

November 04, 2025 | 5:00 P.M. PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair David called the meeting to order on Tuesday, October 7, at 5:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Chair John David

Vice Chair Melanie Dykstra

Board Member Lynette Bradley

Board Member Jegadesan Krishnamurthy (arrived at 5:06 P.M.)

Board Member Sarah Sharits

Board Member James Montgomery

Board Member Sue McInturf

Members Absent:

None

Staff Members:

Erika Berry, Becky Kuiper, Ariana Atwood, Erika Hanson, John Sefton, Tyrone Allen, and Joshua Adams

UNSCHEDULED/SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. Recreation Superintendent Becky Kuiper introduced Erika Hanson, the new Adaptive Recreation Coordinator.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. *Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2025, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.*

Board member Montgomery moved to approve the October 7th, 2025, Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes, and **Board member Krishnamurthy** seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously, 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

3. None

DISCUSSION

4. *Community Services Donations (Memorial, Dedicatory, Commemorative) Program*

Vice Chair Dykstra presented research from several municipalities regarding their memorial programs. She observed that cities often limit programs due to long-term space, maintenance, and infrastructure challenges. Examples of emerging alternatives, including virtual memorials and memorial art pieces, were also discussed. Staff will return with formal recommendations.

5. *Future agenda items for consideration*

Board members discussed topics and agenda items for the upcoming year. Items included:

- City Code revisions
- Park Ranger utilization
- Regulations for motorized scooters and e-bikes
- Benefits of new Frye Rd. bike lanes
- Reuse potential for closed school sites
- Review of the Community Services Department IGAs
- Mesquite Groves development timeline
- Clarification on land east of Tumbleweed pickleball courts
- City Manager hiring timeline
- Evaluation of new program performance
- Recreation & Library Master Plan timeline

6. *WISH Program – Ariana Atwood*

Recreation Specialist Ariana Atwood provided a detailed overview of the WISH Program, an annual holiday initiative supporting seniors who are homebound, isolated, or on fixed incomes. Seniors complete a personal questionnaire describing their interests and needs. Volunteers, serving as anonymous “Secret Santas”, are matched with seniors and provide personalized gifts, handmade items, or thoughtful cards.

Ariana noted that participation continues to grow, with more than 150 seniors involved last year and 56 already enrolled this season. Many volunteers are City staff, senior center participants, or community members who assist with wrapping and delivery. Quilting groups also contribute handmade blankets. Ariana emphasized that gifts need not be expensive; thoughtful gestures and human connection are the heart of the program. Board Members expressed strong support.

7. Parks Operations – Tyrone Allen

Parks Superintendent Tyrone Allen presented an expanded overview of the Parks Division. The division has 73 staff assigned across nine geographic maintenance crews, a specialized repair crew, a sports field crew, and the Urban Forestry Program. Staff maintain approximately 70 parks totaling more than 1,500 acres, 100 playgrounds, 60 athletic and multi-use fields, skate parks, dog parks, spray pads, lake areas, and numerous landscaped public spaces.

Daily responsibilities include grounds maintenance, turf management, irrigation repairs, restroom servicing, trash collection, graffiti removal, athletic field preparation, playground equipment checks, trail inspections, and event support. Tyrone noted that irrigation repairs and seasonal demands are among their most time-intensive responsibilities.

Tyrone stated that major contracted services include large-scale mowing, restroom cleaning, herbicide applications, and landscape maintenance in certain areas. He also mentioned that the Urban Forestry Program, led by ISA-certified arborists, recently completed the City’s first comprehensive tree inventory using Open Tree Map, identifying health conditions, risks, and priority projects. A five-year pruning and tree care plan is also underway.

Mr. Allen mentioned that playgrounds receive biweekly inspections, and an independent certified safety contractor performs annual comprehensive evaluations. Tyrone also highlighted the water conservation partnership with

SRP, which includes irrigation audits and targeted repairs to promote long-term efficiency.

8. Tumbleweed Recreation Center Participation

Recreation Superintendent Erika Berry provided performance data for the Tumbleweed Recreation Center. Passholder numbers remain steady, with minimal fluctuation despite previous construction impacts. The expanded Senior Saguaro Social Club has seen a significant increase in repeat visitors and monthly participation.

Erika stated that personal training has grown rapidly, supported by a team of 7-9 trainers who maintain strong engagement with patrons. TRC continues to operate seven days per week using a combination of full-time and extensive part-time staff who support programs, rentals, front desk operations, and the fitness floor. Facility rentals and leisure programming remain in high demand.

CALENDAR ITEMS

9. The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held February 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Nozomi Aquatics Center, 250 S. Kyrene Rd.
10. Chandler Golf Challenge, November 7 at Bear Creek Golf Complex, registration required
11. Military Appreciation Breakfast, November 7 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Community Center, registration required - Veterans only please
12. Woofstock, November 15 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Tumbleweed Park
13. Sonoran Sunset Series "StarAlliance," November 20, "What's Left," December 18, and "Pick & Holler," January 15 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Veterans Oasis Park
14. Concerts in the Courtyard Series, November 21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Community Center
15. Turkey Swim, November 27 from 5:30-7:30 a.m. at Hamilton Aquatic Center
16. Parade of Lights & Tree Lighting, December 6 from 4:30-9:00 p.m. in Downtown Chandler

FUTURE ITEMS

17. Library & Recreation Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting will be held in early December, location and time to come.

ADJOURN

Board member Montgomery moved to adjourn the November 4th Parks and Recreation Board meeting, and **Vice Chair Dykstra** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

John David, Chair

Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent