

# Meeting Minutes

## City Council Special Meeting

September 12, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.  
Chandler Unified School District  
1525 W. Frye Rd., Chandler, AZ



### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Hartke at 5:11 p.m.

### Roll Call

#### Council Attendance

Mayor Kevin Hartke  
Vice Mayor Matt Orlando  
Councilmember OD Harris  
Councilmember Mark Stewart  
Councilmember Christine Ellis  
Councilmember Jane Poston  
Councilmember Angel Encinas

#### CUSD Governing Board Attendance

President Jason Olive  
Board Member Kurt Rohrs  
Board Member Patti Serrano  
Board Member Joel Wirth

#### City Staff Attendance

Josh Wright, City Manager  
Kelly Schwab, City Attorney  
Jennifer Ekblad, Deputy City Clerk  
Michelle MacLennan, Cultural Arts Manager  
Matt Burdick, CAPA Director  
Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager / CFO  
John Knudson, Public Works & Utilities Director  
Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager  
Mickey Ohland, Parks Development Senior Manager  
Andy Bass, Deputy City Manager  
John Sefton, Community Services Director

#### CUSD Staff Attendance

Superintendent Frank Narducci  
Tom Dunn, Executive Director  
Wendy Nance, Associate Superintendent  
Lana Berry, CFO  
Stephanie Ingersoll, Executive Director

## Presentation and Discussion

1. History of Collaborative Projects
2. Updates to Future Projects
3. Future Opportunities to Collaborate

FRANK NARDUCCI, Chandler Unified School District Superintendent, opened the meeting by discussing the collaboration between the City of Chandler and CUSD. He expressed a desire to review past projects and brainstorm innovative ideas for the future.

MAYOR HARTKE provided comments regarding the performing arts, libraries, pools, and the education system in Chandler. Mayor Hartke emphasized that collaboration is important for the community and expressed appreciation for Chandler's robust education system and athletic programs.

## Discussion

4. Issues of Mutual Interest, including but not limited to: Opportunities for Partnerships, Land Use Planning, Transportation, Facilities, and Future Development.

LANA BERRY, CUSD CFO, presented the following presentation:

- City of Chandler and Chandler Unified School District Current Partnership
- Success = Great Partnerships
  - Recognize the current partnerships.
  - Outline the investments in 85225.
  - Review opportunities for future collaboration
  - Brainstorming session between City Council and Governing Board
- Current Partnerships
- Chandler Center for the Arts

MICHELLE MACLENNAN, Cultural Arts Manager, presented the following slide.

- About the Center for the Arts
  - Opened doors on August 25, 1989, August 2024 Celebrating 35 Years
  - Collaborative Model
    - Jointly owned and operated by the City and CUSD
    - Time of use and shared costs through I.G.A.
    - Monday-Thursday use for CUSD programs
    - Friday-Sunday\* use for City programs
    - Shared costs for O & M, Capital improvements, and shared technical and custodial positions (this often spurs questions)

JOHN SEFTON, Community Services Director presented the following slides.

- ACIC

- City-owned facility in Downtown Chandler leased to and operated by Arizona State University
- There is an ongoing conversation between CUSD and ASU on opportunities to utilize space at ACIC.
- ASU Chandler Innovation Center was established to be a community resource for entrepreneurship and education.
- ASU is working to expand programming with learning and engagement opportunities for a continuum of learners, including K-12 students:
  - CUSD Design and Implementation experiences and teacher training workshops
  - I-Rise Foundation Robotics
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
  - Collaborations with CUSD Department of Counseling and Social Services
  - Mini Grants to School Clubs for Culture Programs
  - Chandler Diwali Festival of Lights
  - Chandler Contigo
  - CUSD Educators' Collaboration Meetings
  - Chandler Celebration of Unity
- Sci-Tech Fest
- School Resource Officers
  - The Chandler Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) program has been recognized as a "Model School Resource Officer Agency" by the National Association of School Resource Officers
  - Currently Officers at all Junior-High and High School Campuses
  - Jointly funded by CUSD and City of Chandler
- Aquatics
  - End of the year elementary school parties in May at Hamilton and Mesquite Groves for 3,449 students
  - Hamilton High School PE and ROTC classes at Hamilton Aquatic Center
  - High School swim team practices and meets.
  - Back to school parties
- Libraries
  - Hamilton High School
    - Circulation 317,526 +8.7%
    - Programs 11,406 student, 10,367 community
  - Basha High School
    - Circulation 200,632 +18.6%
    - Programs 13,541 study, 7,840 community

- Inclusive Recreation
  - Camp Challenge – Sanborn Elementary
  - Special Olympics Track
  - Special Olympics Basketball
  - Wait lists for participation = opportunity to expand at a second location
  - ACP, Hamilton & Basha High
  - Willis Junior High School
- Sports/Recreation
  - City Programs at CUSD Facilities
    - Adult basketball Leagues at Hamilton (3 seasons)
    - Adult Volleyball Leagues at Hamilton High School (3 seasons)
  - CUSD Use of City Facilities
    - High School Cross Country at Tumbleweed Park
    - Elementary School Running Club at Snedigar and Tumbleweed Park
    - High School Sand Volleyball at Chuparosa
    - Pavilion Rentals
- Arbor/Agriculture
  - Cork Oak Tree Propagation
  - Tumbleweed Park and FFA
  - 25 trees planted at Paseo Trail

TOM DUNN, CUSD Executive Director, presented the following slides.

- CUSD Investment in 85225
  - Current Enrollment: 462
  - Future Enrollment: 750
  - Timeline:
    - Sept 2023 – Construction
    - Oct 2024 – Move in
    - Jan 2025 – Project complete
- New Galveston Campus
- Entrance
- Courtyard Viewing East
- Courtyard Viewing South

JOHN KNUDSON, Public Works & Utilities Director, presented the following slides.

