graham: Here.

Ben Lane: Adam Kwasman.

Councilman Kwasman: Here.

Ben Lane: Kathy Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Here.

Ben Lane: Maryann McAllen.

Councilwoman McAllen: Present.

Ben Lane: And Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

Ben Lane: City Manager Greg Caton.

City Manager Greg Caton: Here.

Ben Lane: Interim City Attorney Luis Santaella.

Interim City Attorney Luis Santaella: Here.

Ben Lane: City Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

City Treasurer Sonia Andrew: Here.

Ben Lane: Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff.

Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff: Here.

Ben Lane: And the Clerk is Present. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you very much. This evening we have Scottsdale Police Officer Lee Hunter and Sergeant Eric Bowles as well as Firefighter Michael Molichcheck. If anyone requires their assistance, please let a member of our staff know.

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As an announcement, please note that Item No. 16, the City of Scottsdale General Plan 2035 was withdrawn by staff and will not be considered by the City Council this evening.

Also, the planned Work Session item, which was an update on wildfire mitigation and volunteers of the Scottsdale Fire Department, specific to preventive wildfire mitigation efforts, was withdrawn by staff due to an agendaing error and has been continued to Tuesday, September 9th. So, I apologize if you're here for either one of those issues. Neither will be held or discussed tonight.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

[Time: 00:01:51]

I'd like to call upon Councilwoman McAllen to lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Councilwoman McAllen: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you very much. This evening, Councilman Kwasman will lead us in the invocation.

INVOCATION

[Time: 00:02:13]

Councilman Kwasman: Yes, thank you Madam Mayor. Tonight, I'm going to be delegating the invocation to Rabbi Schmueli Bronstein. Rabbi if you will please join us at our new podium over here and after the invocation, I'll be giving a brief bio.

Rabbi Schmueli Borenstein: Almighty God, master of the universe, today is the beginning of a month in the Jewish calendar known as a time of reflection and closeness to you. Our sages teach that during elul is in the field that you are near to every person wherever they may be. As we open the Scottsdale city meeting, ask that you bless our leaders and city with wisdom clarity and peace, Grant us wisdom, the wisdom to see every human being is created in your image, each one possessing dignity and purpose. May we be wise enough to listen, to learn and to respect the divine spark within every voice.

Grant us clarity to distinguish between helpful debate and harmful division. Conflict that weakened. Such as hours, differences of opinions, not a liability, but a blessing. Through them, we refine strengthen our community. Not only the peace that comes when we all agree, but the peace that comes when we all live together with mutual respect. It reminded us even one act of goodness and kindness can tip the scale of the entire world toward peace. We recognize that

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gathering here tonight, this Council is fulfilling one of the laws, the universal code by God given by God to all humanity. The command to establish systems of justice that bring order to society. May you guide us to not to Commission on Disability and Employment murder, not to steal, not to be cruel to any living creature and every society be governed by just laws based on the recognition and acknowledgment of you oh, God, May Scottsdale be blessed as a city that reflects these time license principles. Bless all who call Scottsdale home and bless our nation with wisdom, clarity and peace. Let us say amen.

Before I step down, the Torah teaches every prayer has to come with a practical application of something good. I ask my grandfather when he did this, that he do a mitzvah on the spot. I brought with me a silver coated pushka carved out with a City of Jerusalem and will put \$2 into it on behalf of me and Council member Kwasman. One on behalf of everyone else here. When you go home, think of one more mitzvah to do to make the world a better place, thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you.

[Time: 00:05:24]

Councilman Kwasman: Thank you Madam Mayor. If I might, I would like to just give a quick bio of Rabbi Schmueli, who is just wonderful. Rabbi Schmueli Bronstein, originally from Brooklyn, New York, studied in Brooklyn, Connecticut, France and Canada. Where he went on to receive his rabbinical ordination. Known for his dynamic personality as we all saw, Rabbi Bronstein has traveled as part of a rabbinical internship program dedicated to the personal and spiritual well-being of underserved communities. They are certainly deserved, they are absolutely underserved. Serving Jewish populations in eastern Europe, South America and Asia. As part of this work, he also volunteered as an ASL interpreter helping Deaf students fully participate in Jewish programs and community life.

Before moving to Scottsdale with his wife to open the Chabad of South Scottsdale Center for Jewish Life, Rabbi Bronstein spent two years directing the educational department of the Jewish Children's Museums International Hedon program. He teaches Talmud at the local Scottsdale Yeshiva High School god willing where my son and my two sons will be able to study one day.

More than his communal leadership role, Rabbi Bronstein is most proud to be a husband and father. And if I might say for those of you who don't know what a pushke is, it's one of the staples in any community and God willing I'll be promoting something soon in the next year to have one also in this office and that is a charity box that is something that we look for, it doesn't have to be a dollar, doesn't have to be a lot of money, could be one penny every day, but something that surely would make our world a better place so every child and every adult knows to add a little bit to make this world better on a daily basis. Thank you, Rabbi. Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you both. That was very nice.

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[Time: 00:07:20]

As for the Mayor's Report, I want to brag a little bit about our fine city. We served as the host for the Arizona League of Towns and Cities this past week, and it was held at the gorgeous, iconic actually, Scottsdale Princess. It was nearly a week-long activities, seminars, conferences, team building exercises, updates on information impacting all of your our cities, 91 cities and towns, I should say, were there. Members of our city staff were there, I definitely saw at least two and heard three of my colleagues were there. It was really a great experience and we were on full display, not us, but compliments of Scottsdale Princess and a beautiful week. So shoutout to Scottsdale Princess and the City of Scottsdale for hosting that wonderful event. Give a round of applause for the Princess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moving right along. As is the case, that every regular meeting, the Council may make a motion to recess into an Executive Session to obtain legal advice on any applicable item on the agenda. If authorized by the Council, the Executive Session will be held immediately and will not be open to the public. The public meeting will resume following the Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This is now the time for the first public comment announcement, and I'm going to there are only six people who have signed up for comments providing comments on non-agendized public items, excuse me. I'll take them all at this time. Starting with Steve Sutton followed by Betty Janik, Carla, Tammy Caputi, Bryan Scott and lastly Mark Rentz. Steve Sutton.

[Time: 00:09:29]

Steve Sutton: Everyone hear me all right?

Mayor Borowsky: Check.

Steve Sutton: Steve Sutton, address on record. Good evening, Mayor Borowsky and Councilmembers. After I complete presenting the following information, I will ask the Council to act on matters within its jurisdiction.

It was August of last year when I first spoke to the City Council about safety and civility problems at Chaparral Dog Park. Six months later the City Council led by Mayor Borowsky, implemented what hundreds of Scottsdale residents requested through two petitions I created to improve safety and civility at Chaparral Dog Park. If I had known a year ago how many incidents of verbal

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abuse and attempts on social media and attempts to physically intimidate me would occur in the coming months, as recently as a week ago, I may never have spoken to the City Council a year ago.

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, Councilmember Barry Graham received an e-mail from Scottsdale resident John Blackeneck. Mr. Blackeneck had been complaining about the dog park petitions signatures 6 months ago. He wrote, let me tell you that 80 percent, 80 percent of those signatures were under duress because Steve would harass anyone until they signed his petition. Mr. Blackeneck wrote referring to me and the new parking study petition he is harassing people until they sign the petition. The absurdity of these accusations is obvious. In the 4-acre dog park a community of daily users, it is impossible to harass people and put them under duress to force them to sign a petition. Knowledge of that behavior toward even a few people would quickly spread, making it impossible to get 500 signatures on two dog park petitions and so far 100 people to sign a parking study petition. My courteous behavior in the popularity of the petitions made it easy for me to get signatures from approximately 95 percent of residents approached for signatures.

Now at this point you may be thinking this is a trivial incident for the Council to be concerned about and you would be right until you learn of the far from trivial actions taken due to Mr. John Blackeneck's absurd complaints. Last week I received an e-mail copies of a series of 30 emails sent between June 1st to June 6, 2025 between resident John Blackeneck, Councilman Barry Graham, City Manager Greg Caton, The Chief of Police Joe LaDuc, Assistant Chief of Police Richard Slavin, Assistant City Attorney Thomas Zaworski, Senior Director of Parks and Recreation Nick Molinari and parks and recreation senior staff. Those e-mails make it very clear that something far from trivial occurred due to John Blackeneck's e-mail.

Something that is a threat to all residents of Scottsdale, something all Scottsdaleans should vigorously defend themselves against. I'm out of time tonight, fortunately city staff has informed me that I am one of the first five residents scheduled to speak in public tomorrow at tomorrow's meeting. I'll finish my presentation tomorrow before asking the Council to take action on what is within its jurisdiction.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you, Mr. Sutton. Next Betty Janik.

