



Minutes

Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board

April 17, 2024

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting held on April 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ, and virtual through Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Susan Carlson – Chair
Elizabeth Hatch – Vice Chair
Sharon Doyle
Mary Farmer
Thomas Klabunde
Gerardo Lopez
Lane Waddell
Lisa Zyriek

Members Absent:

Shereen Lerner
Dawn Parker

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks (Staff Liaison)
Richard Adkins, Urban Forester
Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II – Recreation
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager
Cara Kamienski, CIP Project Coordinator
Brooke St. George, Council Assistant
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation
Ruben Wilkinson, Community Services Manager – Parks

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Susan Carlson.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

Motion by Lane Waddell to approve the meeting minutes of March 20, 2024, including amending minutes to include the discussion about West Coast Arborists landscape trucks parked on City

property adjacent to the cemetery, which occurred during Agenda Item 7. Seconded by Mary Farmer. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Susan Carlson, Vice Chair Elizabeth Hatch, board members Sharon Doyle, Mary Farmer, Gerardo Lopez, Lane Waddell, and Lisa Zyriek.

Absent: Thomas Klabunde, Shereen Lerner, and Dawn Parker. Thomas arrived after vote.

Agenda Item 3 – Golf

Lane Waddell discussed golf-related topics.

- Expecting action on Ken McDonald at next month's meeting related to conceptual designs

Agenda Item 4 – Urban Forest Update

Richard Adkins discussed Urban Forestry's current and upcoming projects.

- Crew of six divided up by North and South
- Arbor Month; plantings scheduled and taken place throughout city; Selleh Park 4/20 at 7am
- Urban Wood Program: harvest urban lumber from trees removed and repurposed for projects
- 12 Living Tree memorial trees over last year; distributed 35 cost match trees; stops in June and starts up again in October; cost match program delivers up to two trees to resident's property and City will cover half of cost; City does not plan but will inform resident
- Planting a lot of trees at schools; educate school staff on planning and maintenance
- Rains to roots 1st Wednesday of month; discuss urban forestry, rainwater infrastructure, sustainability; update of urban forestry master plan, combine with City's climate action plan and heat resilience plan
- Updating tree canopy maps; "Tree City USA" status 28 years running
- "Growing Together"; received money from federal and state government to expand urban forest; work with private property owners; identified underserved areas; received \$1.6 million to spend over next three years; hiring new staff, developing new training
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - What time is event at Selleh Park taking place?
 - Richard worked with board member's local neighborhood on a xeriscape project and was very helpful

Agenda Item 5 – Parks & Rec CIP

Alex Jovanovic provided an introduction to Capital Improvement Program and Cara Kamienski discussed projects under the Capital Improvement Program.

- General fund covers most of daily operations; personnel, supplies and services; CIP: General Obligation Bond Funds fund assets, such as infrastructure projects; typically 5 year planning window, approved annually by Mayor and Council; Departments consider projects and submit requests annually, prioritize projects based on timelines
- Public health and safety highest priority; studies, evaluations, bring in experts to help guide timelines; try to maintain existing assets, replace and upgrade when reach end of useful life; Parks & Rec Master Plan and Equity Study help inform future projects
- Public outreach is typically two rounds; work closely with design consultants; process can be approximately 2.5 years

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- Partnered with Water Dept., received WIFA grant to reduce water usage and turf reduction

Alex provided additional information about CIP projects.

- Dog parks and pickleball courts identified for expansion
- Funding this coming fiscal year for design of pickleball courts, following fiscal year for construction; identifying locations for pickleball courts can be challenging due to proximity to neighborhoods, noise considerations; Tempe Sports Complex is being looked at; outside of KRC, park-based tennis courts are dual lined, other courts are at schools; USTA will not sanction tennis courts with pickleball lines
- Character areas will be taken into consideration into future; public outreach is part of process
- Public can access information from council meetings; there is not an internal document summarizing projects that's made readily available; many projects cross multiple CIP funds and can make process convoluted
- Upcoming bond election in November; unknown what current amount is left but could potentially connect to previous presentation
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Is there a rotation of projects that are considered for CIP?
 - Is there timeframe for expansion of pickleball courts? Have tennis courts or handball courts been looked at for conversion?
 - Do you look at character area documents to factor in decision making?
 - Is there a way for public to access documents that provide information, costs?
 - How does City look at private vs public development of pickleball courts?
 - How much more capacity do you have with current bond money? Could we get capacity for what is left?

Agenda Item 6 – Diablo Stadium Plans; surrounding area

Alex Jovanovic provided information about current and upcoming projects at Diablo Stadium and surrounding area, including cemetery.

- City responsible for essentially 100%; brick and mortar, fields maintained by Parks
- Long-term lease agreement with Angels until 2035
- Permanent roadway under design to north side of Tempe Buttes, near cemetery; cemetery study funding available and will be in process going into next fiscal year; scope of study to be defined and will look at a lot of elements
- Historic Preservation Society bond in upcoming election; will include portion for cemetery
- Phase 2 of Diablo Stadium is tied to upcoming bond election
- 50% match of \$10 million in Phase 1 funding is from Arizona Sports and Tourism funds; \$10 million match from Angels; anything beyond \$20 million will be from Angels
- Cemetery property that is not utilized; land is hard rock and can't reach certain depths
- West Coast Arborists are parked in a different area, in process of looking for new area to park
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - What role does City have in maintaining?
 - Angels lease with the City? How long is lease?

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- Will cemetery study look at how close access road is, barriers such as trees, vegetation?
 - Is any money coming from Sports and Tourism Authority?
 - Asked for presentation because first she had heard of impacts of projects to area and cemetery.
 - Is that cemetery land where landscape trucks are parked?

Agenda Item 7 – Open Space: Development Review Commission

Susan Carlson and Alex Jovanovic discussed with board what role board might have in relation to the Development Review Commission.

- Commission has final decision-making authority stated in City Code when it comes to projects; composition of commission has certain requirements
- There is history of members serving on two commissions or boards; always opportunity to provide public comment as community member; could collectively as board take action and decide to have one spokesperson make comment
- Site review plans are shared with Parks, opportunity to make comments and document concerns; if project is adjacent to park space Parks will have opportunity to comment and share feedback
- Not aware if City can force private development project to make something publicly accessible unless on public land; maybe can appeal to make amenity publicly accessible; maybe board can make bullet point list of items that are important to the board to have their known concerns shared and represented
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - What kind of sharing takes place between departments? If development is planned what information is being shared with Parks? Do they ask Parks for any input based on General Plan 2050, such as pocket park, dog park, work with developer? Easier way to tie board in.
 - Are there opportunities to identify spaces to create that the board can support and help influence the Development Review Commission? If just going to Development Review Commission meeting it's too late to make an impact; you have to be involved earlier.
 - We want a communication relationship.

Agenda Item 8 – Board Operational Updates

Alex Jovanovic noted to send any requests for future agenda items to be sent to Alex or Joshua Bell, and to respond to availability for cemetery tour. Clark Park Community Center and Pool Grand Opening is Saturday, April 20. Overall Clark Park project cost \$16 million.

- **Goals**
- **Next Steps**
- **Opportunities**
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - How much did the Clark project cost?

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

None. Items discussed in Agenda Item 8.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Meeting Attendance, Notices & Announcements

None. Items were discussed in Agenda Item 8.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Prepared by: Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II, (480) 350-8676

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director- Parks, (480) 350-5811