



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

**MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
Club SAR Fitness Center – Multipurpose Room  
8055 E. Camelback Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Kristen Parrish, Vice Chair Teresa Kim Quale, Commissioners Susan McGarry, Michael Vreeland, and Eric Maschhaupt

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Eric Kurland

**STAFF:** Director Nick Molinari; Parks and Recreation Managers Chris Walsh, Brett Jackson, Kyu-Bin Hyun, Stephanie Tippet, Kevin McKee, Mike Snyder; Recreation Leader Senior Tom Harrison; Community Services Operation Supervisor Scott Anderson; Aquatics Operation Supervisor Kristen Clark

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present as indicated above.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2024

COMMISSIONER MCGARRY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER VREELAND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS MASCHHAUPT, MCGARRY, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. OVERVIEW OF CLUB SAR FITNESS CENTER**

Scott Anderson, Community Services Operations Supervisor, and Tom Harrison, Recreation Leader Senior, provided the Commission with an overview of the Club SAR Fitness Center and recent programming updates. Mr. Harrison reviewed the history of Club Sar (Social Athletics and Recreation), which was started in 1973 by Jack Karie and moved to its current location in 1986. He gave an overview of the club's boxing history, highlighting world champion boxers and noting that Nick Molinari participated in a Golden Gloves tournament in 1994. He then reviewed recent equipment donations; membership statistics and revenue generated; classes and programs; and a list of workout equipment. He noted they are not yet back to pre-COVID numbers but are improving steadily. He noted that the spin and barre classes are sponsored by Cigna and were designed for City employees but are open to all club members. He spoke briefly about community connections, including participation in a Blue Zone Event, All Things Senior, and Special Olympics power lifting competition.

### **2. CAPRA ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

Kristen Clark, Community Services Operations Supervisor of Aquatics, provided a presentation about the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The presentation provided information about CAPRA guidelines and statistics and where the department is in the re-accreditation process. The city submitted their narratives and evidence of compliance on Friday, February 16. Next steps will be for staff to meet with the CAPRA review team virtually the week of April 29th through May 3rd, 2024. Once the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is approved by Council, it will be submitted to CAPRA.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Clark explained that the CAPRA application process is approximately \$50,000, in addition to staff hours. Director Molinari said that historically the process has been a department-wide effort, but the process was modified this time because the department is going through the master planning process at the same time. The City is saving a significant amount of money thanks to the virtual review process, compared to previous years when it has been responsible for travel and entertainment expenses for the review team to come in for the week to do their evaluation. Mr. Hyun noted that the submission process is different this year, because information is being entered through an online portal.

Director Molinari noted that it is part of the department's strategic plan to work with the Commission to identify all points of accreditation and determine whether continuing with the CAPRA process makes sense for Scottsdale. He said that it makes sense for cities with newer, developing parks and recreation departments to go through the process, but larger, more developed cities like Scottsdale are in a position of modifying policies and procedures to qualify for what CAPRA is looking for, so there are balances that need to be considered. Discussion ensued regarding Commissioners' interest in evaluating whether CAPRA is still appropriate for Scottsdale and whether there might be other programs that might be more cost effective and would better serve the needs of the community.

### **3. INDIAN BEND WASH- REPAIR LAKES AND IRRIGATION PROJECT UPDATE**

Kevin McKee, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided an overview and status update of the 2019 Bond project underway to repair lakes and irrigation in the Indian Bend Wash. He explained that the project was identified when a need was identified in the 2015 Community Services Master Plan, because of aging infrastructure. In 2019, as part of a site master plan for the south portion of Indian Bend Wash, the area of Indian Bend Wash from Thomas Road to McKellips Road was completed. Overhaul of the lakes and irrigation infrastructure is part of the master plan and is funded in part by the \$23.5 million bond approved in November of 2019, and in part by the additional \$10.8 million allocation made by City Council last year. Other areas of improvements that are identified in the master plan are not currently funded. Phase one of the project began at North Lake in March of 2023 and was completed over the summer. The second phase began in the western portion of the park in January 2024 and is scheduled for completion in the end of April 2024. Future project phases will be fragmented based on funding and permitting.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Director Molinari explained that they have to wait to start construction on any areas that would have an elevation change until Army Corps of Engineers issues a permit. Mr. McKee said that irrigation structure surrounding the elevated areas will be done and temporary fixes put in place until they are able to do the construction. Army Corps of Engineers' permitting process will be applicable to improvements throughout the Indian Bend Wash. Ms. Tippet noted that staff have learned that the level of design has to be at 90 percent before submitting to the Army Corps of Engineers for initial evaluation. Discussion ensued regarding the permitting process and the City's relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers, changes in cost of construction versus available bond funding, flood mapping of the county flood control district, and maintenance of the Indian Bend Wash.