[Time: 00:13:18]

Former Councilwoman Betty Janik: Betty Janik and my address is on record. Good evening, Mayor and Scottsdale City Council. It's good to be back here. On November 2, 2021, General Plan 2035 was ratified by a vote of the citizens. The first one in 20 years after several previous attempts. It was successfully accomplished from numerous citizens providing constructive edits, expert guidance from board and commission members, and visionary councilmembers. Less than four years later, the current Council wanted to make significant changes and classify them as minor

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amendments. Item 16 on the original August 25 Council agenda, which would require only four votes to overturn the will of the people. One stated justification was to comply with recent legislative changes on accessory dwelling units, objective reuse among others.

In a news release late Saturday afternoon, City Manager Caton stated because of focus now on state statutes that the city is already in compliance with, there is no requirement or need for the City Council to initiate these changes, and thus no need for agenda item 16, it is gone, snafu avoided.

This back pedaling by the city in part, in part was based on Councilwoman's Whitehead's knowledge of the law and institutional understanding of the inner workings of our General Plan for the city and the state which she shared with recently appointed City Manager Caton. Verification of the existing compliance was subsequently noted by our city attorney. We do not and have not changed our General Plan annually based on changes to state statutes. Councilwoman Whitehead's experience as she enters her 7th year on Council proved invaluable in avoiding possible stumbling by the Council's voting majority.

The second justification was to comply with recent ideological City Council actions. This is totally inappropriate and a violation of our trust. I counted 196 changes to our General Plan, could I have the overhead on, please. These changes were hidden from certain Council members and the public until the last minute. Changes included unnecessary wordsmithing, replacement of words such as incorporate and promote with encourage or consider. Redacting the words sustainability and diversity and completely removing policies and adding new ones. That's what I have here, I know you can't read it because it's a lot of text. It's on page 231 that was part of item No. 16. There are 18 items here. 5 of 18, which is 28 percent, were of these programs, were deleted with crossouts. I don't know how anybody would consider that minor.

Just one more minute, equally repugnant was the reclassification of these as minor when in fact they are major and an affront to our citizen. It is bad governance to allow four Council members to approve this plan. I applaud Councilwoman Caputi and all the citizens who contacted City Hall and made the objections known. I suspect this is an additional reason why item 16 was abruptly removed. We need to thank Councilwoman Whitehead for her persistence and fortitude and finally, I want to know who decided to add item 16 to the agenda and why was it done in secret, thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you, former Councilwoman. Next, we have Carla.

[Time: 00:17:22]

Carla: Hi, I'm Carla Preserve pioneer and peaceful valley resident. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As you know, I don't normally speak about things unless it's a Preserve issue, but, hey, in Scottsdale, normal flew out the window months ago. So, I'm grateful that item 16 has been

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pulled, but I've been around long enough to know that it will probably come back in one form or another. So, and I hope, I really hope that staff doesn't take the blame on this. I hope that however this happened, we get the truth and it doesn't come back, but I fear it will. So, I want to talk about sustainability. Now, we can all respectfully disagree on what happened to the sustainability plan, but I would hope we can agree on what the word actually means. In this General Plan rewrite, everywhere in the environment section, everywhere the word sustainable was, they took it out and put stewardship. Now, as co-founder of the Preserve Steward Program, I'm a big believer in stewardship. Which means taking good care of things now. That's different from sustainability which means taking care of things so they'll be here for future generations, and I know all of us with kids and grandkids care deeply about that. So, those two words don't mean the same thing and they are not interchangeable.

The other thing I'd like to I'm confused about actually, the place in the General Plan, this is weird, where sustainable wasn't taken out, was only when it came to the economy and the budget. Much like when the Budget Review Commission presented to Council, there was big talk from this Council about sustainable budget. So, my question to everyone is, why is it okay to use the word sustainable when you're talking about money, but not when you're talking about the very things, land, air and water, that are absolutely essential to keep residents alive and healthy so they can earn that money. It makes absolutely no sense.

So, I would ask, just please don't let this come back, don't waste any more staff time or taxpayer dollars on something like this again ever. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Former Councilwoman Tammy Caputi.

[Time: 00:20:14]

Former Councilwoman Tammy Caputi: Good evening, Mayor and Council, Tammy Caputi, address is on record. I was part of the Council that worked for months on the 2035 General Plan. This is a citizen generated voter approved policy document that expresses our collective vision and aspirations for the future of our city. General Plan 2035 built upon decades of feedback and was approved by Scottsdale voters. The community and Council spent years fine tuning every word. Tonight, you were planning to consider overwriting the will of the voters for ideological agendas. This is an insult to our residents, a waste of time and tax dollars and it lacks transparency. Fortunately, the item has been withdrawn.

Hidden from view, our shared values of welcoming all and living thoughtfully in our desert environment were crossed out of our General Plan. Only a few Councilmembers were aware, and it was snuck in on consent agenda. These were not minor changes. These are the core values that make us the gold standard of the valley, and a golden rule city. Even that term was scrubbed. Sustainability means using resources responsibly so they can be available for the long term. That's a dirty word? The censors were so intent on banishing words that might be deemed

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offensive, they nonsensically purged mention of terms like economic diversity, and equality in the context of street safety. They censored the word climate. They cut the words domestic violence, discrimination and homelessness. Removing words does not magically solve these serious issues, just makes them more difficult to address.

Our process for General Plan amendments is intended for changing land uses, not blacklisting words some Councilmembers find offensive. General Plan amendments follow procedures that provide transparency and public participation, they don't happen in the heat of summer, behind closed doors.

At Mayor Borowsky's Town Hall, she was asked why they got rid of our sustainability plan. She said we already have one, it's called the General Plan. Well, we almost lost that too. Stop this lunacy and return to common sense leadership that listens to residents, makes thoughtful decisions that include us all and sustains us into the future as a world class city. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Tammy, that little mic cover, is it right there, could you put it. I think it would be better. Thank you. Bryan Scott.

[Time: 00:23:15]

Bryan Scott: Test, test, test. Bryan Scott, I've got if you could do the projector. I've got the event development guidelines for Scottsdale. Nobody wants to talk about these, the Tourism Development Commission doesn't talk about these, the City Council doesn't talk about these when you're voting on events.

So, the last time I was here, I raised concerns about breaches in Scottsdale's event development funding guidelines regarding the Persian Year's Festival, these guidelines exist to protect public funds through accountability and transparency. Yet the city's playing fast and loose with the rules for distributing taxpayer money.

Here's the post event reality for the Persia Year's Festival. March 1st, only a few hundred people gathered at the Civic Center. Thousands less than what is required for funding. The organizer posted a video saying that calling it a private venue where certain people couldn't be in here. Just going to play that for you real quick. This is a private venue, you can't be in here. He says excuse me. Excuse me, this is a private venue, you can't be in here. Private venue, you can't be in here, that alone disqualifies this event from public funding, the second scheduled date, March 28 was cancelled making the contract ineligible. The final date, May 17, was a red-carpet foreign language movie screening. Self-described as an intense drama that explores chaos unleashed in the city. That has nothing to do with Scottsdale's brand, or tourism goals. These values represent a breach of the guidelines, a breach of the contract and most importantly, a breach of the public trust. So I am demanding a full auditor of section 7 of the contract No. 2025-024-COS. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Mark Rentz.

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[Time: 00:26:00]

Mark Rentz: Good evening. Madam Mayor, City Council members, City Manager and staff. City of Scottsdale staff. I'm Mark Rentz, and you have all my contact information with your staff. I checked that earlier. And for the record, I just want to make it clear, I'm here representing myself, nobody else, no other organization.

I originally was planning to come here to talk about what several of the other speakers talked about, which is agenda No. 16. Which was loosely stated amending the General Plan, and that was removed over the weekend. I want to start by saying whenever the Councilmembers and City Manager's rationale for doing that, I commend you for doing that. I commend the Mayor, Council and City Manager for revisiting this item and choosing not to proceed with it.

In the six short months since this Council was sworn in, it has taken several controversial actions, most notably the elimination of the Scottsdale sustainability plan and the diversity, equity inclusivity program and office. Both these performs, let me point out, had strong support from the Scottsdale residents and voters. Both of these programs were developed as a result of dozens of meetings, hundreds of hours of participation by city staff, residents and businesses. It wasn't something, as you all know that just appeared overnight.

I'm going to just take a minute here and talk about sustainability. That's my area of what I'd call expertise. I spent 15 years of my career helping landowners, industrial leaders develop sustainability plans, and I was part of the team that developed the First Nationwide industry sustainable it was called sustainable forestry initiative, Sustainability plan. I have a little bit of expertise. Let me just start real quick with the Cambridge definition of sustainability. That definition is sustainability is a management approach in which environmental and economic actions of the current generation do not diminish the opportunities to have similar quality life for future generations.

I turn to those Council members who want to purge and yes, I mean purge, the concept of sustainability from our General Plan, and I say to you, simply this. What's wrong with assuring that our children and our grandchildren's future, what's wrong for ensuring that they have the quality of life we have come to enjoy.

