

DRAFT



PARKS, ARTS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers/Library Auditorium
7401 E. Skoog Blvd., Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314, at 5:00pm

MEETING MINUTES September 8, 2026

Present: Zachary Moss, Chair
Eric Tetreault, Vice Chair
Wynndi Dahlin, Secretary
Kay Gorman, Commissioner
Scott Byrum, Commissioner
Denis Weber, Commissioner
Sharon Tooley, Commissioner
Cynthia Strick Auringer, Commissioner

Absent: Tim Griffin, Commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chair Zachary Moss called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Zachary Moss asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Hearing no changes, Commissioner Denis Weber made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Kay Gorman seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously by those members present.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026 - Consideration & Possible Action (Approve) [Lindsey Double, Administrative Specialist II]

Chair Moss asked for a motion to approve the June 9, 2026, regular meeting minutes as written.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Scott Byrum seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously by those members present.

5. SCHEDULED ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMISSION, PUBLIC, AND STAFF

(If discussion by the Commission is necessary, that item will be moved to another place on the agenda and considered separately.)

- a. Staff Introduction - Mitchell Richardson, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director

Mitchell Richardson introduced himself as the new Parks & Recreation Deputy Director. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and Aquatic Facility Operator with 17 years of experience in Oklahoma, where he oversaw recreation centers and aquatic facilities. Richardson also has experience in strategic planning and organizational operations. He expressed his enthusiasm about joining the team and his excitement about the opportunities to accomplish great things in the community through parks and recreation.

- b. Parks and Recreation Update

Parks & Recreation Director Deputy Director Richardson reported the following: *(Note: For complete details on the update, a copy of the slide presentation is attached.)*

June Numbers Update:

- 32 activities, with 5,730 participants.
- Aquatics: 5,399
- Specialty Programs: 7
- Creative Arts: 30
- Nature & Outdoors: 94
- Performing Arts: 35
- Sports & Fitness: 165

July Numbers Update:

- 34 activities, with 6,082 participants.
- Aquatics: 5,188
- Specialty Programs: 37
- Creative Arts: 24
- Nature & Outdoors: 23
- Performing Arts: 33

- Sports & Fitness: 777

August Numbers Update:

- 34 activities, with 2,375 participants.
- Aquatics: 1,324. Richardson noted that the decrease in attendance was due to the pool closing in August.
- Specialty Programs: 0
- Creative Arts: 42
- Nature & Outdoors: 20
- Performing Arts: 44
- Sports & Fitness: 945

Special Events Update:

- Red, White, and Boom took place on July 4th. Estimated attendance at the Civic Center Campus and surrounding areas was approximately 22,770. Twenty-two premium canopy spaces were sold for \$1,100, and Beer Garden net sales were \$3,860.49.
- Movies Under the Stars: August 7, *Zootopia* at the Theater on the Green, approximately 120 attendees; August 28, *Zootopia 2* at the Theater on the Green, approximately 150 attendees. Upcoming movies include *Wonka* on September 12 at the Pronghorn Athletic Field and *Hocus Pocus* on October 17 at the Quailwood Athletic Field.
- Music on the Green: August 15, Scott Marshall & the Free Radicals at the Theater on the Green, approximately 350 attendees. Upcoming performance: October 10, The Offbeats of Prescott at the Theater on the Green, 4:00–7:00pm.
- Fall Fest (formerly Harvest Festival): Saturday, October 3, from 11:00am–4:00pm. The event will feature fall-themed activities, live performances, market and food vendors, and a zip line.

Aquatics Update:

- Post-Season Attendance: Open Swim – 662 (342 adults, 320 youth); Lap Swim – 144 (119 adults, 25 youth); Aqua Aerobics – 330.
- The pool is now closed to the public and will remain available for the Bradshaw Mountain Swim Team through the remainder of its season.

Specialty Programs Update:

- June and July programs included Field Days at the Park.
- Upcoming Programs include Starry Night, S'mores, and More.