It was suggested that signage outlining the history of Indian Bend Wash be displayed at parks located in the wash area. Director Molinari said that there are currently models of the Indian Bend Wash displayed at Indian School Park Visitors Center. Mr. McKee said

that the city's capital projects manager acts as the primary liaison with the construction company. Ms. Tippett said that there is a construction manager at risk contract, approved by council, for the entire scope of the Indian Bend Wash Lakes and Irrigation project. The hope is to keep the same design and construction company throughout the entire project.

#### **4. OVERVIEW OF SCOTTSDALE CIVIC CENTER**

Brett Jackson, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided an update on the new elements and amenities of the Scottsdale Civic Center and provided information about the events that the Scottsdale Civic Center has hosted and the operations of events in the space. His presentation included an overview of the project, which resulted in a reduction in turf, resulting in a savings of approximately 4 million gallons of water per year, use of permeable pavement throughout the site, bioswales throughout the site to capture storm water, targeted roof water collection, and the addition of over 103 trees. He highlighted the various spaces in the park and events and activities that have occurred and are planned for the coming months. Civic Center has received the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) "Outstanding Facility" award and been highlighted as the best "Landscape/Urban Development project in the region, in the "ENR Southwest" publication.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. A concern was expressed about whether the city is being sensitive to the idea that, during certain events, the public is excluded from using the park. Mr. Jackson explained that the master planning process identified the number one purpose for the renovations as an attraction venue. Scottsdale Arts is in charge of scheduling events but consults with city staff before booking. Director Molinari added that one of the city's organizational goals is to balance Civic Center, Scottsdale Stadium, and WestWorld as event venues and book appropriate events at each venue location.

#### **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Molinari said that WestWorld staff were able to provide resources and equestrian expertise on improvements at Mescal Park. Significant landscape and maintenance improvements have been completed at Horizon Park, including landscape improvements, laser leveling of the field, and improvements to the space used by youth sports partners.

Director Molinari said that construction is moving forward at Ashlar Hills. The McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park cellphone tower project is in process and the Roundhouse and splash pad projects will begin in April 2024.

The Giants spring training season will kickoff Saturday, February 24, with a home game against the Chicago Cubs. The LG Twins, a South Korean professional baseball team, are in the middle of their 2024 spring training and are in the first year of their contract

extension. Mr. Walsh explained that discussions with the LG Twins started in 2017 and this technically is their third year, but only the second year they've used the facilities because of COVID.

Triple Crown Sports is scheduled for March. Director Molinari talked briefly about the economic impact study conducted two years ago, which indicated that the event brought \$5 to \$6 million to Scottsdale, not including short-term rentals.

Director Molinari said that Scottsdale Athletic Club just held the Winter Invite and the summer lifeguard recruitment process is underway.

Staff have been doing community outreach for the Master Plan, including working with the Mayor's Youth Council and SARC Advisory Board. Staff recently did a popup workshop at Civic Center that brought in over 100 participants. Parks and Recreation Department participated in 2024 Parada del Sol.

Horizon Park will host the Glow Up event on Friday, March 1, 2024. The event will include a live DJ, glow games, and a foam party.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park will host Rhythm and Rails "Reputation -- a Taylor Swift Experience" on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park will host Exclusively Little Expo. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Scottsdale Civic Center will host the Bunnanza event on Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

## **6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Vreeland stated it was a great time of year to be doing outside activities in Scottsdale.

Commissioner McGarry said she would be interested in information on the time and effort that Parks and Recreation puts into the Phoenix Open and also questioned on the condition of the soccer fields following the rain event.

Vice-Chair Quale said she attended the Merci train car event at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. She also visited Chestnut Park and encouraged families to take the online survey. She suggested that QR codes connecting to the survey be placed at neighborhood parks.

Commissioner Maschhaupt also attended the Merci train event at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. He said that he is continually impressed by Parks Department staff.

Chair Parrish said she went to Tempe's Come Out and Play event and she commended Scottsdale staff for the event coordination that they do, which she stated is superior to what she witnessed at the Tempe event.

## **7. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Waste Management Phoenix Open update
- Aquatics team contracts update
- CAPRA accreditation

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

COMMISSIONER VREELAND MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR QUALE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PARRISH, VICE-CHAIR QUALE, COMMISSIONERS MASCHHAUPT, MCGARRY, AND VREELAND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.