So let me just completely close, I see I'm running out of time. By reminding all of the city here tonight that the Scottsdale 30 seconds if I could, ma'am, the Scottsdale General Plan belongs to all of us, it is not the City Council's General Plan. I hope that the Council will reflect on this past weekend's decision regarding how you can better represent the people of Scottsdale by encouraging public involvement and taking into consideration their appointment. Not through Draconian decisions, designed to achieve personal political agendas. Thank you very much for the time.

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Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. That concludes the speakers, and I see Councilman Graham. Do you have a question or comment.

[Time: 00:30:22]

Councilman Graham: Just request quickly respond to a couple of those comments which I appreciated all of them. When Mr. Rentz was speaking the powers that be came before us, didn't they?

Mr. Scott, who spoke about tourism events, I am this isn't a dialogue, but just something to think about talking to the Tourism Development Commission, if you've spoken to them, e-mailed the City Council and because those publicly funded events are they must meet certain conditions, must be open to everybody. So, what some of those commentaries are concerning.

And then to my former colleague, Councilwoman Janik, you know, we served together, and I learned a lot from you during the years that we served together, and if you're comfortable we can just talk, you can call me in the future, but you use words like hidden and deleted and in secret and none of that is true. Like I would categorically is untrue. But I respect you and appreciate you coming to talk to us tonight, thank you. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. That concludes our public comment period. There we go. Councilwoman McAllen.

[Time: 00:31:48]

Councilwoman McAllen: Thank you, Mayor. I just want to say thank you to everyone who came out tonight to I know a lot of you came out to speak specifically about the General Plan, but it had been removed but thank you for your time. I also wanted to commend my colleague, Councilwoman Whitehead for bringing it to the attention of many of us and helping us to understand the importance of what the General Plan stands for and the input of the citizens, and so just thank you so much. Thank you, Solange.

Mayor Borowsky: Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Whitehead.

[Time: 00:32:30]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Thank you. I want to say what a pleasure it is to be here with the colleagues that we spent often late nights with thousands of hours of citizen input, writing that General Plan, and so I think that is the value we know it's the soul of the city and to get over 70 percent of the voters to support a plan that they wrote, I guess, isn't that surprising. So, I'm grateful for you being here. I'm grateful for City Manager's Caton's decision to remove it from the agenda tonight.

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Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Now we are through with public comment on non-agendized items. Next, we have Meeting Minute approvals.

MINUTES

[Time: 00:33:15]

We have requests I'll ask for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025, Special Budget Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025, and Executive Session Minutes of June 17, 2025.

Councilwoman McAllen: So moved.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Second.

Mayor Borowsky: All those in favor please indicate your vote. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA

[Time: 00:33:51]

Next, we have our Consent Agenda Items 1-14. Do Councilmembers have questions on any of the consent agenda items or requests to move any of the consent agenda items or request to move any of those to the Regular Agenda? Please advise now. Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion. Councilwoman Dubauskas.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Thank you Madam Mayor. Item number 5, the Women's NCAA \$25,000 for tourism. If we could have a presentation on that. It's a lot of money, like to take a look at it.

Mayor Borowsky: Absolutely, let's pull that off the consent agenda. Anyone else? I don't see anybody else. So, I'll go ahead and ask for a motion to approve a consent agenda items 1 through 14 with the exception of No. 5 which we will have a presentation on.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: So moved.

Councilwoman McAllen: Second.

Mayor Borowsky: All those in favor, please indicate your vote. All right. And is there let's see here. Are you ready to go ahead with the presentation.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 5

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[Time: 00:35:16]

City Manager Greg Caton: Yes, Madam Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Great, thank you.

Tourism Development Manager Steve Geiogamah: Good afternoon, Council, Vice Mayor, Councilmembers and Mayor, this evening I have a presentation for the Arizona Major Events Host Committee Agreement related to the Women's Final Four event taking place here in April of 2026. The event, the Final Four is once again a regional event, the major host committee, I will refer to them as the host committee moving forward is requesting \$225,000 in support of a regionally hosted 2026 Final Four.

The tournament will played April 3rd and 5th 2026 in Phoenix arena in downtown Phoenix. On June 17, the TDC recommended City Council allocate \$225,000 to support the event funding agreement.

Some of the background on the event, looking at this particular slide, we took a look at the men's Final Four, which many may recall took place two years ago. In 2024 the host committee requested funding from various municipalities and contracted with ASU, the W.P. Business School to complete the NCAA Men's Final Four economic study, which you see some of the numbers here. The Scottsdale investment for the Men's Final Four was \$432,000. The realized value per the host committee at that time was \$581,000 and economic impact on the region per ASU was 429 million.

Little more background, information on that particular event, the 24 men's final in Glendale, attracted over 713,000 individuals to all the events that took place during the weeks in front of the tournament. Had an average of 75,000 game attendance, 40 million broadcast viewers and over 2,000 credentialed media.

This next one is important, according to Smith Travel Research, our department pulls daily reports related to the Scottsdale area on all the airport properties. This was rather significant over the period of time, three days, we saw substantial increase in the room nights in Scottsdale. We had an average occupancy of 77 percent, which on average was almost up 40 percent. With had an increase in average daily rate of 352 and again that was over 30 percent on the average of those three days, the average rent was 273.12 which was up 80%. That was rather significant related to the men's event.

So on the analysis, just a little more background, which I think is important here on how that fund is presented to the Tourism Development commission. The host committee has an operating budget, requesting 2 million from all the cities in Maricopa County. The host committee utilized the same formula as Arizona tourism for prop 302 funds and how it's distributed, and that's based

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on the percentage of total gross revenue sales from previous calendar year as well as the value of the proposed sponsorship deliverables we received here in Scottsdale. The host community calculates the contribution for Scottsdale at \$225,000.

Some of the highlights related to the contract. We will receive a minimum of 2,000 room nights for Scottsdale as part of the official room blocks, we do anticipate more than that. We are seeing some interest in some groups attending that event. Some sporting groups are coming in staying at the Valley Ho. We anticipate getting more than 2,000 room nights. The preferred destination to sponsors, alumni groups for lodging, entertainment and events surrounding the tournament. Collaborative efforts will include trophy tourism stop in Scottsdale, local business programs, school engagement initiatives and opportunities to elevate the Scottsdale brand through digital content as well as coordinate efforts through Experience Scottsdale. Doing incremental marketing and sponsorship for the event. In regards to that, I'll stop right there.

[Time: 00:39:20]

We are also hosting the CEO forum in Scottsdale, which I think is a nice thing to have this year. It's two properties are being looked at for that. That will be interesting, economic development could work with that, to further explore opportunities there. Hosting a VIP golf tournament. Similar to that program at Scottsdale golf course. That's important as well. As well as road to the Final Four and other initiatives related to this contract. There are some limited number of tickets we will receive to the game itself. Some of the events and we plan on tying those into city tourism and economic development objectives.

Further analysis, as I mentioned we will partner with the City of Scottsdale to leverage of 2026 NCAA Women's Final Four and the host committee estimates the value of a sponsorship package at 560,000. Based on the above investment of 225 coupled with the sponsorship benefits, television coverage and national media exposure should provide substantial value and direct consideration related to the ask here today.

Before I get to the actual request, I want to fill in more that staff did related to the funding as picture of this aspect. We did some analysis work with a consultant, economic consultant, we first started with the minimum block, which is 2,000 and what we would receive from economic impact. We believe that number fell with 2,000 room nights, a little over 200,000. 6,000 additional visitors would be here in attendance for this potentially, related to that. So that gets us a little over 100,000. We believe all those other marketing aspects I just went through, with CEO forum, golf tournament, marketing exposures will get to us that where we receive fair substantial value for that investment of \$225,000.

So, here's the actual request here, resolution No. 13473 authorizing funding up to \$225,000 from the 25/26 operating budget and support agreement 2025-128 for the Women's Final Four agreement in April, 2026. That concludes my presentation, address any questions.

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Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. I see a question from Councilwoman McAllen.

Councilwoman McAllen: Thank you, Mayor, thank you, Steve. I attended the TDC meeting where they did the presentation on the Women's Final Four. I was very interested in it because of having the final the men's Final Four. I wanted to see to make sure that the Women's Final Four was getting their due well, their just reward so to speak, that they were getting as many money. We actually are only asking for almost half of what we gave to the men's. I know that last week I saw a presentation at the Arizona League of Cities and they talked about at Sky Harbor Airport, Mayor Gallego of Phoenix unveiled a massive mural to advertise the Women's Final Four and rooms are filling up fast.

I always find it fascinating that another city like the City of Phoenix is out there publicizing putting all this money into it, they're having the event in the City of Phoenix, but all the VIP events are happening in the City of Scottsdale. So we do get the bang for the buck. We are definitely getting more than our fair share, I believe, not actually hosting the event, but all the ancillary events that build the actual Women's Final Four. So I wholeheartedly support this and with that, I will move to adopt Resolution No. 13473.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. I see a question from Vice Mayor Dubauskas and also Councilman Kwasman.

[Time: 00:43:05]

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Thank you Madam Mayor. This all sounds wonderful. Can we get a follow-up report on how it came out. I would love to hear that we booked out 2,500 rooms, and the success. I would love to hear about that.

