

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Peoria Sports Complex – Colonnade
16101 North 83rd Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382
August 15, 2019**

A **Regular Meeting** of the Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened at 16101 North 83rd Avenue in open and public session at the Peoria Sports Complex at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Brent Taylor, Vice Chairman Anthony VanGoethem, Board Member Jerry Johnson, Board Member Judith McHale, Board Member Sharlene VanLuven and Board Member Richard Ward

Members Absent: None

Municipal Officials Present: John R. Sefton Jr., Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director; Chris Hallett, Neighborhood and Human Services Director; Chris Calcaterra, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director; Jake Eason, Neighborhood and Community Parks Manager; Blake Englert, Community Facilities and Recreation Manager; Kathy Sponsel, Architect; Ann Durkin, Architect; and Cathy Foland, Executive Assistant

Audience: Former Board Member Katy O'Grady; Library Board Members Katrina Romijn and Charles Bruen; Adam Hawkins, J2 Design

Note: The order in which the items appear in the minutes is not necessarily the order in which they were discussed at the meeting.

1. Board Member Recognition

Mr. Sefton presented Katy O'Grady a framed list of the Board's major accomplishments during her term, from 2011 to 2019. He thanked her for her valued service and contributions to the Parks and Recreation Board and the City of Peoria.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Board Member VanLuven to approve the Consent Agenda items, including the absences and minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting. Vice Chairman VanGoethem seconded and, upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Memorial Bench Installation at Kiwanis and Pioneer Parks

Mr. Sefton explained that the department has received inquiries from some groups interested in memorial/recognition benches in the parks. Staff is working to create a

standardized approach to accomplish this, with all related proceeds to be donated to the Play Peoria 501(c)3 account.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Taylor made a motion to authorize staff to work with interested representatives to move forward with the process for memorial benches in Kiwanis and Pioneer Parks. Board Member Johnson seconded and, upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. 99th and Olive Avenues Future Trailhead and Park

Kathy Sponsel updated the Board regarding the United States Environmental Protection Agency grant that will allow for the investigation of this 14-acre site for potential redevelopment into a fitness park. The attorneys have reviewed all documentation, and environmental professionals can now proceed to investigate the property, which is a former Glendale landfill from the 1960s. She should have the results of that investigation in February.

In response to a question from Board Member VanLuven, Ms. Sponsel stated they met with some groups early in the process who suggested that park amenities include a loop trail with shaded exercise stations and stairs.

No action taken

6. Country Meadows Park Improvements

Jake Eason, Neighborhood and Community Parks Manager, presented the final conceptual master plan for Country Meadows Park. He outlined the timeline of public involvement and highlighted the planned park amenities, including an "Airnasium" and public art. Park improvements have been aligned with the City initiatives of: Shade, Health and Wellness, Play and Recreation, and Community Involvement.

Mr. Eason stated construction of the improvements is scheduled to begin in spring 2020, with completion planned for late summer 2020.

Mr. Sefton introduced Chris Hallett, Neighborhood and Human Services Director, and explained that Mr. Hallett's staff has been actively engaged with the residents of the Country Meadows area.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Taylor made a motion to endorse the park development concept, as presented, for the Country Meadows Neighborhood Park Improvements. Board Member VanLuven seconded and, upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

7. Sonoran Mountain Ranch Park Improvements

Mr. Eason presented the final conceptual master plan for Sonoran Mountain Ranch Park. He explained the process was very similar to the Country Meadows Park process. He outlined the public involvement process and highlighted the unique features of this park, including shade canopies, inclusive play features and a pole that incorporates climbing features.

Discussion followed regarding park amenities and the useful life of the playground equipment. Mr. Eason stated the existing equipment has a 10- to 12-year replacement cycle, however, he believes adding shade features will potentially extend that to a 12- to 15-year cycle. He presented an animated rendering, prepared by J2 Design, which demonstrated how the park will be shaded throughout the day during winter and summer.

Mr. Eason stated construction will begin in spring 2020, to be completed by the end of summer 2020.

There being no further discussion, Board Member Johnson made a motion to endorse the park development concept, as presented, for the Sonoran Mountain Park Improvements. Board Member McHale seconded and, upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

8. Parks and Recreation Board Ordinance Changes

Mr. Sefton updated the Board regarding the ordinance change that will merge the Library Board with the Parks and Recreation Board. The new Board will likely be called the Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Board. Due to expired terms of the majority of its members, the Library Board can no longer meet, as there are only three current members, two of which are here tonight: Katrina Romijn and Charles Bruen.

The ordinance amendment process is still underway, and input and ideas are welcome. He encouraged both the Parks and Recreation and Library Board members to contact him or Cathy Foland if they have any questions, ideas or concerns. It is possible that both Boards will be dissolved, and members would have to reapply. The item is tentatively scheduled to be considered by Council at its October 1 meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the potential makeup of the new Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Board.

No action taken

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (NON-AGENDA ITEMS): None

UPDATES FROM STAFF: Mr. Eason gave an update on Paloma Park construction. He presented drone footage of the site, noting the location of the lake, multipurpose fields, softball fields and the maintenance shop. He stated the next step is getting water to the site so irrigation can begin. He pointed out that contractors were able to save some of the native plants during excavation, including several Saguaros.

Mr. Sefton stated the Veterans Moving Wall—a half-scale replica of the Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.—will be on display from September 5 through September 9, at Rio Vista Park. The exhibit will be available for viewing 24 hours a day.

Mr. Sefton also mentioned the Honor Wall at the Veterans Memorial at Rio Vista Park. For \$125, any veteran can be honored with their name and service details inscribed on the wall. Approximately 140 orders have been received to date, with the potential for 630 total inscriptions.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Brent Taylor, Chairman

Cathy Foland, Executive Assistant