

# MINUTES

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, of the City of Tempe, which was held via Cisco Webex.

#### Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

**Present:**

**Staff:**

Chuck Buss, Chair	Steve Abrahamson, Principal Planner
Martin Ball, Vice-Chair	John Southard, Historic Preservation Officer
Chris Garraty	Brittainy Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Jim Garrison	Alex Smith, Dep Com Dev Dir – Special Projects
Elizabeth Gilbert	
Gregory Larson	
Laurence Montero	
Joe Nucci	

1) Voting of the Meeting Minutes

**Motion** by **Vice Chair Ball** to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2020; second by **Commissioner Garrison**. Motion passed on **7-0** vote.

**Ayes:** Chair Chuck Buss, Vice Chair Martin Ball, Jim Garrison, Elizabeth Gilbert, Gregory Larson, Chris Garraty, Joe Nucci

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** Laurene Montero

**Absent:** Matthew Bilsbarrow

2) Election for Chair and Vice Chair

Motion by **Vice Chair Ball** for Chuck Buss to be the Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission; second by **Commissioner Larson**. Motion passed on **7-0** vote.

**Ayes:** Vice Chair Martin Ball, Jim Garrison, Elizabeth Gilbert, Gregory Larson, Chris Garraty, Joe Nucci, Laurence Montero

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** Chair Martin Ball

**Absent:** Matthew Bilsbarrow

Motion by **Commissioner Larson** for Martin Ball to be the Vice Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission; second by **Commissioner Gilbert**. Motion passed on **8-0** vote.

**Ayes:** Vice Chair Martin Ball, Jim Garrison, Elizabeth Gilbert, Gregory Larson, Chris Garraty, Joe Nucci, Laurence Montero, Chair Chuck Buss

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Matthew Bilsbarrow

3) Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project Team Presentation

Introduction by Staff, John Southard, Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Southard informed the Commissioners that the Plan for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is under way. There is a survey up on the Tempe Forum. Craig Hayton with the City of Tempe is going to be providing more detailed information to get the Historical Preservation Commission input.

Presentation by Staff, Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks & Recreation

Mr. Hayton informed the Commissioners that there are a few updates he would like to touch on, those being Park Classifications, Levels of Service analysis, Plan format, and the next steps that they need to take. Commissioners can offer up questions throughout the presentation, but they have dedicated time as well as at the end.

First update he wanted to share with the Commissioners is the Park classification update. Which is the system of defining and organizing the areas in Parks and recreation that are being managed. This includes things outside of the Tempe bubble aided by comparison jurisdiction definitions. Park classification is determined one of three ways; the facilities and amenities that are at the site, the service area, and then finally the park size. City Staff has chosen that the primary way is the facilities and amenities at a site. This will impact where some of the future amenities would go in classification level. There will also be an impact on maintaining parks based on the classification. This would also help program a park and within that the classification to identify the service area based on amenities that the park should serve. Mr. Hayton informed the Commissioners that there are some changes in the 2001 and 2020 Master Plan. Along with a map to show the areas affected. He pointed out that Regional Parks, Community Parks, and Neighborhood Parks are still the primary focus. City staff is no longer using the mini park classification or other classifications. Instead saying Urban parks which is a better name for it where there are areas of high density and low acreage especially in the areas North of Broadway in Tempe. Then expanding on the other category names that can be flushed out like Natural Areas. With two preserves that have come on board then they are the Shared - Use Recreational Facilities. That classification is geared towards some schools that have a use agreement with the City of Tempe. Then finally the special use areas that are typically seen as golf courses and sports complex.

Next point of updated will be the Level of Service Analysis. The Level of service analysis is really the City staff ability to identify amenity analysis by ratio population. Such as one dog park for ten thousand residents. It helps to identify the ability to keep up with an increase in population. So that as future population grows the parks will provide the same level of service. This will help identify potential gaps in future service ultimately making suggestions on the quantity of services in an area. It would not necessarily say where the service would go. What is key from a quantity perspective is to help show investment and expense needs both in a capital perspective but also the maintenance side. Also help with future program ideas. Mr. Hayton showed the Commissioners a list of the level of service recommendation. The List was not a comprehensive list but a list that citizens can go through to see what might be coming forward to the parks. Utilizing a level of service that looks at the ratio of a park's community. One that he highlighted was the picnic ramadas there are currently 81 which works out with 190 thousand people. This is about 4.26 for every thousand people. There is no need to increase the number of ramadas at this time. When the population does increase over the next ten years to about 217 thousand citizens then to keep up with the same level of service City Staff would want to count for the population increase by adding additional amenities. There are some implications from the funding perspective, programing perspective, and the maintenance perspective.

