

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

Regular Meeting

September 8, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.
Chandler Community Center
125 E. Commonwealth Ave., 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 Sarah Sharits
Board Member Lynette Bradley
Board Member Jegadesan Krishnamurthy
(remote)
Board Member Sue McInturf
Board Member Julie Trujillo

Staff Attendance

John Sefton, Community Services Director
Luke Cerré, Management Analyst
Chris Smith, Recreation Superintendent
Rebecca Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent
Teofilo Ruiz, Recreation Supervisor

Absent

None

Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

Consent Agenda

- August Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**
Move Parks and Recreation Board to approve the meeting minutes of the August 4, 2026 regular meeting.

Vice Chair David motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Board member Sharits. Motion carried 7-0.

Briefing

2. **Community Center Programs & Tour** - Teo Ruiz, Recreation Supervisor

Moved to the end of Briefing.

Mr. Ruiz provided an overview of the Chandler Community Center and its role as a multi-purpose facility serving residents of all ages through classes, drop-in recreation, youth and teen programs, City meetings and training, facility rentals, and community events.

Highlights from FY 2025-26 included 2,876 youth and teen visits across program and event types, 817 participants and attendees associated with the Youth & Teen Art Show, 350 participants at the Mental Health Summit, and 308 attendees at Courtyard Concerts. Facility rentals generated approximately 18,850 attendees across 120 permits.

Mr. Ruiz also highlighted the Community Center's partnerships, its use for weddings and cultural celebrations, and the upcoming 40th anniversary celebration scheduled for November 19, 2026. Board members toured program, rental, kitchen, courtyard, and other facility spaces.

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

Mr. Sefton reported that community engagement for the Recreation and Library Master Plan remains underway, including outreach at youth sports activities and other community locations. Staff and consultants continue to gather feedback on residents' experiences with recreation programs and library services.

Staff also presented a potential capstone project to Arizona State University's Master of Public Administration program to support the next phase of youth sports research. The proposed work would include surveys of league administrators, coaches, and parents regarding field reservation practices, affiliation requirements, and potential policy updates.

Surveys remain open while additional analysis is completed. Staff anticipate presenting Master Plan recommendations to the Board in January or February 2027 before proceeding to Mayor and Council.

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

Staff provided the following updates:

- Parks crews have been responding to recent storm damage involving trees, shade structures, and other park impacts while preparing facilities for fall sports.
- The Pima Park playground replacement is progressing, with a grant acceptance item anticipated for an October City Council meeting.
- Mesquite Groves design is approximately 90 percent complete. Hunter Contracting is on board as construction manager at risk, with an October item anticipated for initial RWCD-related construction and a final guaranteed maximum price targeted for early 2027. A formal groundbreaking is also planned.
- The City did not reach agreement with the initial design team for the Folley Park and Pool renovation and has retained Kimley-Horn to continue the project.
- Staff attended the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association annual conference, which had record attendance of 711. Chandler staff participated in multiple presentations and sessions covering boards and commissions, leadership, programming, policy, CAPRA accreditation, artificial intelligence, and communicating the value of parks and recreation.
- The Native Plant Oasis at Veterans Oasis Park received the APRA Natural Resources Award. Staff plans to present the project to the Board at a future meeting.
- Aquatics reported an 83 percent reduction in rescues under the Swim Safe 48 initiative, which emphasizes height screening, shallow-water restrictions, and close adult supervision for children under 48 inches. The aquatics program also reached its 10,000th swim lesson registration milestone.

Member Comments/Announcements

None.

Calendar

The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held 10/6/2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Chandler Tennis Center, 2250 S. McQueen Rd.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.