

**Rio Salado Enhanced Services Commission  
Minutes  
October 15, 2024**



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**Minutes of the Enhanced Services Commission meeting that was held on October 15, 2024, at 8:30 am in person at 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281 in the CD – Conference Lobby Room and with a hybrid option - Microsoft Teams**

**Members Present:**

Craig Hayton, Com Svcs. Director, Chairman  
Tara Ford, President, Director – Public Works  
Jarett Brock, Vice President Commission/Area 1 Rep  
Lisette Camacho, Treasurer, Financial Svcs Director  
Ted Rabban, Landowner Member/Area 3 Rep  
Maggie Soffel, ASU Member  
Barbara Haris, Public Member  
Michael Martin, Downtown Tempe Authority Member  
Mark Clouch, At-Large Residential Property Owner

**City Staff Present:**

Ryan Levesque, Dep. Comm. Dev. Dir. of Planning  
Mike Baxley, Dep. Comm Dev. Dir of Building Safety  
Craig Caggiano, Dep. Mun Util Dir – Water Util  
Shawn Wagner, Dep.Com. Svcs. Dir Parks & Rec  
Alex Jovanovic, Dep Com Svcs Dir Parks & Rec.  
Roger Hallsted, Administration Manager, Comm. Dev.  
Sarah Adame, Executive Assistant, Comm. Dev.

**Members Absent:**

Nick Woodruff, Landowner Member 2  
Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director

**Guests Present:**

None

**Meeting convened at 8:32 am**

**Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:**

August 20, 2024, Regular meeting minutes

Mr. Craig Hayton called for a motion to vote on approval of the regular meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Ted Rabban, Landowner Member/Area 3 Rep, motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Barbara Haris, Public Member, seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Approved 7-0,2 abstain

**AYES:** Craig Hayton, Chairman, Com Svcs. Director,  
Tara Ford, President, Public Works, Director  
Jarett Brock, Vice President Commission/Area 1 Rep  
Lisette Camacho, Treasurer, Financial Svcs Director  
Ted Rabban, Landowner Member/Area 3 Rep  
Maggie Soffel, ASU Member  
Barbara Haris, Public Member

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Nick Woodruff, Landowner Member 2  
Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

None.

**Agenda Item 3 – ASU Updates – Maggie Soffel**

A new Starbucks restaurant will be opening at the Piedmont building at the end of this year.  
A presentation for the Rio Reimagined Overview was given.

**Agenda Item 4 - Budget Update – Roger Hallsted**

No completed audit for last fiscal year has been posted. However, last year the budget was overspent by \$51,000.00. The water quality monthly payments from June of 2023 were included. Payments for up to June 2024 have been included in the fiscal year. The overage revenue is down to \$31,000.00. This can be covered by the fund balance. In the current budget, the security budget is 65% spent which includes the full year been paid to the DTA for security at Tempe Town Lake, and the liability insurance premium at 95% is paid for the year. In the equipment budget for vehicles, money can be moved to infrastructure replacement if it is not spent. Starting this coming fiscal year, the equipment budget can be placed the infrastructure replacement budget instead of the operating budget. If the equipment budget isn't spent this year, it will be retained in the CFD budget and be able to use in future years. This new structure in the budget will create a capital improvement section with two-line items called infrastructure replacement, and equipment. Budget discussions to continue to January 2025 – looking for a recommendation to approve to the CFD Board in April 2025.

**Agenda Item 5 – Town Lake Operation – Craig Caggiano**

A couple of cylinders are under rehabilitation by recommendation of the manufacturer that they be rehabilitated every 4 to 5 years. Water quality and quantity is good right now. There is no need to use any makeup water. A second operation and maintenance position has been filled.

**Agenda Item 6 – Community Services & Special Events - Craig Hayton, Alex Jovanovic and Shawn Wagner**

Park Ranger and Infrastructure: Recently, the light poles around Tempe Beach Park have been updated and painted. Soon, there will be light pole bases will be replaced around the Tempe Beach Park, and work will be done on the signage. Staff is looking for the original images from over 25 years ago. If they are unable to come up with the original images, staff will have to create new signage for replacements. Potentially, there will be a park signage study for all the parks in Tempe.

The Park Rangers program is now fully staffed. The newest employee began on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and is currently going through training. Her position is specific to the Rio Salado Park, and is being funded by the CFD. Over the past month, the park rangers have been experiencing increased vehicular parking problems around the marina and around the park area. The issues are general park code of conduct, and abandoned property being left in various places. Otherwise, there have been many large groups utilizing the park for their running activities. These groups have been very corporative with staff and follow the park code of conducts.

