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PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Madam Chair Dykstra called the meeting to order on Tuesday, May 2nd, at 5:00 p.m.

a. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:
Madam Chair Melanie Dykstra
Vice-Chair Tim Johnson
Board Member Shawn Hsu
Board Member James Montgomery
Board Member John David
Board Member Jegadesan Krishnamurthy
Board Member Sue McInturf

Members Absent:
None

Staff Members Present:
John Sefton, Community Services Director
Jeff Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Senior Manager
Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent
Joshua Adams, Business Systems Support Analyst

2. SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

a. None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Madam Chair Melanie Dykstra requested approval of the minutes from the April 19th, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board special meeting. **Board Member Montgomery** made a motion to approve. **Board Member Krishnamurthy** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. ACTION AGENDA

a. Parks and Recreation Board Chair Election

Madam Chair Dykstra explained the process of electing a Board Chair and Vice Chair per the Parks and Recreation Board rules and stated that the 2023 election would occur at this meeting. **Board Member David** made a motion to re-elect **Madam Chair Dykstra as Chair**. **Board Member McInturf** seconded the motion. No discussion was had. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Parks and Recreation Board Vice-Chair Election

Madam Chair Dykstra called for a motion to elect a Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. **Board Member Krishnamurthy** made a motion to re-elect **Board Member Johnson** as Vice-Chair. **Board Member Hsu** seconded. No discussion was had. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Madam Chair Dykstra brought up the topic of scheduling additional meeting dates to receive supplementary information and presentations. **Madam Chair Dykstra** suggested including meeting dates in the months of August and April. **Madam Chair Dykstra** explained that this would allow the opportunity to meet in, and tour, other locations as well as make it less complex to add meetings to the calendar. She described that it’s less challenging to cancel a scheduled meeting than it is to schedule a special meeting.

Vice-Chair Tim Johnson stated that he opposed adding August. **Board Member Montgomery** stated that with the number of upcoming projects, excluding August would leave a large gap in time.

Board Member McInturf inquired if any of the other Board Members already knew they would be out of town in August and stated that she would not be present for an August meeting if the motion passed. **Madam Chair Dykstra** stated that she would be out of town soon after the August meeting if approved.

Vice-Chair Johnson stated that in the past, the Board had met every month, and, in that instance, it seemed as though there was not a large number of agenda items to warrant the frequency. **Madam Chair Dykstra** stated that the Board wouldn't meet unless there were agenda and action items to meet about. She also stated that it would allow the opportunity to bring in additional information and presentations.

Board Member Hsu stated that if the Board needed a special meeting it could always be added. **Madam Chair Dykstra** stated that it would be easier to cancel a meeting on the calendar than to schedule a special meeting that is not on the calendar. **Madam Chair Dykstra** explained that this is due to the dates being published and creating a special meeting requires a ratification to include the additional date.

Board Member McInturf mentioned that since there were several new projects it would be advantageous to add the meeting dates. **Vice-Chair Johnson** inquired about new upcoming projects. **Recreation Superintendent, Erika Berry,** stated that the Tumbleweed Recreation Center Expansion, new pickleball courts, softball fields at Tumbleweed Park, and a couple of Park renovations are projects slated for the near future.

Board Member Montgomery made a motion to approve the additional meeting dates in the months of August and April. Board Member Hsu seconded. Vice Chair Johnson was opposed. The motion passed with a count of 6-1 in favor of the motion to add meeting dates in the months of August and April.

d. Tumbleweed Ranch Master Plan - Jody Crago

Museum Manager, Jody Crago, presented information on the Tumbleweed Ranch Master Plan.

Board Member Montgomery asked if there were two historic buildings at the current location. **Mr. Crago** stated that there were four.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if the plan still included a splash pad based on the conceptual design provided. **Mr. Crago** stated that there would not be a splash pad and that the area in the conceptual design will be designated for play structures instead.

Madam Chair Dykstra inquired if the multipurpose space can be rented. **Mr. Crago** stated that they have in the past and plan to do so in the future. **Mr. Crago** also stated that the rentals are and would be facilitated by the Museum Foundation.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked how many acres are included in the site. **Mr. Crago** stated that there are 20 acres.

Madam Chair Dykstra inquired about water conservation and the types of vegetation on site. **Mr. Crago** stated that the grass on site has always been flood irrigated and there are no plans to change that at this time. **Mr. Crago** explained that the site is still to be designed and during the design phase is when that type of decision would be made.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if the trees in the conceptual design are current edible citrus trees. **Mr. Crago** answered yes. **Madam Chair Dykstra** inquired about what the City does with the citrus fruit. **Mr. Crago** stated that the general public can pick the fruit.

Board Member McInturf stated that there is an agricultural club at one of the local High Schools and asked if they used the area too. **Mr. Crago** answered yes.

Board Member Hsu inquired if cotton was grown at the location. **Mr. Crago** answered yes and one of the purposes of the site is to show the various types of crops grown in the region throughout the year.

Madam Chair Dykstra commented that if the plan is to add more fruit trees or crops the City should research using the yields for local food banks or congregate meal programs.

Board Member Montgomery asked if there were plans to include restrooms on the property. **Mr. Crago** stated that there would be restrooms even though they are not included in the conceptual design.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if there would be collaborations with the Special Events Division. **Mr. Crago** stated that since the Special Events Division resides in the same Department as Museums, the two Divisions would be collaborating to provide services and programming.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if a large-scale event was conducted would the City anticipate the Park not being used for anything else. **Mr. Crago** stated that there have been events with approximately three thousand participants that have not required the closure of the surrounding park space.