I'm a big proponent of combining events like you're doing here with having golf tournaments and things, I think that makes it even more attractive to come and stay in Scottsdale and spend dollars in Scottsdale. I'm grateful that you're collaborating with experienced Scottsdale on this as well. If it hadn't been the motion hadn't been seconded, I would second it as well. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Councilman Kwasman.

Councilman Kwasman: Thank you, Madam Mayor. It was very funny, because Councilwoman Dubauskas read my mind. Let's use this as an example. This is a very good data point that we can have a really thorough audit of how we utilize our economic development dollars. Just a finite amount, it's not too big, we have a large event, it's in a specific place, we have sites set out. When we have a report, I would love to prior to the end of this year, let's have a comprehensive benchmark, if we can have that set up, Mr. Caton, so that we could have so that if we could do

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that, we will see, it hit 1, 2, 3 and failed on 4, 5 and 6 and here's where you think we could move from there. I think this can be utilized going forward for both large events and small. I think that the people the residents really deserve to see where their dollars go. A comprehensive benchmark beforehand followed up by a report I think would be even better.

[Time: 00:45:06]

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. And I think that's a great approach. I had a long conversation with the City Manager about this. In particular event and was convinced it was a good ROI. I would love to see what the tradeoff is. Personally, I think we should dedicate these funds, first and foremost, to events that actually originate and occur in Scottsdale and whether or not they are here now when we are spending money on big events that are in another part of the city. I struggle to think no one will stay in Scottsdale if we don't contribute \$225,000. I think that's simply not the case. So, I don't know how you parse through those details in order to confirm that that's really included in the economic impact, and would we have that economic impact with or without that event. So, I'll look forward to that discussion. But most importantly, I want to see what the tradeoff is and what we are putting there rather than investing in new events in Scottsdale that actually are here and here year over year.

So looking forward to that, having said all that, I we have a motion and a second. All those in favor, please indicate you are. You're right. Thank you. Sorry about that. City Clerk. This is Bryan Scott. Go ahead. Thank you.

[Time: 00:46:23]

Bryan Scott: Okay, so again I brought the updated 2025-2026 Event Development Guidelines for you see, nobody wants to talk about them. The Tourism Development Commission doesn't talk about them, Council doesn't talk them, but here they are again for you. I would say the city analysis is misrepresentation because it doesn't include what the guidelines say. And the guidelines prohibit this from going on, right, it says it's a mega for a mega event. Nowhere in the analysis does it say this is a mega event. So it's excluded. See the qualifications, you have to meet all the qualifications to be eligible for funding.

So, I'm just here to throw some basics at everyone, and I want to remind you that the Event Development Guidelines exist. They're not decoration, they're protection, they were created at taxpayer dollars. But tied to accountability. Transparency, and measurable return. So we are paying these city staff hundreds of thousands of dollars with the missing basic items here. The original Tourism Development Commission Bylaws from 1988 said funds must follow criteria to ensure projects meet the intent of this division. That intent was simple, protect public funds and each year this Council has adopted these guidelines as policy. If we ignore them, we are not just bending the rules, we're breaking the trust. It should never go into a black box or get spent outside our city. Without clear benefits to our residents.

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So I urge you, follow the guidelines you approved, uphold accountability and don't make exceptions that undermine the safeguards, I'll say my advice is or my suggestion is that you reject this, put it right back to the city staff and tell them, you want radical transparency, you don't want to have to take the fall for somebody like me come up here and point out the obvious things and why isn't the Tourism Development Commission talking about these? Saves a lot of time.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you, Mr. Scott. You've raised some good points, and I really appreciate your passion. I for one will be looking at all those points you just made. Councilman Graham.

[Time: 00:49:08]

Councilman Graham: Thank you, Mayor. Mr. Geiogamah, is there a requirement for us to write this check for the event to qualify as a mega event?

Steve Geiogamah: No, not necessarily. But I'd like to point out that document that was up there, that is our criteria defined to mega events and that generally the event regionally participated in like this one, going into who is participating. The host committee can go into that. But that defines a mega event as well as a structure of what we are presenting here. That was in that document.

Councilman Graham: Mr. Geiogamah, does the event have to qualify as a mega event for us to write the check? Yes or no?

Steve Geiogamah: Well, to define it as a mega event, those criteria, that would define it as a mega. The TDC makes the recommendation based on the presentation and values associated with that. Staff brings forward the recommendation.

Councilman Graham: Correct, I'm just that's the process. And I'm just kindly asking, so the gentleman put some points for the events to qualify, because this event is not in the City of Scottsdale. So that's okay if it meets certain exceptions, does it have to meet all those exceptions or just one of those exceptions?

[Time: 00:50:36]

Steve Geiogamah: Generally, the two I just went through, that it's regionally participated event, both from a funding and venue. Those things that were in there are for our large events, regional events, Super Bowl would be a perfect example of that. So that kind of frames that.

Councilman Graham: Okay. Does it have to be a mega event for us to participate?

Steve Geiogamah: Not necessarily. No, that helps the criteria for the commission and for staff to recognize that as a variable that would proceed forward in terms of what's there.

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Councilman Graham: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Geiogamah.

Mayor Borowsky: Vice Mayor Dubauskas.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Thank you, Madam Mayor. With the criteria that the resident just provided to us, it did say that it was a disqualifying event if there were receiving regional dollars from multiple cities, did it not?

Steve Geiogamah: Not disqualifying. No, if they don't receive it, that could be disqualifying. In this particular case the host committee for the Women's Final Four is receiving regional participation.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: So, we do not feel that this meets this is a disqualifying event, you're comfortable this is a qualifying event that we can, that does not violate the guidelines?

Steve Geiogamah: Correct. The Tourism Commission and city staff believes it meets the guidelines for a mega event and funding at this level.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Seeing no other comments or questions, I will there's a motion and second. Please indicate your approval by voting yes or no. Approval would be disapproval.
Councilman Kwasman. All right, thank you very much.

Steve Geiogamah: Thank you.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 15

[Time: 00:52:31]

Mayor Borowsky: Moving right along, next item we move to the Regular Agenda. The City Council will consider each item starting with item 15, which is an applicant appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness to screen in a balcony patio at the residence within the Villa Monterrey Unit Seven Historic District with multiple family residential. Historic property R-5HP zoning which is at 7635 East Pasadena. I see Jesus Muirillo standing at the podium, Historic Preservation Officer, please proceed.

Councilman Graham: Mayor, I'm recusing on this item.

Mayor Borowsky: Okay. Councilman Graham exits. Go right ahead, thank you.

Historic Preservation Officer Jesus Murillo: Good evening, Mayor and City Council. Again, I'm Jesus, Planner with the city. I'm wearing the Historic Preservation officer hat. So, if you don't

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mind. I'm going to bore you just with historic property procedural information that I hope will help explain how we got here tonight. Typically, as you well know, including the City Hall, we have historic preservation overlays on a variety of communities and properties in the city. As such, any time a case or a property receives that designation, there are two cases to go with it, one is a zoning case, another one a hp, historic property case. With those come along what we call guidelines, and those guidelines are what are used as criteria to understand whether requests in the future on that property still make allows that property to be historically significant.

So as such, when those guidelines are approved with those zoning cases and hp cases, even though they are called guidelines for the purposes of a cases themselves, they are considered ordinances like other ordinances in the city. I wanted to share that the bylaws of the Historic Preservation Commission state if there is a vote made, be it in the affirmative or in the negative three votes, if it is a tie vote, it is considered a denial.

Little more information to get to how we got here tonight we have two separate processes, one called a certificate of no effect, when a request is made that seems to be on a lower level and within the authority of staff almost like a staff approval if you will. Then the larger request is called certificate of no effect it is that certificate of appropriateness requested of the Historic Preservation Commission. When an applicant or an owner does not agree with the decision made by the Historic Preservation Commission, they're allowed to come and appeal that to the Council and so as such tonight, the City Council is being asked to act in the role of the Historic Preservation Commission in regards to the appeal. So thank you.

[Time: 00:55:48]

So again, the action that requested as the Mayor mentioned earlier is an appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission in the request was to enclose with the screening, the second story balcony at this location. So, the location, as you can see here on the larger scale, located on the Northeast corner of East Miller Road and East Chaparral Road. A closer look, you can see it's more specifically on the Southeast corner of North 76 Place and East Pasadena Avenue. Yes, it does have the R5-HP designation over it.

So, some of the key items for consideration, staff became aware of the screening the enclosure of the second story patio by a neighbor who put in a request, a citation with the code enforcement. Staff did vet those criteria we vetted what had already been done with the criteria and felt that this was a call for the Historic Preservation Commission. As such, this is an appeal of their decision.