Creative Arts Update:

- Candle Making: Four sessions were held with 9 participants on June 12, 7 on June 24, and 8 and 5 participants on July 25.
- Painting in the Parks: June 17 session had 10 participants and was sold out; August 5 had 9 sign-ups with instructor Tom Blank; August 15 had 3 sign-ups with instructor Nicole Nealy; and August 28 had 10 participants and was sold out.
- Fine Arts Showcase: On display at the Library from July 25–September 6, featuring 7 artists and 23 total pieces.
- Upcoming Programs: Floral Candle Making – September 16 and September 26, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; Painting in the Parks – September 9, Acrylics with Nicole Nealy, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; Handmade Hangout – September 4, Painted Farmer's Market Tote Bags, 5:30–7:00 p.m., and September 12, Beaded Sun Catchers, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Nature & Outdoors Update:

- June, July, and August Programs: U of A 4-H Co-Op Camp Partnership – June 29–July 1, Animal Encounter Class at James 4-H Camp Mingus; Animal Hour – June 17, KB Birthday Bash, sold out with 60+ guests; June 24, Craft Time, 5 participants; July 8, 25 participants; August 5, 10 participants; PV Trekkers – June 6, National Trails Day, 35 hikers; June 20, Beat the Heat Fain Hike, 7 hikers; August 8, Granite Basin, 10 hikers; Nature Niños Partnership – July 11, 90 participants; and Camp Shark Week – July 13–17, 30 campers, the first PVPR camp, which was sold out.
- Upcoming Programs: September 9 – Animal Hour; September 12 – PV Trekkers, Constellation Trail; September 22 – National Wildlife Day Animal Hour.

Performing Arts Update:

- June, July, and August programs included Guitar, Bass, and Ukulele; Latin Beats & Retro Rhythms; Piano Lessons for all ages; and Beginner and Advanced Hula.
- New Program: Brazilian Drum Line – Tuesdays, September 9–29.
- Instructor recruitment is ongoing, and interested instructors may contact the Parks and Recreation main line at 928-759-3090 for additional information.

Sports & Fitness Update:

- June, July, and August Programs: Programs and activities included Summer Adult Volleyball (24 teams), Wednesday Night Volleyball Open Gym, Pitch, Hit, and Run, Adaptive Sports Expo, Total 360 Karate (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced), Total 360 Pilates, Yoga and Balance, Total Body Conditioning, and BeMoved. Athletics participation totaled 165 in June, 777 in July, and 945 in August.
- Projects and Upcoming: Fall field allocation is complete. Upcoming projects and activities include scoreboard replacements, Fall Adult Softball and Volleyball, and gymnasium improvements.

Marketing Update:

- June Statistics: Instagram – 33 new followers, 3,131 total; Facebook – 92 new followers, 6,517 total.
- July Statistics: Instagram – 32 new followers, 3,163 total; Facebook – 149 new followers, 6,666 total.
- August Statistics: Instagram – 8 new followers, 3,171 total; Facebook – 135 new followers, 6,801 total.

Volunteer Update:

June:

- Boards & Commissions: 0
- Adopt a Park: 38
- Recreation Programs: 15

July:

- Boards & Commissions: 0
- Adopt a Park: 44
- Recreation Programs: 293

August:

- Boards & Commissions: .25
- Adopt a Park: 43

- Recreation Programs: 14

Facility Rentals Update:

June: 124 room rentals, 62 ramada rentals, and 400 field rentals

July: 188 room rentals, 58 ramada rentals, and 237 field rentals

August: 169 room rentals, 28 ramada rentals, and 428 field rentals

Parks Update:

Director Robert Kieren reported on recent multi-use path improvements following the recent rain. On the Lone Cactus MUP from Spouse to Santa Fe, approximately 1,600 linear feet of asphalt was removed and replaced, along with a drainage repair. The work was completed in early August. Director Kieren also reported that approximately 1,300 linear feet of asphalt was removed and replaced on the Central Core MUP from Nace to Robert. He noted that approximately 1,400 linear feet had been completed on Central Core the previous year. The work was completed in early August.

