



**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Madam Chair Dykstra called the meeting to order on Tuesday, March 7th, at 5:00 p.m.

a. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:

Madam Chair Melanie Dykstra
Vice-Chair Tim Johnson
Boardmember Shawn Hsu
Boardmember James Montgomery
Board Member John David

Members Absent:

Boardmember Jegadesan Krishnamurthy

Staff Members Present:

John Sefton, Community Services Director
Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager
Rebecca Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent
Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent
Joshua Adams, Business Systems Support Analyst

2. SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- a.** Casey Hoffer from the South Mountain Dive Club provided information on the Club's partnership with the City to facilitate the learn-to-dive lessons.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **Madam Chair Dykstra** requested approval of the minutes for the October 4, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. **Vice-Chair Johnson** made the motion to approve. **Boardmember James Montgomery** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. ACTION AGENDA

Gazelle Meadows Park Improvements Concept Plan

Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager, provided information regarding the planned improvements at Gazelle Meadows Park. Mr. Ohland stated that the City received approximately \$4 million from American Rescue Plan money to make improvements in the park and the surrounding community.

Board Member Jim Montgomery asked how the funding compared to other improvements. Mr. Ohland stated that the \$4 million is funding two projects in the area. The majority of funding will be allocated to the park. **Madam Chair Dykstra** inquired about how much funding the City had received from the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Ohland stated that the Community Services Department received approximately \$11 million. **Madam Chair Dykstra** asked if there are requirements related to the type of projects that can be funded with the American Rescue Funds. Mr. Ohland stated that the projects are focused on low-income neighborhoods.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if the intent was to make a better connection for youth to access the park. Mr. Ohland confirmed that is the intent. He also stated that a number of people use the park on a regular basis, especially in the morning hours. Mr. Ohland also mentioned a renovation that occurred in 2017, in partnership with Kaboom, to upgrade the playground, lighting, and surface areas.

Mr. Ohland provided an account of how the City pursued public input. He stated that there was an in-person meeting on September 30th, an online survey, another in-person meeting in October at Galveston Elementary, and a meeting with a Galveston Neighborhood stakeholder group. Mr. Ohland provided a list of the top priorities identified from the meetings and survey. He explained that they were to keep as much of the existing turf as possible, a lighted basketball court, more playground equipment, additional shade, picnic ramadas, exercise

equipment, skate plaza, parking, new furnishings, and updated landscaping. Mr. Ohland stated that the items asked for that are not being included are bathrooms, a splash pad, and dog park. He explained that the City takes into consideration the impact that park amenities have on the surrounding neighborhood and was the main reason the listed amenities were being excluded.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if there is parking currently available. Mr. Ohland stated that there is on-street parking but no dedicated parking area.

Mr. Ohland described how the input was used to develop a concept plan. Mr. Ohland explained that the site design includes additional playground equipment and shade, a lighted basketball court, a ramada, and 20 space parking area. Mr. Ohland added that the turf will remain.

Madam Chair Dykstra inquired as to why only one ramada is being installed. Mr. Ohland explained that the park has one currently and the new one would be in addition to that. Mr. Ohland elaborated that typically parks that are of the size of Gazelle Meadows will only have one. Mr. Ohland also stated that they could look at adding another one if need be. He also stated that the shade structures will also serve as a ramada.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if the ramadas in neighborhood parks can be reserved. Mr. Ohland replied that the City does not reserve ramadas in neighborhood parks and that they are only first come, first serve with regard to use.

Boardmember Hsu asked if the turf was going to be artificial or natural. Mr. Ohland responded that the turf would remain natural and that there would be improvements to the irrigation.

Boardmember Montgomery asked if the City has received any feedback on the conceptual design. Mr. Ohland stated that the residents have been very appreciative and that the feedback has been positive.

Mr. Ohland went on to describe that the City will be adding an educational component to the play structures and that the intent is to work with the local elementary school to tie in with their curriculum.