These are some of the graphics or some of the pictures that were provided at that Historic Preservation Commission hearing. As you can see, some of these are from the interior of the enclosure and some from the outside. Here's a couple more of those pictures, as you can see the netting that encloses the second story patio. When it was presented to the Historic Preservation

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Commission, it was done so at two different occasions on May 1st, it was provided through a presentation by both staff and the applicant. The Historic Preservation Commission felt they needed more information, so they continued it to the June 5th. At the June 5th decision that the Certificate of Appropriateness was requested one more time from them, and that is what is being appealed here today.

So, when it was presented to the Historic Preservation Commission, staff provided the two main guidelines, again, ordinances that identified that were related to the improvements themselves. The first one is from policy No. 13, more specifically 13.2, which states that we should avoid applying a new exterior materials such as stucco or siding that obstructs the historic pattern or a combination of those materials applied. So, again, that's what staff felt during the review that was done to the site.

The second guideline that was closely resembled that needed to be vetted with the improvement was policy No. 19, more specific 19.4, the providing shade in ways traditionally used in the development such as cloth awnings or windows, and to avoid installing shades that obscure the historic windows or doors. So when staff had made the recommendation to the Historic Preservation Commission, they did deny case based off those two criteria.

The Historic Preservation Commission then voted in the affirmative and ended with a 3-3 vote. As per their bylaws resulted in a denial. Now the action here requested of the City Council tonight is, again, for the issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness and the appeal appeal of the decision from the denial to enclose that second story balcony patio area.

So tonight, the City Council acting as Historic Preservation Commission has the decisions you see before you on the screen, one is to uphold the commission's decision and deny the case, the second is to reverse the Historic Preservation Commission's decision and then identifying the guidelines you feel that the improvements do meet. Approve the case with additional stipulations or continue the case again for additional information. And so that concludes staff's presentation. I know the applicant has a presentation themselves and again staff is here to answer any questions.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you very much. Next, we have Tim LaSota on behalf of applicant. It's a good question, though. Was that the right answer, Ben, sorry, that was the wrong answer. Everybody else stands there, you're special.

[Time: 00:59:44]

Applicant Representative Tim LaSota: Thank you, Mayor and members of the Council. I'd like to, I'm Tim LaSota, 2198 E. Camelback Road in Phoenix and I'm here on behalf of applicant, Cathy Young, who is here with us today in the audience, and I think one of the things that was said earlier was you can see the screen here, and I think that one of the first points, you can barely see

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the screen. I mean we are here today talking about a screen that's been put up on the upper patio that you see in this photo.

Now, the screen had been up for has been up for six years now. In fact, one of the persons, Miss Young's neighbor, you know, this has gotten some attention in the neighborhood and called her to ask why she had taken down her screen. The answer was she hadn't taken down her screen, but it's so visually unobtrusive that her neighbor thought she had. When she put up the screen, it had the full support of the her HOA, and I don't think there's anyone in opposition to it. The person who opposed it actually moved out, the person who bought the house supports it. I think one of the reason people support it is these historic neighborhoods have a lot of appeal, but when we overdo it on them and create a strait jacket, I think that appeal gets lost and the people closest to this project who love this neighborhood and it truly is a unique neighborhood, it's gorgeous, are supportive of the screen.

I do want to get into some of the staff I'll get back to that in a second, let's talk about policy 13 to begin with. And yes, it was a 3-3 commission vote. So obviously if there's one more person, it would have been no appeal. Okay. Policy 13 preserve the patterns of building materials and elements that distinguish the Monterrey Townhouse style. Avoid applying a single new exterior or material over siding that obscures the historic pattern. I mean, we are not talking about stucco or siding, we are talking about a screen. It's meant essentially to be able to to that her cat can go out on the balcony and can't get out, can't be subjected to potentially some of the feral creatures in other neighborhood, it's just that. It's not anything but a screen.

And staff, if I don't know if anyone read the report, but they went out and measured it with candlelight and took part of it to the hardware store. You can hardly see this thing as the pictures bear out. So I mean, I don't think we are even talking about policy 13, it doesn't seem to apply, we are talking about a something that is not stucco, not siding, it doesn't really obscure anything.

Let's talk about policy 19. Minimize the visual impacts of utilities, accessory structures and equipment and other fixtures. Provide shading, in ways traditionally used in the development such as cloth awnings over windows, avoid installing shade screens on the exterior that obscure historic windows or doors. Well, this isn't really a shade screen, it's a screen, and it's not it's not a fixture either. I think for whatever reason, the staff just I mean, it seems like they kind of tried to find anything as a reason for denying this Certificate of Appropriateness. What we have gotten here is essentially these policies that don't even seem to apply that have been used to stop Miss Young from doing something from keeping something she's had for many years without really any problem.

[Time: 01:04:24]

I do want to talk a little bit about here we see the some of the other things in the neighborhood. I think these are examples of shade screens. You see them over the houses, and my point here

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isn't that, you know, look at what everyone else is doing. The point is that these little additions here and there have not ruined the neighborhood, they have not made the neighborhood not historic. They have not led to a decline of the neighborhood. I think these are much more visually I don't even know what the right word is but noticeable, than the screen that Miss Young would have. I would also point out, this is something, if you see it right in the middle there, it covers a water treatment water treatment unit, and that was approved. So, some of these other ones may have been grandfathered in.

Again, the point isn't whether they should have been allowed or shouldn't have. The main point is look, these things, there's always going to be little things that people do their houses, that's just the reality. And again, probably the reason the people who are closest to this project support it is because you have to have a minimum flexibility in order for the neighborhood to remain attractive.

So with that, I know we have already heard the staff presentation on this, we have seen a number of photos, but I'll just take you back to the actual screen, and we'd ask that it is important to Miss Young, she's lived in the neighborhood a long time, she likes to be able to it makes the patio, the upstairs patio more comfortable, makes it more livable. It is very important to her, doesn't seem like it's much of a burden on the neighborhood at all, and it certainly seems to meet the criteria for Certificate of Appropriateness. So, we'd ask that you approve that here tonight. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you, Mr. LaSota. The only question I had was what the HOA say about it, you already said that. Thank you for sharing that. We will turn to public speakers here. Starting with Diane Frank. Followed by Jennifer Ramsden and Marissa Young.

[Time: 01:06:38]

Diane Frank: Can you hear me?

Mayor Borowsky: Yes, I can.

Diane Frank: Hi. I'm Diane Frank, I live in Villa Monterrey 7 where Cathy Young lives and I think the gentleman that spoke just before me took away a lot of points I was going to make. However, I would also like to point out that is possibly the most absurd ruling I've heard yet from Historic Commission. We live in a community that just went through the hottest summer ever, and this lady is trying to protect the second floor of her house where the heat rises to. I think SRP would say the same thing we all, almost all of us have screens on our windows even if they're only one-story houses, I have a screen on my house. She has a cat. We have two owls living in a tree a quarter of a block away, we have coyotes that roam the neighborhood, every afternoon and evening, they're bold and brazen. And I see no reason whatsoever why she shouldn't have the screen.

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Those of us that live there have not complained about it. Times change, the weather changes, I think it's a reasonable addition to her house, even though it's not permanent. I have seen changes that are that are incredible. People have built walls in front of their houses. I don't have the pictures. They've made patios on their front yards. One gentleman in Unit 6 has paved his driveway with pavers. That was not original. There's plastic grass on numerous houses that's not original.

I think that Historic has overstepped their boundaries, and this is not the first time I know this is not the place for me to take this up with them. But when you are living under their rules and regulations, you are no longer the king of your castle or the queen of your castle. You make the payments and you are technically the owner, but you are not in charge of your own property. And I am absolutely opposed to making her take down the screen for those reasons. It's inconvenient, and it's a loss of ownership rights, and nobody else in the community has complained about it except this one gentleman who was a nightmare of a neighbor, and that's a whole other story. Thank you.

[Time: 01:10:11]

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you very much. Jennifer Ramadan. Oh, I understand. Okay. Thank you very much. Well, that concludes public comment on this item, and I don't see any questions or comments from anybody here on the dais.

With that, anyone want to offer a motion in motion? I think I'm going to make the motion, jump to the chase here. So, thank you for speaking, thank you staff, I don't understand why this was opposed by the Historic Preservation Commission. I don't understand why I don't know if staff was really opposing it. But nonetheless, I'll make the motion to I guess it's reversal even though as Tim LaSota said it was a draw, but in that case, it's a failure. So, I will make the motion to reverse the decision of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. All those in favor, please indicate by aye. One of these days we'll get this working. In the meantime, we'll just play a song. All right. Yeah, back in the old days, we just do that, right, Cathy?

Moving right along. We have already done all the public comments. We don't have any more public comment.

CITIZEN PETITIONS

[Time: 01:12:00]

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Moving on to item No. 17, receipt of citizen petitions. I don't see any of those.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL – ITEM 18

Nope, and so next we have item No. 18, under the Mayor and Council items are next, 18-20. 18 is our Boards and Commissions to continue their Annual 2024 Report Presentations. Tonight, we have annual presentations by the Board of Adjustment and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. So I'd like to invite up the Board of Adjustment individuals here and staff member. Oh, sorry. Did I take that all right, there we go.

[Time: 01:12:40]

Staff Representative Bryan Cluff: Good evening, Mayor Borowsky and Councilmembers. I'm Bryan Cluff, I'm one of the planning managers with the city Planning Department. I'm also the staff representative for our Board of Adjustment. Here with me this evening the Board's chair, Mr. Jason Chacrone. I'll start out with a first couple slides and give you a brief introduction of the board and what they do and pass it on with Mr. Chacrone to finish up with the last couple of slides. Next slide, please.

The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body made of seven members appointed by the City Council. They are tasked with four pretty specific duties. That is to hear applications for variances from the zoning provisions of the zoning ordinance, appeals of the zoning administrators, decisions and interpretations, as well as reviewing requests for disability accommodations and under the land division ordinance, they also hear appeals of General Managers interpretations or decisions. Unlike order boards and commissions, it is a bit unique in that they make the final decision on their actions appeals go before the Superior Court. That's a quick summary there and I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Chacrone.

Chair Jason Chocron: Thank you Mayor and City Council for having us here tonight. My name is Jason Chocron your Chair of your Board of Adjustment.

Some key accomplishments from last year. We had five meetings in 12 months. We don't meet every month. Kind of jumps around a little bit. We heard eight cases last year, three cases were approved, five cases were denied, little breakdown of those, zoning ordinance variances, four cases, we approved three, denied one. We had three zoning administrative appeal cases, denied all three and we had one disability accommodation request, and we denied that as well. Next slide, please.

Thank you. So upcoming challenges and opportunities this year, I'll be stepping down in December, I'll have my six years up. So we will have a new Chair appointed in January, one other obstacle that we see is the majority is a very young board this year, most of us are two years or less moving on, and with that, and not having regular meetings every year, we decided that with

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our legal team and staff that we would do a little more robust training initially when we have new people coming on, as well as looking at and refresher trainings throughout the year. We go a couple of months without having a meeting, things get a little old, we forget a little bit. So we actually just had a refresher training last month. So when we see things go a month or two or three, legal and the staff will get us all together and help us with a little refresher, haven't done that in the past, we'll try to start doing that in the future.

One other thing that I brought up with staff is a qualification with members in a previous meeting with the DRB, you guys decided to have more specific types of people on your member boards. So I wanted to see if you would look at that as well for the future trying to provide a certain type of board member that has a little more understanding of how the quasi-judicial system may work. Contractor guys like me don't have a lot of legal background, so we are looking at how you did the DRB in emphasizing trying to have more specific qualifications where that board is requiring to have three members with architectural, landscape architecture, environment science, those kind of things for that board.

So when it comes to the Board of Adjustment. I think it will be important to have at least two that have some sort of legal background I was lucky enough to have a lot of lawyers and even judges on my board with the past six years, and it is very helpful. This new board that you have, I think we have one lawyer on right now, and that's it. We all feed from each other, we all work together very well, but I think we might want to consider that when looking at appointing new board members. That's all I have. If you have any questions for us, we are here to answer.

[Time: 01:17:50]

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. That was very helpful. Thanks for your service, and I love the fact that you just offered those recommendations, I think that's a great idea. Councilwoman McAllen.

Councilwoman McAllen: Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to say thank you to Mr. Chacron and thank you for your suggestions, especially you've served three terms, if it's six years.

Jason Chocron: Two terms.

Councilwoman McAllen: Two full terms. Thank you. That's a lot of time to spend, especially that's a very intense board commission. So thank you for your time and thank you for your suggestions.

Jason Chocron: You're welcome, thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Councilman Kwasman.

Councilman Kwasman: Thank you, Madam Mayor. First of all, I apologize if I didn't see it in e-mail, are those suggestions submitted to us in writing?

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Jason Chocron: No.

Councilman Kwasman: Can you please submit that to the Council in writing. Also, I've actually a question I could ask Bryan if are there other boards and commissions that with specific requirements to appoint that are specific to that board and commission like, for example, professional license or otherwise. I don't mean to put you on the spot.

Bryann Cluff: Mayor, members of Council. One specifically I know of as Mr. Chocron mentioned, Development Review Board. I would have to defer to the city attorney or representative.

Councilman Kwasman: Is that okay if we...

Interim City Attorney Luis Santaella: Honorable Mayor and members of the Council. There are different boards that have specific requirements, sometimes it's not necessarily licensure, but it could be they're from the tourism profession or such. Does that answer your question, sir.

Councilman Kwasman: Yes, thank you. I just do you think that the professional licensure of a bar license as part of it as you said, recommended, but in your opinion, it should not be required, my ask is why, why not? I just want to the elaborate a little bit more?

Jason Chocron: I don't believe it needs to be an absolute lawyer. We have it's a quasi-type situation, and understanding some legal terms, you know, to me, it's important, we do get into that situation where if you understand certain terms, it will definitely help you understand where we are coming from a legal aspect of the board. And that's why I'm saying it shouldn't all be seven lawyers or court reporters or something that has an understanding of the legal vernacular, but having a few has definitely been helpful during my six years. Now that I'm leaving and seeing that we don't have as much on the board today, does keep our discussions a little different. So, I just think it would be beneficial. I'm not saying full-blown lawyer or anything, someone with some sort of background into that area.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you very much. I don't see any other questions, thank you for being here and good luck.

Jason Chocron: Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Next, we have the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. Welcome. Thanks for being here tonight.

[Time: 01:21:02]

Staff Representative Nick Molinari: Good evening, Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the City Council. I'm Nick Molinari, the Senior Director for the Parks and Recreation and Preserve

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Department. This evening we're grateful to have an opportunity to update the Council on the activity and the accomplishments of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. We have our Commission Chair, Steve Coluccio and our Vice-Chair Savannah Engleking to provide our update.

Chair Steve Coluccio: Good. Thank you. This is the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission 2024 annual report. I'll do this slide, commission purpose and makeup. The Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council on matters such as but not limited to, one, provide realistic funding plans and actions necessary to implement those plans, for example, using utilizing the parks and preserves sales tax funding for the first time, we recommended funding for cultural resources, ERP projects invasive species removal, and wildfire mitigation, as well as education, and these were the specific categories allowed under proposition 490.

Two, we serve as the oversight committee for implementation of preserve acquisitions. Of course there haven't been any acquisitions for several years, but there's always a possibility that a strategic opportunity could come up, so we stand ready if that happens.

No. 3, we prepare management plans for public lands and public access areas. So, some of the trailheads have some of the older trailheads I should say are beginning to show their age and the recommended five-year Preserve Improvement Plan, which was recommended to the City Council, is our strategy for addressing that. Plus, the Rio Verde Drive Wildlife Overpass comes into play with the five-year plan. And then 4th, we respond to any other requests on the part of the City Council.

[Time: 01:24:02]

As far as the commission and what it consists of, seven citizens appointed by the City Council, to include specific skills and experience to carry out the assigned task. We have three members who are highly experienced in project management. One member with a strong financial background, our Vice-Chair here has wide experience in animal control and volunteerism. As well as in public lands, law enforcement and then the rest of us are just we know a lot about the preserve and how it operates. Next slide. I'll turn this over to Vice-Chair.

Vice Chair Savannah Engleking: All right. I'm Commissioner and Vice Chair Engleking and I'm going to present the four key accomplishments and major actions taken by the Preserve Commission in the last year. So first, we had the 2024 update of the ecological resource plan and enhanced the 2016 version of this plan by recommending guidance for the scientific studies that evaluate and monitor ecological resources in the Preserve and promote its long-term health in addition to evaluating what is currently going on.

Two, we completed the Brown's Ranch Interpretive Trail. Yeah. There are now four interpretive trails in the preserve, but this is the first and only one that's dedicated to the celebration of our cultural resources here in Scottsdale. Third, we recommended a five-year preserve improvement

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plan and the 2025 budget, but with funding from the new parks and preserves sales tax. And then last but not certainly not least, we continued wildfire and fuel mitigation work with the trails and trailheads within the Preserve. This included 94 corridor miles or 335 acres that were manually or treated or treated with preemergent. And this is relevant because the pre-emergent that was applied was key in stopping the Wildcat Fire at the Valley trail last summer in 2024. We continue working with Scottsdale Fire Department on mitigation process. Yeah. Thank you.

[Time: 01:26:20]

Stepen Coluccio: Is there another slide? Okay. I'll take this. We didn't expect this slide to be on here, but I'll do my best to go through it. Excuse me. So upcoming opportunities, challenges or outcomes. The Rio Verde Wildlife Overpass Feasibility Study would be number one on the list. The study is under way. Basically, what it will do is establish cost estimates based on timing, size, design, materials, fencing, drainage and number of things. To really help us understand what this project was to look like. Year one capital improvements from the five-year plan. I spoke just briefly about that in the opening slide, but basically, we are looking in year one at doing things like improving some of the bathrooms at the older trailheads, new signage, drainage that's necessary, shade areas, volunteer space, trail bypasses and parking resurfacing. Excuse me.

