

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Following a tour of the Veteran's Memorial Field of Honor and a tour of the Environmental Education Center, **Chairman Johnson** called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 5:31p.m.

a. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:

Chairman Tim Johnson
Vice Chairman Melanie Dykstra
Boardmember Jason Dawson
Boardmember Cenalmar-Bruquetas
Boardmember John David
Board member Shawn Hsu
Boardmember Jeff Reynolds

Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager
Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager
Jeffrey Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager
Mark Foote, Aquatics Supervisor
Sheila Parkinson, Customer Service Representative
Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary

Others Present

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Johnson requested approval of the minutes for the October 5, 2021, Parks and Recreation Board meeting. **Vice-Chair Dykstra** made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021, minutes. **Boardmember Reynolds** seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved 7-0 by **all Boardmembers** present.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- a. None

4. BRIEFING ITEMS MEMBERS COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Veteran's Memorial Field of Honor Tour by Mickey Ohland, Community Services Manager and Environmental Education Facility tour by Sheila Parkinson, Customer Service Representative.

Veterans Oasis Park is a 113-acre community park featuring an Environmental Education Center, a lake, an extensive network of trails, a Police Sub Station as well as numerous recharge basins.

The park's name, Veterans Oasis Park, was submitted in 2005 by a Chandler resident and Veteran and approved by the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council to honor the Veterans of all wars.

Shortly after the completion of the park in 2008, City staff began meeting with several local Veteran's Groups to develop a conceptual plan for a Veteran's Memorial that would complement the park's existing amenities.

After several workshops with the Veterans, in 2010 we completed the concept for the Memorial. The goal of the Memorial is to provide a space for remembrance and reflection. This plan integrates the ideas of the Veterans into the design, which represents six core values significant to the Veterans and their families: Freedom, Reflection, Recognition, Sacrifice, Family and Memories

The memorial is composed of two distinctive spaces, an upper level, which was completed in 2016 and a lower level. Through symbolism, each of the core works were incorporated into the design.

1. FREEDOM - The thought or idea of freedom was the guiding principle behind the monument's layout. During the public input process, the United States Flag was consistently identified as a symbol of freedom. The lower level of the memorial was designed to match the exact ratio of the American Flag. It's grid of lighted columns defines the stars and stripes of the flag while the rolling landform emulates the ripples of it blowing in the wind.

2. RECOGNITION - This design offers recognition not only for the City of Chandler's Veterans, but also those within the State of Arizona and the rest of the nation.

3. REFLECTION – Providing a space that would offer individuals and groups an opportunity for personal reflection was also a goal of the design. Both the upper and lower levels of the memorial will be able to accommodate various group sizes and provides privacy from the adjacent land uses.

4. **SACRIFICE** – The perfect grid that defines the stars and stripes is also meant to emulate soldiers marching in unison. The columns slowly disappear and reappear as they are enveloped by the rising landform which is meant to represent soldiers going off to war and then returning. Twenty-one of these cubes are completely submerged as a tribute or “twenty-one-gun salute” for those that did not return.

5. **MEMORIES** – Similar to the theme of recognition, this design offers an opportunity to record memories within the walls of the monument.

6. **FAMILY** – The elevated overlook and main plaza, which is existing, replicates the Arizona State Flag. From this star shaped “family” overlook, visitors can look down into the memorial and gain a feeling of watching over their family and country while their friends or loved ones are away.

The star also represents the Service Flag of War Mothers, which is hung in family’s windows to display they have an immediate family member serving in the military.

In addition, the Memorial includes the integration of the F-86 plane that was on static display at the southeast corner of Chandler Boulevard and Delaware Street.

The project is scheduled to be completed and dedicated on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

5. **MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. **Boardmember Dykstra** asked if there could be a presentation about the Park Ranger program. Joe Petrella will look at the Park Ranger calendar to see about a presentation at a future meeting.
- b. **Boardmember Dykstra** asked if there would be an update on the budget progress. Mickey Ohland replied that they may call a special meeting in January to discuss any updates.

6. **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- a. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Mickey Ohland requested the **Board** start thinking about CIP ideas and forward them to him.
- b. Mickey Ohland requested the **Board** RSVP to the dedication of the Field of Honor event on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2021.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, **Chairman Johnson** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m. **Vice-Chair Dykstra** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Boardmember David** seconded the motion.

The adjournment was approved 7-0 by **all Boardmembers** present.

Tim Johnson, Chairman

Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary