

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

Regular Meeting

April 7, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.
Chandler City Council Chambers
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair David at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair John David
Vice Chair Melanie Dykstra
Board Member James Montgomery
Board Member Lynette Bradley
Board Member Jegadesan Krishnamurthy
Board Member Sue McInturf
Board Member Sarah Sharits

Absent

None

Staff Attendance

Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent
Luke Cerré, Management Analyst
John Sefton, Community Services Director
Corey Povar, Comm. Svcs. Assistant Director
Rebecca Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent
Chris Smith, Recreation Superintendent
Brandon Putman, Parks Superintendent
Ryan McCartney, Urban Forester
Zane Perleberg, Recreation Coordinator
Kaitlyn Anders, Recreation Aide

Unscheduled Public Appearances

Recreation Superintendent Rebecca Kuiper introduced new staff members Zane Perleberg and Kaitlyn Anders to the Board.

Consent Agenda

1. **March Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**
Move Parks and Recreation Board to approve the meeting minutes of the March 3, 2026 regular meeting.

Vice Chair Dykstra motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Board Member Krishnamurthy. Motion carried 7-0.

Briefing

2. **Urban Forestry and Rights-of-Way Landscaping** – Brandon Putman, Ryan McCartney

Staff provided an overview of right-of-way landscaping and the City's Urban Forestry Program, including maintenance responsibilities, service level classifications, and a shift toward more sustainable landscape practices.

Staff also highlighted the City's urban forestry efforts, including management of approximately 25,000 trees, use of a GIS-based inventory system, and ongoing programs such as public education, community tree planting, and grant-funded canopy expansion in underserved areas.

Board questions included:

- Use of alternative landscaping (e.g., metal features) in areas where irrigation is not feasible or where site constraints exist
- Opportunities to expand public education, including making pruning guidance and best practices more accessible
- Methods for reporting maintenance concerns, including use of City tools and coordination with code enforcement when responsibility is unclear

3. **Recreation and Library Master Plan Update** – John Sefton, Community Services Director

Moved to the beginning of Briefing per Chair David

Mr. Sefton provided an update on the Recreation and Library Master Plan, including development of a comprehensive community engagement strategy and upcoming outreach efforts.

Planned engagement includes a statistically valid survey, stakeholder meetings, and use of an online tool to gather location-based feedback. Staff will also conduct internal engagement and utilize data tools to better understand facility usage and community needs.

The Master Plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026 and will serve as an actionable guiding document for future planning and decision-making.

Board questions included:

- Survey design, including how to capture input from residents who do not currently use City facilities or programs
- Outreach approach and whether to assess alternative service providers used by residents
- Benchmarking against peer cities, including staffing and service levels
- How priorities will be identified and incorporated into the final plan

4. **Board Member Appreciation – Melanie Dykstra**

Staff recognized Vice Chair Melanie Dykstra for her 11 years of service on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Ms. Dykstra served multiple terms as both Chair and Vice Chair and contributed to a wide range of Board initiatives, including policy recommendations, park and facility planning, and community programs. Her leadership and engagement supported thoughtful discussion and informed decision-making on key Parks and Recreation matters.

Staff highlighted her involvement in major projects and community efforts, as well as her role in representing the Board at City events.

Board members and staff expressed their appreciation for Ms. Dykstra's dedication and contributions to the City of Chandler.

Member Comments/Announcements

None.

Calendar

5. The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held May 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago St.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.