No. 3, oversight of parks and preserve sales tax funding and the 2026/27 budget process. So, in the last year, things were a little bit rushed just the way that the whole prop 490 thing came about and we finally got into the swing of things. We are expecting it this year, we'll have a lot more time and opportunity to really dig into it. So, looking forward to the next budget cycle. And then finally, continue wildfire fuel mitigation efforts. We'll continue working with the fire department, you know, to coordinate efforts on both our parts. Questions?

Mayor Borowsky: Terrific, thank you. Councilwoman Whitehead.

[Time: 01:28:08]

Councilwoman Whitehead: I don't have any questions, I just want to thank staff and board members from both and really Mr. Caton, I think the idea of bringing the commissions forward is such a good one, so you know, I tend to stay close to what's going on the Preserve Commission, less close on some of the on these commissions I don't understand the work as much, but really appreciate everybody who spoke tonight. So great stuff happening.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Councilwoman McAllen.

Councilwoman McAllen: Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to echo what everyone else said, thank you. Especially since Scottsdale's greatest natural resource, you're taking the time to protect it. I know Chair Coluccio you met with the Fire Chief today to discuss these things. I know there's a lot of outside work that all of the commission members and board members do. So, thank you so

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much.

Stephen Coluccio: Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you, appreciate your service. Vice Mayor Dubauskas.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Thank you and Steve I just wanted to say thank you for working on the Wildlife Overpass as well this year, I know that took up quite a bit of your time, but I think it seemed like you guys were coming to a good place together, and so I appreciate your work on that.

Stephen Coluccio: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Dubauskas: Thank you for your service.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you.

Stephen Coluccio: Anybody else? Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Appreciate your input. That concludes the Boards and Commissions updates for tonight.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL – ITEM 19

[Time: 01:29:36]

And the next item, Mayor and Council is item No. 19, which at the request of Councilman Graham discussion whether to direct the City Manager and City Treasurer to agendize a future Council meeting item for presentation, discussion and possible action, direction related to tourism event funding and the event funding threshold requiring full City Council approval. So, I will let Councilman Graham speak to this.

Councilman Graham: Thank you, Mayor, not much to say except I invite my colleagues to support this future agenda item to just simply discuss looking at the marketing dollars that flow out of here and giving them another look from I think City Council level. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: I have a question for you, Councilman Graham. Are you suggesting that we supplant the TDC's authority on this or is there a missing area that you're asking for full City Council approval? Everything that comes through the TDC, can you just be a little more specific on this.

Councilman Graham: Thank you, Mayor. That's part of the discussion, you know, setting a

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threshold. You read that language. There's no intention to supplant. This is we have been surprised by some of the disbursements that have been made without Council approval or even review, and so it's really just for us as a body to review that.

Mayor Borowsky: So maybe I wasn't clear about the question. But for manager Greg Caton, don't we already approval these when they come through on the consent agenda on tourism development spending?

City Manager Greg Caton: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, I may have to call a colleague here to assist. But I believe when we brought forward modifications or an update for 25/26 plan that was in approximately July of this year, there was in an effort to streamline approach, a threshold that would be more administratively processed and particularly finalized by the Mayor's signature. And that was where this item bubbled up for consideration this evening and further concern. I'll look at my colleague to see if I accurately reflected that.

Mayor Borowsky: I think you're referring to the items that are \$30,000 or less.

Greg Caton: Yes, Madam Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Okay, questions. Councilwoman Whitehead.

[Time: 01:32:28]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Just trying to understand this, Councilman Graham. I'm wondering if what we need is a Work Study Session or something so that perhaps the newbies on here just better understand the process. This is kind of wide open, and we are running a pretty tight ship. The so I know that public speaker brought up some concerns about one event, so I think what I would be more supportive of, if we wanted a Work Study Session like we did with WestWorld where we better understand the process and then if there is a specific event that is funded that's of concern, bring that up separately. That would be my preference versus your request tonight.

So, if you were open to amending it to a work study, you'd get my support. I'm not getting a nod of no, so I'm yeah, I'm just I'm unsure of the direction so I'm not going to support it but thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Adding to that, I think Councilman Kwasman talked about having a presentation about the scope of some of these you know, the decisions that are being made, and maybe we could join these two together and have an overall presentation on, you know, for example, the notes that the gentleman said up there and just what how many of the events are complying, where's the outliers, would you think that would add to the conversation, maybe combine these two?

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Councilman Graham: Let me ask this. So, there is the 5 percent we are talking about, the 5 percent of the bed tax that the city manages, and do all 100 percent of contracts that are above certain thresholds say \$20,000, do some of those just go through the Tourism Development Commission or do all of those come to the Council? Is my question.

Greg Caton: Madam Mayor, Councilmember Graham, I believe the answer to your question is that some do not pass the threshold and therefore come to City Council.

Councilman Graham: But, no. The question is do all above a certain threshold like 20,000, whatever it is, come to City Council?

Greg Caton: We are getting Madam Mayor if I may, I'm going to do that call a colleague and have some assistance here. Little deeper past my ability to answer. That's wonderful.

Councilman Graham: And Rachel Smetana, thank you for joining us. This is kind of a continuation of the conversation we had maybe like before the start of the summer break. We talked about some of those funding mechanisms. And so was there any portion of the bed tax that the Tourism Development Commission approves and this Council doesn't see?

[Time: 01:35:46]

Tourism and Events Director Rachel Smetana: There is, Mayor and members of the Council. So, I wanted to be clear because earlier you said the 5 percent marketing that is different than the funding we are talking about. There is 9 percent of the bed tax allocation goes to support special events and so those are categorized in different event funding programs, minus a few small exceptions, and if an event funding program is less than \$30,000 and the Tourism Development Commission approves it, then it just comes straight to the Mayor for a signature. Per the approved policy that you did July 1.

Councilman Graham: Okay, so maybe I'm yeah, I think what I'll do is accept Councilwoman Whitehead's suggestion and make this maybe a work study so we can get a better handle on it and maybe see the temperature of where Council is going. I will make that change. That's a good suggestion, by my colleague.

Councilwoman Whitehead: I'll second it.

Councilman Graham: There you go.

Mayor Borowsky: All those.

Councilman Graham: I didn't make the motion, but motion made.

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Mayor Borowsky: Councilman Kwasman.

Councilman Kwasman: I want to make a general statement. This was a wonderful example of how this Council does work together, when there is an interest in making sure that we are moving forward on behalf of residents. So please, everybody, take note of what just happened. Thank you. This has been a public service announcement.

Mayor Borowsky: A motion and a second, all those in favor, please indicate your vote.

Councilman Graham: Just point of order, we are scheduling we didn't give you a date for the Work Study, is that okay, you'll just do it at the next available. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL – ITEM 20

Mayor Borowsky: Good news, Councilman Kwasman, the next item is item No. 20 and another example how we might work together to involve citizens in our lovely city's administration.

So this is a request by me which follows the WestWorld Work Study Session that we had last Monday and again, I thank my colleagues for coming back to work, prematurely, and making an effort to hear all of the stakeholders, and there was primarily stakeholders, very passionate involved groups that do a lot of business in our city, specifically at WestWorld and they've all been for the most part here a very long time, and a number of people talked about having a task force including me, I think it's a wonderful idea, and it's not another study, Craig Jackson spoke here at length about where he thought we should be going with this, concerns, suggestions, I had a conversation with him earlier today. His concern was, you know, death by another study, and that's absolutely not the goal or the focus of this proposed task force and to clear that up, this would be a task force comprised of seven members, each one of the Councilmembers having a choice, an appointment for the task force, and it would be limited to stakeholders, people that are involved at WestWorld, whether vendors, event producers, a couple from the as the proposed ordinance says, two from the equestrian industry, seven members in total, four members of WestWorld vendors or event producers and one member of the Tourism Development Commission, although understand that that isn't possible because that would be someone serve on two different boards or commissions.

[Time: 01:39:57]

So, I think that might need some revision there. We can hold that to see if this passes, but nonetheless, whatever the direction would be, I think having stakeholders involved would be the best idea, there's a lot of institutional knowledge out there that predates all of us, maybe not Kathy Littlefield, sorry. Because her husband was around when we did this, right? So was I. But it certainly predates a lot of the staff. I certainly did not mean to imply you have a tremendous depth of institutional knowledge.

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And it would, of course, require it to be Scottsdale residents. There was another comment, I heard today that, you know, city staff doesn't really they want to be able to do it themselves. I think this task force would provide just such a great advisory group that just wanted to be helpful. As you heard them all here last week, they weren't a bunch of just were here to complain. They were here to be very, very proactive and in keeping, I did mention someone from the TDC commission last week, when I think that's not going to be possible. Our friend Craig Jackson, big supporter out there, he did offer to serve as the chair, and I would really encourage my fellow Councilmembers to support this idea. There's going to be a bunch of disappointed stakeholders if we rejectful their input moving forward. All I can say, I think it can't hurt, and it's useful, great, let's use it. If it's not, I don't see them being any sort of detractors or nuisance or cog in any wheel. So with that, I see the city attorney is asking to chime in.

