

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

Regular Meeting

August 4, 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 Montgomery at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair James Montgomery
Vice Chair John David
Board Member Sue McInturf
Board Member Sarah Sharits
Board Member Julie Trujillo

Staff Attendance

Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent
John Sefton, Jr., Community Services Director
Corey Povar, Comm. Svcs. Assistant Director
Rebecca Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent
Chris Smith, Recreation Superintendent
Julie San Miguel, Management Assistant

Absent

Board Member Lynette Bradley
Board Member Jegadesan Krishnamurthy

Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

Consent Agenda

- May Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**
Move Parks and Recreation Board to approve the meeting minutes of the May 5, 2026, regular meeting.

Board Member McInturf motioned to approve consent agenda Item No. 1; seconded by Board Member Trujillo. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **May Master Plan Meeting Minutes**

Move Parks and Recreation Board to approve the meeting minutes of May 19, 2026, special meeting.

Board Member Trujillo motioned to approve consent agenda Item No. 2; seconded by Vice Chair David. Motion carried 5-0.

Action Agenda

3. **Schedule Regular Meeting for September 8, 2026**

Move Parks and Recreation Board to hold the next Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. located at the Chandler Community Center, 125. E Commonwealth Avenue, Chandler, AZ.

Board Member Sharits motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Board Member McInturf. Motion carried 5-0.

Briefing

4. **Bear Creek Golf Course Briefing**– Adam Erspamer, Bear Creek Golf Course

Adam Erspamer, General Manager of Bear Creek Golf Course, provided an overview of the facility, including current operations, recent improvements, community partnerships, and future initiatives. Highlights included:

- Bear Creek serves golfers of all ages with both an 18-hole championship course and an executive course.
- The facility is on pace to exceed 100,000 annual rounds, a record for the course.
- Recent improvements include renovations to the driving range, new golf carts, expanded practice areas, bunker improvements, and new course restrooms.
- Community programming includes youth golf, school partnerships, PGA Hope, Special Olympics, family golf programs, and fundraising tournaments.
- Future goals include expanding family programming, increasing community events, and continuing facility improvements.

Board discussion included questions regarding:

- Annual rounds compared to other golf courses.
- Hours of operation.
- Partnerships with Chandler schools.
- Revenue sources and cost recovery.
- Wildlife on the property.
- Long-term lease and partnership with the City.
- Future programming and continued community engagement.

Staff noted that Bear Creek operates under a public-private partnership and continues to generate revenue while providing recreational opportunities for Chandler residents.

5. **Department Updates and Announcements** – John Sefton, Jr., Community Services Director

Mr. Sefton provided the following updates:

- Mesquite Groves Park Phase 1a design continues to progress. Staff reviewed updates to the park layout, playground concepts, lake, sports fields, parking, and future phased development. Groundbreaking is anticipated later this year.
- Foley Park and Pool Renovation design has begun, with community outreach planned as concepts are developed.
- Lantana Ranch Park design is underway and will primarily focus on sports fields while remaining within available funding. Progress on the AJ Chandler Park renovation, which remains on schedule for portions of the project to open in December.

Erika Berry, Recreation Superintendent reported a successful summer season, including:

- Registration opening for fall programming.

Chris Smith, Recreation Superintendent reported a successful summer season, including:

- Significant improvements in pool safety, with rescues reduced from 117 during the same period last year to 21 this summer.

Becky Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent reported:

- Registration opened for the Chandler Golf Challenge tournament at Bear Creek.

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

Mr. Sefton provided the following updates:

- More than 500 responses have been received through the online survey.
- The statistically validated survey has been completed.
- Public engagement continues through the online Idea Wall, social media, focus groups, and facility assessments.
- Staff expects to present recommendations to the Board later this year before bringing the Master Plan to City Council during the first quarter of next year.
- Board members discussed continued community outreach and encouraging residents to participate in the planning process

Member Comments/Announcements

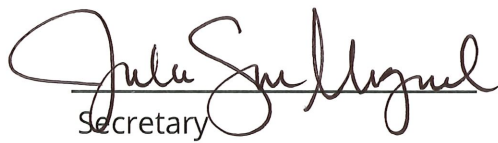
Board member Trujillo congratulated staff on voter approval of the Chandler General Plan.

Calendar

7. The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held September 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. located at the Chandler Community Center, 125 E. Commonwealth Avenue, Chandler, AZ.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.


Secretary

Chair