The Final update is understanding that the team has been working on more than just the three pieces. The result would be to have the plan be a GIS Story map. The original 2001 was about 300 printed pages this was difficult to carry around but is generally something that the public does not generally go to. The Parks and Recreation team has been working to create an online and interactive explorative guide. By having the material online will help the staff but more importantly will help the park users and folks who want to visit. With the interactive module on the bottom right hand side there is the ability to scroll and select an area or park where one will know where it is based

on a map but also provide opportunity to give information related to the park. There is a need to tell the story visually and a lot more condensed in a new way that enhances the users experience. The interactive module will not eliminate the print option. The plan is to come back to the commission in early 2021. There is some work that still needs to be investigated like the financing.

### **Commission Discussion**

Chairman Buss acknowledged Vice Chairman Ball.

Vice Chairman Ball stated that he is glad to see that there is potential to do an interactive module of the park and some of the amenities. This represents some of the ability to outline some of the historical amenities within the City. This could also give the ability to add a link to the culture history or a link to the Tempe History Museum. A lot of people see Tempe Butte as a place to climb up to where the radio towers are which is great. This would give it more history to why it is a historical area in Tempe to be restored to a more natural state.

Mr. Hayton stated there would be a timeline of how it was put together and to keep active without broken links. He will keep that on his radar.

Chairman Buss stated that he had a question about funding. Has there been any impact due to COVID -19 or will there be delays?

Mr. Hayton stated that from a capital side the project would be GO bond funded. There is an anticipation of it going back out on the bill this fall for the next four years of capital funding. There was a slight decrease from the capital side this year in the last year of the capital program. Due to the previous spending that was done in a productive manner with the projects that the Staff was able to complete. City Staff is committed to completing the projects that are in process. But from an operational standpoint each department was asked to provide a reduction of proposed funds. Which were given to City Council and they were able to narrow down about a 7 % reduction of the programming side of Parks and Recreation. Not ideal, but the Staff is grateful that there are virtual options for programming like the commission meetings. As the city has reopened the playground amenities there was a greater need for the sanitation of the equipment in ways that does not use other program funding.

Mr. Wagner stated that he works with Mr. Hayton in Parks and Recreation. There was some funding that was removed resulting from the situation for the department to move forward. The one thing that should be highlighted is the alternative service delivery. Not only has the department gone virtual but they have been able to repurpose some of the existing facilities. One thing is the cooling center which is currently over at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center. This center is for those individuals that don't have another way to escape the heat. Especially during the latter part of the summer where it has gotten extremely hot. City staff has provided a room where there can be social distancing and meeting all the COVID protocols. Especially with all the other business being closed and even some of the Rec Centers. At the beginning of the summer one of the pools locker room and shower were made available on Fridays until some of the other services with showers were open. There have also been blood drives. There has been a feral cat initiative where some of the facilities opened to provide relief for the cats. With the help of Volunteers, City Staff, and the County. While the event has taken its toll the outreach to staff on the maintenance and programming side have stepped to the plate and knocked it out of the park.

Chairman Buss acknowledged Commissioner Garraty.

Commissioner Garraty wanted to remind everyone that the Parks are important to the Native American Communities. Especially Tempe Butte and Papago Park area. When possible, consult with the Tribes about potential construction that might be in the area.

Mr. Hayton stated that Mr. Southard has been a great partner for them as a resource. They have reach out to Mr. Southard and find out what the potential is on and have a better relationship with the Tribes. But also, with the newly formed Desert Preservation Commission. City staff is crossing over in multiple areas.

Mr. Hayton informed the Commissioners that they did a public comment to gauge how comfortable people were with the level of service. During the initial outreach there were over 1800 survey comments.

4) Rio Salado Master Plan Implementation Presentation and Discussion

Introduction by Staff, John Southard, Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Southard informed the Commissioners this is something that has come before them already. It has been approved by Council and is moving forward to implementation. This is of interest to the commission because within the plan study area there are several historical and cultural resources, many of which are listed in or eligible for the Tempe Historic Property Register, the National Register, or both. The Tempe Beach Park walls, bleachers, and baseball field, the Ash Avenue bridge abutment and approach, and the Mill Avenue Bridge, and archaeological sites are a few such areas.

Presentation by Staff, Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks & Recreation