6. DEPARTMENT UPDATE (FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

a. Parks and Recreation Director Update

Director Kieren reported that twelve staff members attended the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association conference, which provided valuable educational sessions, ideas, and opportunities to learn from other agencies. He expressed his appreciation for the association, presenters, and staff who participated.

Director Kieren also provided an update on the upcoming Healing Fields event. Flags will be installed around the Civic Center campus on September 9, with a ceremony scheduled for September 11 at 6:00pm on the Theater on the Green. The flags will remain on display through September 19.

In response to a question from Commissioner Gorman regarding his favorite part of the conference, Director Kieren highlighted several innovative programs presented by other agencies, including an award-winning scavenger hunt program.

b. Chairperson's Report - Welcome New Commissioners

Chair Moss welcomed the Commission's two new members, Sharon Tooley and Cynthia Strick Auringer. Both commissioners expressed their appreciation for Prescott Valley parks and their enthusiasm for serving on the Commission.

c. Tree Advisory Board

Director Kieren reported that the planting season begins in September, with tree replacements planned. Staff will report back to the Commission in October regarding the tree replacements and memorial trees.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Art Acceptance - Consideration & Possible Action (Approve) [Mackenzie Reynolds, Arts & Culture Coordinator]

Arts & Culture Coordinator Mackenzie Reynolds presented three pieces of artwork by artist Gene Galazan for acceptance into the Town's Public Art Collection. The pieces, which had previously been on loan to the Town, include "Blue as the Sky," "Untitled," and "Grazing." Acceptance of the donation would provide the Town with full ownership of the artwork.

Motion by Vice Chair Eric Tetreault, seconded by Commissioner Weber, to accept the donated artwork by Gene Galazan. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Proposed Pronghorn Park Cellular Array - Discussion Only [Bill Koning, Smartlink Group]

Bill Koning, representing Smartlink and AT&T, presented information regarding the proposed cell tower at Pronghorn Park. He explained that the location was selected due to the predominantly residential development surrounding the area and the preference to utilize an existing structure where possible. He stated that the proposal would replace an existing park light pole with a pole equipped with cellular antennas.

Mr. Koning reviewed the proposed location within the park, noting that it would be situated on the far east side of the park, away from other park activities. He stated that the closest residence in Pronghorn Ranch is a little over 400 feet from the proposed location and that the closest residence to the east is approximately 300 feet away. He also described the proposed ground equipment, which would be enclosed by a wall with chain-link fencing.

Mr. Koning presented existing and proposed coverage maps and explained that the proposed tower would improve cellular coverage within portions of Pronghorn Ranch, as well as the area to the east and toward the freeway. He stated that the tower would close a significant coverage gap.

Vice Chair Tetreault asked whether the proposed tower would improve coverage for law enforcement and first responders. Mr. Koning responded that it would. Vice Chair Tetreault also asked whether the proposal involved an existing light pole. Mr. Koning explained that the existing light pole would be replaced with a pole equipped with antennas.

Commissioner Byrum asked about community feedback regarding the proposal. Mr. Koning stated that a community meeting had been held several weeks earlier, with approximately 38 residents attending, and that the majority of those in attendance were opposed to the proposal. He identified health concerns as a significant issue raised by residents.

Commissioner Gorman asked how Mr. Koning responded to the health concerns. Mr. Koning stated that he was not a medical professional and could not address the concerns from a medical standpoint. He expressed his personal opinion that the cell tower would not be unhealthy and noted his experience working with cell towers.

Commissioner Byrum asked how many cellular towers Mr. Koning had installed within the town. Mr. Koning stated that he did not have that information available. He further stated that additional towers would be necessary to accommodate continued growth and increasing demand for cellular service in the area.

9. **UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

(Comments from the Public: Those members of the public who wish to address the Parks and Recreation Commission need not request permission in advance. We ask that you please provide your name and address for the record prior to providing any comments. Any remarks provided tonight shall be added to the Commission as a whole and not any member thereof. Such remarks shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person, as indicated by the timer unless additional time is granted by the Chairperson. At the conclusion of the unscheduled comments, individual members of the Commission may respond to the item addressed at the discretion of the chairperson, or may ask the Director to review the matter or ask that the matter be placed upon a future agenda.)

Public Comment #1: Resident Didi Senk said she understands the need for reliable cell service and is not opposed to improved cellular technology, but expressed concerns with locating the proposed tower at Pronghorn Park. She noted the tower's proximity to the baseball and soccer fields and nearby homes and expressed concerns about its permanent visual impact on the park and surrounding residences. She also raised concerns about potential noise from the equipment and requested that anticipated noise levels and mitigation measures be addressed. Mrs. Senk asked that alternative locations be considered and requested that the Commission not approve the proposed Pronghorn Park location.

Public Comment #2: Resident Von Senk stated that he had submitted a letter to the Commission regarding the proposed cell tower. He expressed concern that residents on Brilliant Sky and Rusty Spur had purchased their homes as premium view lots and paid a premium for those views. He stated that T-Mobile had previously proposed a cell tower at Pronghorn Park and, following community opposition, moved on to consider an alternative location. Mr. Senk expressed concern about the effect of the proposed tower on nearby residences and property views, and referenced the cell equipment located at another park that is visible from his backyard. He stated that alternative sites had been mentioned at the initial meeting regarding the proposal and suggested that open land to the south could be considered as an alternative location.

Public Comment #3: Resident Emilie Christman stated that she is not opposed to wireless service or the need for cellular infrastructure, but questioned whether a public recreation area adjacent to homes and ball fields is the appropriate location. Mrs. Christman stated that the proposed tower would be approximately 350 feet from the nearest home and would change the character of the park. Mrs. Christman questioned whether all reasonable alternative locations had been investigated and noted that an existing communications tower is located less than a mile away. She expressed concerns about the impact on surrounding homes and property values and stated that the Town needs stronger protections for neighborhoods, parks, athletic fields, schools, and other recreational areas. Mrs. Christman requested that the proposed location be rejected and that alternative locations be thoroughly investigated.

Public Comment #4: Resident Joe Hoydis welcomed new Commissioners Cynthia Strick Auringer and Sharon Tooley.

Public Comment #5: Andrew Kolp, a Prescott Valley resident and pharmacist in Prescott, expressed concerns regarding electromagnetic radiation and potential health and property-value impacts associated with cell towers. He stated that cellular construction should be managed thoughtfully and recommended that the Town Attorney consult with Andrew Campanelli, whom he described as a leading Telecommunications Act (TCA) attorney, to help establish a regulatory framework and a long-lasting solution.

Public Comment #6: Resident Kelly Kolp expressed concerns regarding the proposed cell tower at Pronghorn Park. She stated that her family chose Pronghorn Ranch knowing a previous cell tower proposal had been denied and that they valued the area as a place to raise their children. Mrs. Kolp shared personal concerns regarding electromagnetic sensitivity and stated that her family previously moved from the Phoenix area due to health concerns she associated with proximity to cell towers. Mrs. Kolp referenced the Town Code provisions regarding wireless telecommunications facilities and the Town's preference for collocation. She noted existing cell towers near Pronghorn Ranch and stated that she had requested the cell site application but had not yet received it. She requested that further consideration of the proposal be delayed until residents receive and have an opportunity to review the requested records with Andrew Campanelli. She emphasized following due process, reviewing collocation opportunities, and considering locations away from parks and homes.

10. NEXT MEETING

- a. Regular Meeting: October 13, 2026, at 5:00pm, Council Chambers/Library Auditorium, 7401 E Skoog Blvd. Prescott Valley, AZ.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46pm.

APPROVED:

Wynndi Dahlin, Secretary

CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of the Prescott Valley Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission meeting held on _____, 2026. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____, 2026.

Lindsey Double, Administrative Specialist II