- City Investment in 85225
- Public Outreach
  - Summer 2021, Envision Galveston Kicked Off
  - Envision Purpose
    - Empower residents to improve their neighborhoods.
    - ImprovEmpower residents to improve their neighborhoods.
    - Improve the quality of life for Galveston Neighborhood residents.

- Facilitate opportunities for neighbors to meet and develop positive relationships with their local government.
- Provide opportunities for Mayor and City Council to meet neighbors.
- Enhance trust between the city and neighborhood.
- Deliverables
  - Visual representation of residents' goals and dreams for the future of Galveston Neighborhood
  - Survey responses from residents who attended the event, including where they live, what they like most about their neighborhood, and whether or not they visit Gazelle Meadows Park
  - Identify individuals interested in continuing conversations about community visions and collaborating with neighbors to facilitate the next steps.
- Detroit Basin/Gazelle Meadows Park
  - Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain Improvements
- Streetscape Improvement Projects
  - Existing Conditions
- Streetscape Improvement Projects
  - Consultant studied Erie Street from Arizona Ave to McQueen Road for the following items:
    - Existing conditions
    - Traffic Circulation
    - On Street Parking
    - R.O.W. Encroachment
    - Streetscape Improvements Ideas
  - Study made the following recommendations:
    - No additional on street parking is possible on Erie due to R.O.W difficulties and street width. Additional parking will be added to park.
    - Used of stamped asphalt at key intersections to add interest and uniqueness to area.
    - Addition metal art fence along Gazelle Meadows Park
    - Uniform DG will be used from Arizona Avenue to railroad tracks.
    - Install benches with shading.
    - Street re-pavement and ADA improvements
- Streetscape Improvement Projects

JASON OLIVE, CUSD President, asked what Arizona Avenue's direction is.

MR. KNUDSON said West.

MICKEY OHLAND, Parks Development Senior Manager, presented the following slides.

- Gazelle Meadows Park Improvements
- Existing Park Amenities:

- Playground
- Picnic Areas
- Open Space Turf
- Neighborhood Park
- 8.99-acres in size
- Originally developed in 1985/1992
- Serves as a retention basin.
- Existing Park Amenities
  - Keep existing turf.
  - Additional playground equipment
  - Additional shade
  - Outdoor exercise equipment
  - Parking
  - New site furnishings
  - Lighted basketball court
  - Swings
  - Picnic ramadas
  - Skate Plaza
  - Updated landscaping
  - ADA improvements
- Central Activity Area
- Park Improvement Concept
- Central Activity Area
- Educational Play
- Skate Plaza
- Potential Parking at Galveston
- Current Opportunities
  - CCA – enhancement or expansion
  - Fields & Gym space utilization
  - CARE Center
- The Future is Bright
  - Needs assessment to determine future opportunities for arts expansion beyond CCA.
  - More visual arts programming in schools – Shumay Elementary last year, Knox currently
  - CCA – Multi year Capital Improvements through voter approved Bond.
  - CCA – Backstage dressing room and restroom renovations
  - Joint Use / Development IGA
  - ACIC field trips for schools to learn about STEM and project management.
  - Community Programming
  - Public safety community education pilot in elementary schools

LANA BERRY, CUSD, commented on the need to enhance or expand the Chandler Center for the Arts, utilize space for fields and gym, install lighted fields, and establish a CARE center.

SUPERINTENDENT NARDUCCI praised the city for being a great partner in building a \$3.5 million facility for CARE center.

MS. BERRY indicated the CARE Center operates using grants and serves students with specific needs. They offer classes for family outreach and are located on the northeast side of campus, with access to medical and dental facilities.

VICE MAYOR ORLANDO inquired if the CARE Center is an additional facility to Hamilton.

SUPERINTENDENT NARDUCCI answered that the dental service originally started in two San Marcos classrooms but has since expanded to offer restorative and preventative dental work in partnership with Ascend.

MS. BERRY noted that a nonprofit runs the CARE Center for CUSD and facilitates the medical and dental services.

MAYOR HARTKE provided comments regarding the presentation and facilitated a brainstorming session where the following ideas were suggested by the members present:

- Housing for teachers and support staff.
- Coordinated effort with colleges for housing Chandler Gilber Community College – Williams Field Facility.
- Lighting additional school fields to increase community use.
- Open gyms – piloting the concept for community use at Galveston Elementary.
- Open fields on weekends – increase community engagement with schools and families that jointly use the fields.
- Shared auditorium /gymnasium/event center (downtown).
- Meet transportation challenge/enhance to solve traffic congestion at schools (parent pick-up and drop-off) – expand Chandler FLEX Program.
- Joint study performed on bike pathways to schools.
- New crosswalk technology near school (compared to Arizona Avenue at the crossing mid-town).
- Rethink the partnership for Employee Sick Kid Care with Dignity or Banner Health.
- Public art built into infrastructure.
- More focus on arts collaborations between city and schools
- Collaborate with shared support services such as landscape maintenance including student workforce development (example pilot schools adjacent to city parks).
- Turf projects to conserve water/increase usage/ community engagement.

- Municipality service areas workforce development, internships and apprenticeships (fire/police/city/water works/etc.) A comparison was the COE program of the past.
- Expand awareness of internships
- Expand vocational offerings utilizing community business.
- Plug into the Chamber portal for Internships /apprenticeships.
- CTE expansion into the technical theater specific to Chandler High School and Chandler Center for the Arts.
- Host a joint job fair including City/Chamber/CUSD.
- Council and Boardmember shadowing for civic engagement.
- Paid internships and grants support.

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approval Date of Minutes: October 16, 2023

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of Chandler, Arizona, held on the 12th day of September 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2023.

City Clerk