Interim City Attorney Luis Santaella: Honorable Mayor and members of Council I want to clarify what we put on the agenda, actually allows the task force members to be nonresidents and waives the requirement you can't be on a commission. Here's the legal justification. The charter says members of boards and commissions have to be residents of the city. This is not a board or commission, it's a task force. So the Council can choose to waive those both those requirements if it chooses to do so.

Mayor Borowsky: That makes sense now. All right, well, with that, I would like to make a motion to empanel or situate this task force as I've just outlined, and I would appreciate a second, and then hope.

Councilwoman McAllen: I will second it.

Mayor Borowsky: Have some discussion.

Mayor Borowsky: Who was the second? Councilwoman Littlefield. Thank you.

[Time: 01:43:00]

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you, Mayor. I would be a no on this. The reason is that at this time, I do not believe a task force is needed. WestWorld is not a political problem. It is a managerial problem, and as such, the City Manager is the one with the power and the authority to address it. The City Manager has been made aware of and is sensitive to the issues, and he is the one who has the authority and the responsibility to deal with the staff and fix the problems. I have the utmost confidence that he will do so. I believe we should give him this opportunity and the time he needs to do it. A task force, I believe, would merely slow down the process. I think we have given Mr. Caton adequate direction over the last few weeks on what we believe needs to be done to keep WestWorld the number one top-notch horse facility in the country. I think we all agree on that.

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Also, I would like this Council to receive regular reports on the actions taken and the progress that is being made as he goes forward. The Mayor is correct in that WestWorld is a very important asset to this city, and it should receive a high priority on all of our agendas. Action on this issue should not be delayed. And I would like the regular reports to come to all of us going forward on the progress that is made over the next month or two. If no progress is made, then I would consider the Mayor's idea of a task force. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. Anyone else have any comments? No. All right, Councilman Graham.

Councilman Graham: thank you Mayor. I'll keep my words brief or my remarks brief. I tend to agree with Councilwoman Littlefield, and I think I was talking about it with some people today. I think maybe putting Mr. Jackson, who I have a lot of respect for, who is a tenant of government empowered task force over the landlord might be a bit of a conflict of interest, and so I totally agree with Councilwoman Littlefield. This is an important venue for our city. We know that it runs at a loss, we know that improvements need to be made. But I think a task force maybe might add unintended and new elements to turning it around and getting it operating where it needs to be, and so I'm agreeing with Councilmember Littlefield that empowering the City Manager to look at it closely and see if we can measure some of those key performance indicators, figure out where we are financially, where defining success and if we don't achieve that, then we should definitely consider other options as a Council. So, thank you Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Councilwoman Whitehead.

[Time: 01:46:25]

Councilwoman Whitehead: So yeah, this is an interesting discussion. I think that the reason a task force makes sense, and we are not appointing anybody to the task force tonight, and so I do agree with the concerns about landlord tenant, but it because of the success at WestWorld, we have multiple events going on same day, same weekend, and we have a much broader group of people using the venue, multiple venues on site. Also, there's differences in the what each event pays. So, there's some inconsistencies, of course there's some inconsistencies on revenue. There's a lot of moving parts, and so the idea of this task force is to have different stakeholders themselves at the table and having a discussion on how to better balance this.

For instance, is there what I brought up the last time, is there a way if we get all of the horse events, because even if we don't have a representative of each horse event that takes place at WestWorld, if they are all involved, can we streamline that process so our poor staff isn't putting hay in, putting hay out. Putting manure out, whatever, so that was the vision I had I think that I don't know, Mr. Caton's position on this, I think it would be helpful to have those kind of recommendations from some sort of stakeholder task force. And so that's why I'm supporting it.

I also want to mention and Judy will have to bring this up when have our next meeting. Other

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than the mortgage, I think we are doing pretty darn good. When we get that paid off, we are in the black. Let's see how far into the black we can get. So that's why I'm supporting a task force.

Mayor Borowsky: So in closing, it sounds like we don't have full support here, enough to get this passed, but I think it's absurd to say you wouldn't include your stakeholders, your biggest producers of events in advisory capacity to see how we might make the intricate facilities and management even better and stronger, especially when it comes to big items, which we know we need to do, which is infrastructure. They live and breathe it. So, to exclude them seems a little absurd. And I don't see the conflict there at all, they're not going to be making decisions, they would serve only in an advisory capacity.

And essentially what we are saying is we don't want the stakeholders to give input how we can do this better when Greg Caton and I sat in a meeting along with Judy Doyle and Will I forget his last name, the newer GM at WestWorld, I mean, they had such a depth of knowledge in comparison to me and everybody else at the table because they have lived and breathed it. So to say we don't want that is, I believe, another step in the direction of not listening to our residents.

My entire campaign was based on more resident input. It is such a struggle to get that going here at times, and I think that's the wrong direction. So, with that. I know there's a motion and second. Sorry, Councilman Kwasman.

Councilman Kwasman: Yeah, I just Madam Mayor, with all due respect, I take issue with the idea that not having a formal governmental quasi-governmental, another one structure in order to make recommendations so that the actual governing elected body gets to hide behind the decisions of unelected individuals is an affront to representative Democracy. I think that we have got to get away from the idea, unless we have a commission or a task force, or some sort of quasi-elected group or appointed group, we are not listening to people, that's just not true. Of course everybody in this room would listen to the council of Craig Jackson. The man brings millions upon millions of dollars and goodness into the culture, and everything into Scottsdale. Of course we are going to listen to the equestrian groups and those who bring the beautiful and incredible equine species into this city. We'll listen to everybody, another task force, we might as well except a citizens commission to apply so they appoint the task force to make sure it's fair. At some point the layers become absurd.

[Time: 01:51:41]

At the end of the day, this is a manager managed Council, a manager managed city, apologies a manager managed city and I trust Greg Caton and trust his ability to appoint fire, change, restructure how he sees fit. If he fails this city, then he himself is going to have the consequences. This is a manager managed city, and the residents are always going to have a voice among the for the in the year of the elected officials and the staff and the charter officers. But another task force while it has good intentions, it is not the right path forward in this scenario.

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Mayor Borowsky: That was an extremely dramatic response, and I appreciate your passion. However, I think what you said was we don't need the stakeholders to give us input. How to make WestWorld let's make it informal. I don't even understand what the difference would be. It's a temporary task force that would interface yes, a task force by its very nature has a project scope and time duration, which this one certainly could. And it's informal, certainly an advisory capacity, like I've mentioned, there are no formal decisions, formal decision-maker is not part of the proposal. It's advisory in nature, and we all saw the depth of knowledge from our stakeholders that will be offered to our staff to help them not while I appreciate your dramatic and passionate response, I'll bet you're going to vote no and exclude the stakeholders from the conversation, based on those comments. Councilwoman did you have something? Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you. Yeah. Thank you, Mayor. I just would like to add, I don't remember if I said this or not, but if we leave this in the hands of our City Manager, he has the power to ask anyone and anyone on staff to be a part of it, to answer questions, to come to him, and to negotiate any kind of deal that needs to be done to get WestWorld moving. How much lumber do we have, is it going to get there. Who will put it together to build the stables, what about the audio system, when is that going to be replaced, needs it desperately from all of the activities at WestWorld.

Get a calendar of events and reports established. I would like to have regular reports sent to the Councilmembers on things that are being done and what's going on and what the timetable is for all of this activity to occur. And obviously it all has to work around the events going on at WestWorld, which will make it a little challenging, but not too much.

I would say that if progress is not seen at WestWorld in fixing these things up, then I would be quite willing to go back and take a look at a task force issue, but I think that the City Manager has his finger on the pulse of this problem, been studying it, I would like to have him manage and take it over and make it happen. Thank you.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you, Councilwoman Littlefield. Councilman Graham.

[Time: 01:55:10]

Councilman Graham: Mayor, I'll will keep these remarks brief. I don't want to belabor this. I want to agree with everything Councilwoman Littlefield said. A task force at this time doesn't seem right at this time, but because I see that as kind of little bit going around the chain of command, letting the manager do his job. But we know it's operating at a loss, and Councilmember Whitehead made a comment that once we pay off the mortgage, it's in the black. That's not true. It's not true. It's a bigger loss than that. I wasn't even counting interest costs. There's a loss anywhere from I mean even Jay reported \$8, 9, 10, 11 million.

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So, we do want to monitor it, that's important to this Council. And we need to define success, because maybe a loss like I've been saying, maybe a loss is okay, but how much of a loss is too much. Kind of be nice to define that. So, that's my way of saying I like the way that Councilwoman Littlefield worded that and with her sentiment, I'm in total agreement. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you. We have a motion and a second, all those in favor, register your vote. Motion fails. Thank you. With that, we have concluded our business for this evening, thank you all for being here in the storm and drive safe home.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman McAllen: So moved.

Mayor Borowsky: Thank you.