Madam Chair Dykstra stated that typically parking is not provided for neighborhood parks and asked what the justification for including a parking area in the design was. Mr. Ohland stated that the parking area was requested by the

local residents. He stated that the neighborhood is a bit different in that there is very little residential parking and that consequently, the residents end up using the on-street parking normally used for park patrons.

Boardmember David John asked about the expected timeline. Mr. Ohland stated that if the recommendation to the Community Services Director is approved, the City would start on the construction documents which would be ready by April 2024. At this point, construction could begin and take 6 to 8 months to complete.

Boardmember James Montgomery made a motion to approve recommendation for Director approval. **Vice-Chair Tim Johnson** seconded. None opposed. The motion was approved.

Rotary Club – Got Bottle Caps? Program Presentation

Community Services Director, John Sefton, introduced Stephen Phair, representing the Sun Lakes Rotary Club.

Stephen Phair provided information and background regarding the Sun Lakes Rotary Club's Got Bottle Caps initiative. Mr. Phair explained that the group collects bottle caps to recycle. They then recycle materials to use the proceeds as donations to Hispanic children's cancer centers. Mr. Phair explained that the Club is looking for a place to place a large metal caged hearts that hold bottle caps to be recycled. The Rotary Club has four of them at the moment and would like to place at least one of them in Chandler. Mr. Phair stated that the Rotary Club would prefer to place it at Snedigar Park due to its close proximity to the Sun Lakes Rotary Club. He stated that the cost of the hearts is \$800 and the Sun Lakes Rotary Club will be absorbing those costs as well as covering any additional costs for the placement.

Boardmember James Montgomery asked how the Rotary Club plans on keeping trash out of the hearts. Mr. Phair stated that there will be educational material explaining the purpose which would hopefully deter people from putting trash in. Mr. Phair explained that the company that maintains the hearts will take the trash out.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked how the cost of maintenance is addressed and if one hundred percent of the proceeds go to charity. Mr. Phair stated that the proceeds completely go to the charity and that by sponsoring the hearts, the Sun Lakes Rotary Club pays for all maintenance costs out of their budget.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if there has been any feedback about the donations being for charities outside of the United States. Mr. Phair stated that there has not.

A discussion ensued regarding the desired placement of the hearts.

Boardmember David John asked Mr. Sefton if there have been any partnerships similar to this with the City of Chandler. Mr. Sefton explained that not too long ago the City had partnerships with philanthropy groups such as the Chandler Lions Club. Mr. Sefton went on to describe that in this instance, the City would most likely look to enter into a licensing agreement that would address insurance requirements and other like items.

Madam Chair Dykstra expressed some concern about using a public space to facilitate the benefit of a non-Chandler entity and more specifically one located outside the United States. **Madam Chair Dykstra** also stated that it might set a precedent. A discussion ensued and a suggestion was made to postpone a recommendation for a future meeting.

Madam Chair Dykstra made a motion to postpone the action. **Boardmember James Montgomery** seconded the motion. None opposed, and the motion to postpone was approved.

5. DISCUSSION / BRIEFING

a. Tumbleweed Park Diamond Field Project Groundbreaking Ceremony

Mickey Ohland provided information on the groundbreaking for the softball fields. Mr. Ohland stated that the ceremony would be Saturday, March 11th, at 10 a.m. and asked who planned on attending.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. None

7. CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Tumbleweed Park Diamond Field Project Groundbreaking Ceremony
- b. The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11th 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room
- c. Juniors Tennis Open, March 3 - 5

- d. Senior Expo at the Community Center, March 8th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- e. Aquatic Family Season Pass Sale, March 11 – 26
- f. Sonoran Sunset Series at Veterans Oasis, March 16th 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- g. Race to Ace Tennis Ball Scavenger Hunt, March 20 – 26
- h. Chandler Jazz Festival, March 30th - April 2nd

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, **Madam Chair Dykstra** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. **Boardmember James Montgomery** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Boardmember Shawn Hsu seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.



Melanie Dykstra, Madam Chair



Mickey Ohland, Community
Services Planning Manager