Special Events: Fall/Winter 2024:

**October**

10/19	AZ Craft Beer Awards Festival	CenterPoint Plaza
10/26	Making Strides Against Breast Cancer	Tempe Beach Park
10/27	Yes Day for Autism	Tempe Beach Park
10/27	DTA Halloween Stroll	Ragsdale-MLK Park

**November**

11/2	Walk to Save Animals	Tempe Beach Park
11/3	Tempe Town Lake 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Tempe Beach Park
11/8	Splash & Dash	Tempe Town Lake
11/10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Mill Ave
11/11	Veterans Day Parade	Mill Ave / Tempe Beach Park
11/17	Ironman AZ	Temp Beach Park
11/29	Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade	Mill Ave
11/30	Fat Turkey Trail Run	North Linear Park
11/30	OXDX Native Market	Arts Park

## December

12/6-8	DTA Festival of the Arts	Mill Ave
12/14	Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade	Tempe Town Lake
12/21	Caribbean Christmas 5K	Tempe Beach Park

Mayor and Council gave permission to have recreational activities on the lake. Staff is in negotiation with Arizona Cycle Boats. The cycle boats would give tours around the lake and dropping people off at different areas. The cycle boats would be solar operated, and will be potentially housed at the marina.

### Agenda Item 7 – Downtown Tempe Updates – Michael Martin

Downtown Tempe Association has renewed the lake security agreement that will be covered through 2029.

Events:

#### **Fall Events:**

- Halloween Stroll, Sunday, October 27 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm at Ragsdale/MLK Park
  - Approximately 25 merchants participating at trick-or-treat stops
  - Games, crafts, costume contest and COT vehicles in the park for kids
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays on Mill, 10:00am – 3:00pm on Sundays, November 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The streetcar will be truncated during the event allowing us to program both sides of the street
  - New reoccurring monthly programming this season including a kids Market and Barber Battle
  - Each month will have a unique theme! November is multicultural, January is DIY with make & Take Projects, February is Mardi Gras (this event falls on Superbowl Sunday), and April is Earth Month. April, we will be partnering with TBAG for an Open Streets / Cycliva addition to the event (details to come).
- Fantasy of Lights Street Parade + Tree Lighting, Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Working through streetscape construction and parade viewing
- 56<sup>th</sup> annual 2024 Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts, December 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Working through streetscape construction, power, and artist load-in due to construction
- Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 8:00pm.
  - New this year, launching the fireworks from the Southbound Mill Ave bridge instead of the Arts Park. Also, adding 2 inflatable screens for parade viewing away from the water's edge
- Menorah Lighting in Ragsdale Park, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Mill Avenue Streetscape**

The Streetscape project is active on both sides of Mill Ave from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to University Dr. and on the west side of Mill Ave. from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Starting October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the east side of that block will be under construction. Project status online merchant meetings will be held at 2:00 pm November 12<sup>th</sup> & December 10<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found on the COT downtown Tempe refresh webpage.

#### **Mobility**

The DTA has officially started working with Modii to digitize the district. Modii aids in creating a digital parking inventory of both off street and curbside spaces. This makes sharing information with patrons to the downtown interactive in real time, showing where parking is available and getting customers on their way quickly. Modii also aids in gathering data, helping to better analyze parking locations and scenarios to make better informed decisions about downtown parking and mobility needs.

#### **Fall Plantings & Lights**

- Fall flowers in tree wells and planters and pots are complete (north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street)
- New branded evergreen lamp post banners will be up in the downtown district soon
- Holiday lights in trees along Mill Avenue will be adversely impacted by the lack of power from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to University due to the Mill Avenue Streetscapes project. Thus, there will be no lights in trees south of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. We will install freestanding light features in the area as well as working with merchants to light their patios and facades.

**Agenda Item 8 – Public Works/Transportation Updates – Tara Ford**

The Streetscape project is moving along well. A few businesses will experience some disruptions at various times of construction. The city is trying to get this project done quickly and minimize the adverse impact on people

**Agenda Item 9 – Public and Private Development Update – Ryan Levesque and Mike Baxley**

South Pier lot 1 has turned an application submittal for a mixed-use development for hotel and residential facility that has been put on hold for now. The Lincoln Town Property on Town Lake is an entitled site on lot 3 has applied for 1 year entitlement extension putting the project on hold for financial purposes. There is active construction on lot 5 and lot 6. Recently, the Flour Mill has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The South Pier, tower 3 will be months out until it's caught up with the rest of the buildings within the skyline. At the Watermark area there is a new restaurant, named Cora Restaurant and Bar, coming up located to the south of the Watermark. This restaurant is 2 level with roof deck seating.

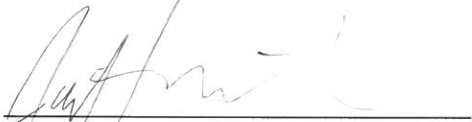
**Announcements**

Next meeting January 21, 2025.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am**

Prepared by Sarah Adame and Roger Hallsted

Reviewed by: Roger Hallsted and Ambika Adhikari



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Jeff Tamulevich  
Community Development Director  
Secretary of the Commission