

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Regular Meeting

Present: Anthony Taddei, Chair
Brian Culbreth, Commissioner
Brian Faith, Commissioner
Susan Fix, Commissioner
Christoph Gerz, Commissioner
Adam Schwartz, Commissioner

Absent: Andrea Phillips, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Tricia Kramer, Community and Recreation Services Director
Kyle Ames, Public Works Director
Patrick McCoy, Sports Coordinator

I. Call to Order

The meeting was held in the City Hall Conference Room and called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairperson Taddei. To watch the complete recording of the meeting, [click here](#).

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Taddei.

III. Call to the Community

There were no requests to speak.

IV. Response to Call to the Community

There were no requests to speak during the January 12, 2023 regular meeting.

V. Business**A. Approval of Minutes****MOVE TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 12, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.**

MOVER Commissioner Christoph Gerz, SECONDER Commissioner Brian Culbreth

AYE: Chair Anthony Taddei, Commissioner Brian Culbreth, Commissioner Brian Faith, Commissioner Susan Fix,
Commissioner Christoph Gerz, Commissioner Adam Schwartz

6 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

B. Yard of the Quarter Selection

Discussion was held regarding the nominations received for Yard of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2023. The Commissioners agreed to move forward with selecting a home for recognition. Voting is to be completed by February 24, 2023. The winning home will be confirmed at the March 9 Regular RPG Meeting.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE NOMINATIONS FOR YARD OF QUARTER FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023.

MOVER Commissioner Adam Schwartz, SECONDER Commissioner Susan Fix

AYE: Chair Anthony Taddei, Commissioner Brian Culbreth, Commissioner Brian Faith, Commissioner Susan Fix, Commissioner Christoph Gerz, Commissioner Adam Schwartz

6 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

C. Orange Tree Painting Volunteer Project

Public Works Director Kyle Ames informed the Commissioners that local Scout troops recently contacted him about community service opportunities. In past years they volunteered to help paint the City's orange trees. This was a fun and successful community beautification project that some of our RPG Commissioners also helped with. Discussion was held. The Commissioners agreed to hold a tree painting event the weekend of March 18 and 19, 2023. Staff and Commissioners will reach out residents and local schools, churches, troops, and service organizations to enlist volunteers. Moving forward, this will be an annual event held the third weekend in March each year.

MOVE TO HOLD A TREE PAINTING EVENT ON MARCH 18 & 19, 2023 AND FURTHER MOVE TO MAKE THIS AN ANNUAL EVENT ON THE THIRD WEEKEND IN MARCH MOVING FORWARD.

MOVER Commissioner Brian Culbreth, SECONDER Commissioner Adam Schwartz

AYE: Chair Anthony Taddei, Commissioner Brian Culbreth, Commissioner Brian Faith, Commissioner Susan Fix, Commissioner Christoph Gerz, Commissioner Adam Schwartz

6 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

D. Pickleball Courts at Scout Park

Commissioner Fix has been approached by several residents about the lack of pickleball courts in the City. She compiled a list of West Valley pickleball courts for the Commission's reference. There are pickleball courts at The Wigwam for members. There are also pay-to play pickleball courts at the Rec Center. However, there are no free public pickleball courts in Litchfield Park. Commissioner Fix believes that Scout Park would be an ideal place to install at least two pickleball courts. Discussion was held about proposed plans for Scout Lodge and Litchfield Square that should be taken into consideration. Commissioner Culbreth would like Camelback Park to be considered as a possible location. Public Works Director Kyle Ames offered to research the space needed and costs involved with installing four pickleball courts. No action was taken at this time.

E. Trees at Tierra Verde Lake Park

Commissioner Gerz told the Commission he suspects that some of the trees at Tierra Verde Lake Park are being impacted by waterfowl roosting. He wants to know if his suspicions are correct and if there is anything that can be done about it. Public Works Director Kyle Ames informed the Commission that nonmigratory cormorants are the waterbirds causing the problems. This is an ongoing issue, so Director Ames reached out to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. They informed him there is nothing effective that can be done. Mr. Ames offered to reach out to neighboring cities to see if they are having similar problems and, if so, what they are doing about it. No action was taken at this time.

F. Converting Grassy Common Areas to Desert Landscaping

Commissioner Gerz wanted to know if the Commission should come up with a policy outlining the conditions that would lead to an open space being converted from grass to desert landscaping. Commissioner Gerz suggested that the criteria include the survivability of existing trees, as well as proximity to other grassy areas. The policy could also take into consideration future water restrictions imposed by the State. Discussion was held. The Commission would like to know if this is something they should pursue. Staff will follow up with the City Manager and report back to the Commission. No action was taken at this time.

VI. Staff Reports

A. Public Works Monthly Report

Mr. Ames reviewed his report with nothing further to add.

B. Community and Recreation Services Monthly Report

Ms. Kramer reviewed her report. She added that the online signup form for the April 22 Community Garage Sale has opened. She encouraged the Commissioners to pass this information along to interested residents.

VII. Commissioners Report on Current Events

Commissioner Faith reported that he attended several of the City's recent special events and was impressed with them.

VIII. Topics for Referral to City Council

There were no topics for referral.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

MOVER Commissioner Christoph Gerz, SECONDER Commissioner Brian Culbreth

AYE: Chair Anthony Taddei, Commissioner Brian Culbreth, Commissioner Brian Faith, Commissioner Susan Fix,
Commissioner Christoph Gerz, Commissioner Adam Schwartz

6 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

APPROVED:

RECREATION AND PUBLIC GROUNDS COMMISSION

Anthony Taddei, Chair

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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Kramer, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Recreation and Public Grounds Commission of the City of Litchfield Park held on February 9, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Tricia Kramer, Staff Liaison