Board Member Hsu inquired if there were any plans for a community garden. **Mr. Crago** stated that the City has tried a community garden at the location in the past with unsuccessful results and as such had no plans to incorporate one in the future.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked for a motion to endorse the concept development Tumbleweed Ranch Master Plan as presented. **Board Member McInturf** proposed the motion to endorse. **Vice-Chair Johnson** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION / BRIEFING

a. Tumbleweed Recreation Center Expansion Update - John Sefton

Community Services Director, John Sefton, presented information on the Tumbleweed Recreation Center Expansion project.

Mr. Sefton stated that the expansion will be split into two phases due to budgetary restrictions. **Mr. Sefton** explained that the first phase will include the multi-generational, multi-functional programming space and the second phase would include the gymnasium. **Madam Chair Dykstra** asked if the City is willing to go out for another bond in the future. **Mr. Sefton** stated that there have been discussions on funding options, however, the City would not jeopardize its triple-A bond rating for additional funding.

Board Member Montgomery asked if the architects addressed the courtyard upgrade. **Mr. Sefton** stated that there were discussions about the courtyard area and an alternate conceptual design was provided. **Board Member Montgomery** commented that he did not understand the need for the nice-looking upgrades but no change to the courtyard. **Mr. Sefton** stated that with budgetary restrictions it all comes down to levels of priorities. **Madam Chair Dykstra** commented that her interpretation of the expansion goal was to expand the usable indoor square footage and redesign the building for more use.

Board Member Montgomery inquired about how the expansion will increase storage. **Mr. Sefton** identified the storage areas within the conceptual design.

Board Member Hsu asked why the storage areas were not located near the gymnasium. **Madam Chair Dykstra** commented that the new storage appears to be for other functional areas that are being added in the expansion.

Mr. Sefton explained that the City realizes the need for additional space and are making efforts to establish relationships with local schools and other organizations **Board Member Montgomery** inquired about the use at the Boys and Girls Club facility that is owned by the City. **Madam Chair Dykstra** inquired about the type of agreement the City has with the Boys and Girls Club for the use of the facility. **Mr. Sefton** stated that the City has an operating agreement. **Mrs. Berry** stated that the

City can use the facility after hours and that the City has provided programming there in the past but is not offering any evening program at this time.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked if the City had any agreements with the schools for use of field space. **Mr. Sefton** stated that the City uses Andersen and Bogle Junior High fields and owns the field lighting. **Madam Chair Dykstra** mentioned that a good topic for a future meeting would be information on the City's Inter-Governmental Agreements.

Board Member McInturf asked if the Tumbleweed Expansion would replace the Senior Center. **Mr. Sefton** stated that the intent of the expansion is not to replace any current facility and that operations at the Chandler Senior Center would continue as is for the foreseeable future.

Board Member David asked if there were any estimates regarding the additional foot traffic due to the Tumbleweed Expansion in relation to the costs associated. **Mrs. Berry** stated that there was no such study conducted.

Board Member Hsu asked if there are plans to increase the parking capacity for the expansion. **Mr. Sefton** explained that according to the City code, the current parking capacity meets the needs of the expansion.

b. Recreation Facilities Operational Hours - Erika Berry

Recreation Superintendent, Erika Berry, presented information on the operational hours for the Recreation Division's six centers. The centers include Tumbleweed Recreation, Community, Senior, Nature, Tennis, and Snedigar Recreation.

Madam Chair Dykstra asked how the City get its participation numbers. **Mrs. Berry** stated that depending on the center, the City uses various methods which include activity enrollment, memberships, door counters, and key fob swipes.

Board Member Krishnamurthy asked which day of the week is there the most foot traffic. **Mrs. Berry** stated that most foot traffic is on Saturday.

Board Member Hsu stated that if the facility closes at 8:00 p.m. people who are there close to 7:30 p.m. see that the facility is closing and might leave earlier than they would have if the facility was open until 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. **Madam Chair Dykstra** stated that according to the data provided, participation was low during the evening hours after 8:00 p.m.

Board Member David asked if there have been customers requesting that the hours' change. **Mrs. Berry** stated that they have had one customer submit customer feedback for the hours to be extended. A discussion ensued in reference to additional capacity with partnerships, community needs, and changing demographics.

Board Member Hsu asked how many customers filled out the survey from which the data was provided. **Mrs. Berry** stated that the survey was sent to all membership holders and that approximately 400 out of 3,400 members responded. **Board Member Hsu** asked if there are plans to continue to survey. **Mrs. Berry** stated that City staff do one each quarter.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Mrs. Berry introduced the Parks Operations and Maintenance Senior Manager, Jeff Larsen.

7. CALENDAR ITEMS

Events and Activities

- Dive In Movie: Luca, May 6, 2023, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. - Hamilton Aquatic Center, 3838 S Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85248
- Military Bound Graduate Ceremony - May 9, 2023, 6 p.m. - 7 p. m. - Chandler City Hall, 175 S. Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85225
- You Look Marvelous Fashion Show - May 13, 2023, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85225
- Senior Prom - June 9, 2023, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Chandler Community Center 125 E. Commonwealth Ave, Chandler, AZ 85225

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, **Madam Chair Dykstra** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. **Vice-Chair Johnson** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Board Member Montgomery** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Melanie Dykstra, Madam Chair	Jeff Larsen, Park Operations and Maintenance Senior Manager