Mr. Hayton informed the Commissions that from a background perspective the Mayor and City Council adopted a Master Plan in the Fall of 2018. The plan identified the importance of the Rio Salado plan within the larger Tempe Parks catalog. Much like the Parks and Recreation Master Plan City Staff wants to be forward thinking. The planning effort was to look at the 135 acres in and around Tempe Town lake that are publicly owned for the next 20 -30 years. The plan was founded on five key founding principals' that ensure continuity and diversity. Knowing that the parks are used for events as well as other everyday uses. Sustainability and shade being two key pieces but also the opportunities that are also available. The goal is to make sure that the City staff is providing active and passive uses. Currently recognize that most citizens run, walk, bike through the park, or go and watch an event. Another key component of the planning effort is the breakdown of the 135 acres which doesn't include the lake itself into 12 distinct activity zones. Some of them mirror each other based on where they are geopathically. There are 7 on the North side of the park and 5 on the south side of the park. The activity zones lead to some strategies on what opportunities for improvements should the City staff pick rather than look at the 135 acres within some of the key activity zones. Additionally, there is opportunities for programing elsewhere that can be investigated. Making sure that City Staff is being creative in some of the funding opportunities' that are available. Then making sure that the Plan is being followed and not just handed off from one department to the next. As the department has implemented some programing emphases that are brought into Rio Salado. The plan suggested that there are select areas that are looked at but did not really say how to select them. The factors in determining what areas will be used are the impact that the development in the area would have on the environment and citizen use. Then the potential uses within an activity zone. The results where the James Elmore Bridge from the North side through the Western Light Rail bridge. Then the area that is between the bridges just across the lake is Tempe Beach Park called Entertainment Northshore. As City staff identify improvements those two areas from a larger perspective hold more weight. City staff did some research on funding through other water projects and found out that water projects would cost about 2.6 million dollars per acre. City staff was able to investigate other funding options such as Capital Improvement Programs, Grants, and even sale some land to build improvements. There are also some private funding options such as private developments, naming rights, sponsorships, public private partnerships. There are some capital set aside, but the staff was looking at some public private partnerships. Mostly what would be the best fit that would be able to design and operate some recreational amenities within the 135 acres around the Tempe parks. This would go through an RFI (Request For Information). For 90 days in February 2019 there was an open RFI for the 135 acres with more weight on the two areas specified earlier. There were 18 responses in a several different categories. Mr. Hayton then went over the list of things that they have searched on their own as well as the responses from RFI per the categories. He did inform the Commissioners that it is not an exhaustive list of information. The categories that where of focus where Land, Aerial, Water, and Support.

Some of the Land ideas on the list where a rock-climbing wall, skating rink that turns into an ice rink in the winter, swings, carousel, and themed parks. Aerial submissions such as zipline that are not only going across the lake but from buildings as well, adventure/challenge course, sky ride, and bungee jumping. Some of the water Submissions are obstacle course, slide, cable wakeboard/flow board/surf pool, Brew boat, cycle boat, tour boat,

lazy river, floating movies, fountain/splash play. Then the Support submissions bringing food trucks and restaurant on the waterfront, then transportation options that are not tied to brew boats or cycle boats. The next steps that the team is working on is the survey that is open from September 2- October 1 at [tempe.gov/forum](http://tempe.gov/forum). There is a council presentation that is coming up on November 5 to request to design, build, and operate.

### **Commission Discussion**

Chairman Buss acknowledged Vice Chairman Ball.

Vice Chairman Ball stated that he is looking forward to the next steps and great to see how the aerial projects turn out.

Chairman Buss acknowledged Commissioner Montero.

Commissioner Montero stated that there are some interesting ideas. The themed gardens or museum idea there was an opportunity to do something with the Tempe archaeology or native gardens.

#### 5) Hayden House Update

Mr. Southard informed the Commissioners that this is the last of many Hayden House Updates. The project has been going on for at least 6 years now. Mr. Southard showed the Commissioners the Certificate of Occupancy on his phone. The inspection and everything are complete the tenants are ready to move in. There will be a professional photographer that will take the interior and exterior photos. They are arranging a time for when there will be good lighting to take the photos. There will be markers that are placed for prominent woman in history out front once they have the volunteers to complete the project.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to thank the commissioners for all their support and to remind everyone that this was a relatively large effort. He is very grateful for Harmon Anderson and Reggie Mackay for all of the work that they put in and dedication to get the project completed and look as beautiful as it does.

Chairman Buss asked if there would be a presentation for those that are not able to see the Hayden House due to the pandemic.

Mr. Southard stated that he would work with the photographer to get a presentation for the Commissioners.

Vice Chairman Ball stated that Mr. Southard should submit the photos that he took with his iPhone and the ones from the Professional photographer to the Tempe History Museum.

#### 6) Chair / Staff Update

Mr. Southard informed the commissioners now that Reggie is done with the Hayden House city staff is moving forward with what was discussed with the stabilization of the Martinez house.

The commissioners have talked about assessing the condition of the Eisendrath House. Mark Vinson and Ron Peters have put together a draft and are waiting for information. There is some concern about the Adobe as having little to no sand.

A draft version of the sign that will be installed at the southeast corner of Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway in association with the Streetcar is under review.

There is graffiti at the top of Tempe Butte and in Papago Park. City Staff is working with Logan Simpson to get a contract to remove the graffiti.

The Governors Heritage Preservation Honor Award for the Tempe Butte Beautification Project has arrived.

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The 2021 Historic preservation conference if moved forward in person will be held in June at the Tempe Fiesta Inn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

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Prepared by: Brittainy Nelson, Administrative Assistant  
Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Abrahamson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Steve Abrahamson, Principal Planner

SA:bn