



**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 3, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

**Chairman Johnson** called the meeting to order on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 5:00p.m.

**a. Roll Call**

**Members in Attendance:**

Chairman Tim Johnson  
Vice-Chairman Melanie Dykstra  
Boardmember Jegadesan Krishnamurthy  
Boardmember James Montgomery

**Members Absent:**

Boardmember Cenalmar-Bruquetas  
Boardmember John David  
Board member Shawn Hsu

**Staff Members Present:**

John Sefton, Community Services Director  
Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager  
Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager  
Jeffrey Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager  
Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent  
Rebecca Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent  
Timberly Matson, Lead Park Ranger  
Robert Luevano, Groundskeeper  
Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary

**Others Present**

Gregory Katsaros, 838 W Straford Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233  
Christopher Katsaros, 838 W Straford Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233

Kendall Higby, 607 W Tara Ct., Gilbert, AZ 85233  
Elisa Groen, 437 E. Marigold Ln. Tempe, AZ 85281

## 2. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. John Sefton, Community Services Director introduced himself and discussed his background in the Recreation Industry.
- b. **Boardmember Jegadesan Krishnamurthy**, new Parks and Recreation Board Member, introduced himself and shared his background and interest in serving on the Parks and Recreation Board.
- c. **Boardmember James Montgomery**, new Parks and Recreation Board Member, introduced himself and shared his background and interest in serving on the Parks and Recreation Board.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Chairman Johnson** requested approval of the minutes for the February 1, 2021, Parks and Recreation Board meeting. **Vice-Chair Dykstra** made the motion to approve the minutes with a change to item 4g to clarify that the question about allocations was not just directed at field allocation, but for other amenities as well. **Boardmember Reynolds** seconded the motion with the modified changes.

The minutes were approved 4-0 by **all Boardmembers** present.

## 4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Appointment of the new Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.  
**Chair Johnson** requested a motion to nominate a new Chair for the Parks and Recreation Board. **Chair Johnson** moved to recommend **Vice-Chair Dykstra** for the Chair position. **Boardmember Montgomery** seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 4-0 by **all Boardmembers** present.

- b. Appointment of the new Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.  
**Chair Johnson** requested a motion to nominate a new Vice-Chair for the Parks and Recreation Board. **Vice-chair Dykstra** moved to recommend **Chair**

**Johnson** for the Chair position. **Boardmember Krishnamurthy** seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 4-0 by all **Boardmembers** present.

## 5. BRIEFING/DISCUSSION

### a. Proposed FY21-23 Budget Update

Mr. John Sefton, Community Services Director updated the **Board** on the Proposed FY21-23 Budget. He shared the current organizational chart for Community Services and the top five FY 2021-22 Accomplishments. Accomplishments include:

- Opened the Makery at the Downtown Library featuring emerging technologies, arts, and media resources.
- Completed the Field of Honor Veteran's Memorial
- Installed Baseline Irrigation Controllers and System at city parks improving efficiencies and water conservation disciplines.
- Completed 2021 Parks Strategic Master Plan with comprehensive inventory and assessments by park.
- Recreation Services Rebound.

Mr. Sefton reviewed the Proposed Operating Budget, Funding Sources, Decision Packages.

**Boardmember Krishnamurthy** asked if there was a warranty on the trees that are planted. Mr. Ohland replied that there is a one-year warranty on the planted trees.

**Vice-chair Dykstra** asked if the city has done a staffing study. Mr. Sefton replied that the city is currently using a consultant to do a city-wide, comprehensive compensation salary study. Discussion ensued.

b. Mr. Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager, updated the **Board** on the 2023-2032 Community Services Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The ten-year program is updated every year. It identifies and allocates funding for projects over a 10-year span. Most capital improvement projects are over \$50,000. This year's totals for CIP are \$198M which is approximately a \$47M increase from last year. The current building climate necessitates that increase. Projects for the next two years include:

- Tumbleweed Regional Park
- Existing Neighborhood Park Improvement/Repairs
- Mesquite Groves Park Site Phase I

- Mesquite Groves Park Site Phase II
- Mesquite Groves Park Site Phase III
- Existing Community Park Improvement/Repairs
- Existing Recreation Facilities Improvements
- Fitness Equipment
- Library Facilities Improvements
- Tumbleweed Expansion Multi-gen
- Parks Front-End Loader
- Gazelle Meadows/Galveston Neighborhood Improvement
- Aging Park Landscaping Revitalization
- Existing Athletic Field Improvement/Repairs

**Vice-chair Dykstra** asked if the new four-plex fields at Tumbleweed will be all softball? Mr. Ohland responded that it will be primarily for youth and under 18 years of age play. Discussion ensued.

**Boardmember Montgomery** asked about parking issues. Mr. Ohland responded that the issue is being reviewed with Special Events staff. Discussion ensued.

**Vice-chair Dykstra** asked if the bonds being used are from what passed this last year. Mr. Ohland responded that yes, these were from the bond issue passed in November 2021.

**Vice-chair Dykstra** asked if the city ever considered leasing vs. owning fitness equipment. Ms. Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent, responded that leasing offers limited replacement options, and the city owns the equipment.

**Vice-chair Dykstra** asked about repairs at the Sunset Library after the explosion. Mr. Ohland responded that insurance was used to pay for do repairs.

**Boardmember Montgomery** asked about expansion of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Mr. Ohland responded that the request can be forwarded to the library staff.

**Vice-chair Dykstra** asked if there an option on the registration form to donate to Parks and Recreation. Ms. Erika Berry responded that there is an option via online registration to add a donation. Concept will be further reviewed by staff.

## 6. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Vice-chair Dykstra** is very impressed with quality of the instructors at Tumbleweed and the Tennis Center. Additionally, some classes at the Tennis Center are waitlisted but the class attendance is not full. Can we explore how the waitlists are managed? Ms. Berry said we could look at the process. Discussion ensued.

## 7. CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Next meeting will be September 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, **Chairman Johnson** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. **Vice-Chair Dykstra** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Boardmember Montgomery** seconded the motion.

The adjournment was approved 4-0 by **all Boardmembers** present.

  
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Tim Johnson, Chairman

  
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Mickey Ohland, Community  
Services Planning Manager