

**City of Mesa
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, September 13, 2023
TIME: 5:00 PM
LOCATION: 708 W Baseline Road Bldg. #4, Board Room, Mesa, AZ

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that the Mesa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will hold a meeting open to the public at the date and time above.

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair Jacob Martinez; Board Members Troy Campbell; Nina Fader; Robert Ingram; Brent Maldonado; Benjamin Manning; Melanie Narish; Orchidia Peterson; Amelia Romney; Jeff Rush; Michelle Streeter

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM by Chair Martinez

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson- Jacob Martinez, Vice-chair- Troy Campbell, Board members: Benjamin Manning, Brent Maldonado, Nina fader, Melanie Narish, Robert Ingram, Jeff Rush, Michelle Streeter, Orchidia Peterson

Absent: Ameila Romney-Excused

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER – BENJAMIN MANNING

Chairperson Jacob Martinez introduced Ben Manning as the newest member of the Parks Board.

4. PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Election of Chair: Current Chair Martinez nominated Campbell. Campbell accepted the nomination and member Rush seconded the nomination. Member Peterson nominated member Ingram. Ingram accepted the nomination and member Fader seconded the nomination. Candidates spoke on their behalf.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

Campbell was elected as Chair with 9 votes from Chair-Martinez, Vice Chair-Campbell, and members- Manning, Maldonaldo, Fader, Narish, Ingram, Streeter, and Peterson. Ingram received one vote from member Rush.

Election of Vice Chair: Member Peterson nominated member Ingram. Ingram accepted and member Fader seconded the nomination.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

Ayes: Chair-Martinez, Vice Chair-Campbell, and members- Manning, Maldonaldo, Fader, Narish, Ingram, Streeter, Peterson, and Rush.

Nays: None

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2023

Chair Martinez called for a motion to approve the May 10, 2023, meeting minutes. It was moved by member Campbell and seconded by member Maldonado to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 10, 2023.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Martinez, Campbell, Manning, Maldonado, Fader, Narish, Ingram, Rush, Streeter, Peterson

NAYES: None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Moore reported that a public comment was received over the web portal from Robert Tomas. Tomas was present and wished to speak.

Tomas is with AZ Premier Flag Football and lifelong Mesa resident. He expressed concerns with issues that may be affecting other small organizations and his organization including lack of communication concerning field allocations, cancellations of permit dates with short notice, and site supervisors arriving late multiple times which resulted in delayed start times.

Chair Martinez indicated that the Board cannot engage in further conversation since the issue is not listed on the agenda and asked Director Moore to provide updates at a future meeting. Director Moore stated that staff will follow up with Tomas as well.

7. APPOINTMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES SUBCOMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE DATES

Director Moore explained the role of the subcommittee is to go through a detailed review of all fees and charges and benchmarking compared to other community organizations within the valley. The subcommittee makes a recommendation to the board indicating whether or not they are in support of what the staff is recommending.

After discussion, Campbell, Ingram and Martinez volunteered. Rush volunteered to be an alternate. Campbell and Ingram are not available on the 4th of October. Subcommittee Meeting will be Oct 3rd at 5:00 PM.

8. AQUATIC'S PRESENTATION

Courtney Clay- Recreation Supervisor-Aquatics, Overview of Aquatics

Aquatics staff focus on safety, customer service, professional image and customers having fun. The aquatics team consists of 4 full-time staff with one vacancy, 5 part-time specialists and 429 summer staff. The city invests and recruits staff through Jr lifeguard programs, lifeguard training classes, and water safety instructor certification. Aquatics has 3 main programs over the summer: lessons, teams, and public swimming. All 9 pools have swimming lessons for all ages and skill levels. They have recreational sports such as swimming, diving, artistic swimming, and water polo. Public swimming is available 6-7 days/week depending on the pool. Some days they have special events, such as the Blob. Summer 2023 highlights include 8000 swim lesson participants, 254 jr. lifeguard volunteers, 217 private rentals, and 35 special events. This was also a summer of firsts. Private lessons were added to all facilities, reaching full capacity. We offered 3 dive-in movies with over 700 attendees, a FlowRider competition and our first evening swim lessons at Rhodes. Swim lessons ran at 83% capacity overall for the summer. Making Waves, our scholarship program, granted 184 swim lessons and 10 rec team scholarships. SRP, The Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation, and the Hohokams

provide donations to this program. Special events included the Pre-Summer Splash with Mesa Fire at Brimhall, Pachanga at Carson, Dive-in movie at Brimhall, Flow Competition at Rhodes and Freedom Tie Dye Party at Freemont. Off season programming included lap swimming, water exercise classes, Flow Rider League and training classes with spring and fall lessons. Off-season events included: Special Olympics, lap swim, Pumpkin Splash, and lifeguard training. We have 8 Coalition Teams that use our facilities.

Member Ingram asked if there are any pools heated? Recreation Supervisor Clay responded that Kino and Skyline are heated through the winter, and all pools can be heated except Shepherd. Mesa Public Schools is currently paying for the utility expense of heating these pools. Director Moore added that we are in the process of revising that intergovernmental agreement and the city will be taking on that \$1.5 million expense.

Member Martinez asked if there are repercussions if a resident does not show up for lap swim. Recreation Supervisor Clay stated that there are no refunds, but the charge can be transferred to another day.

Member Fader wanted to know the most common age group for swim lessons. Recreation Supervisor Clay answered that it is 3–8-year-olds.

Member Narish was curious how we encourage adults who don't know how to swim and how to approach that nervousness. Recreation Supervisor Clay mentioned offering classes at different times and using instructors who work well with adult learners. Also, the private lessons have helped with nervousness.

9. DIVISION UPDATES

Aimee Manis-Deputy Director of Recreation-Impact of Summer

Adaptive: 104 Camp Fiesta (adaptive summer camp) Wiggles and Giggles participants with hundreds of kids on the waitlist for this specialized camp. 1061 registrants at fitness, sports, and social programs. Camp Carley, our off-site outdoor education program had 60 participants. Current sports being offered are bocce, bowling, swimming, and golf.

Front Desk: The front desk had over 7600 calls and emails resulting in over 14,000 registrations. June and July were awarded 713 fee reduction scholarships.

Aquatics: Aquatics had almost 70,000 people attend public swim and almost 12,000 enrolled in swim lessons and 99% hiring rate for the Junior Lifeguards. The new private lessons were a success.

Park Rangers: Park Rangers visited parks over 7800 times and assisted in getting 50 people off the streets. They assisted in engagement efforts in Pioneer Park by increasing visits there by 125%. Also, the park rangers lead the way in a new statewide consortium at the APRA conference. Park Rangers met with Eagle Scouts to build fish habitats.

Recreation Centers: There were over 68,000 visits to the four rec centers over the summer. New this year was the Dodgeball Tournament between summer camp locations which took place at Eagles Community Center.

Athletics: 52 adult teams this summer. Youth sports added drop-in Futsol and Archery with the Rangers. Athletics had their first job fair with 29 new applicants.

Recreation: Fun and fitness at Pioneer Park has been successful so far. Youth program volunteers gave over 23,000 hours of service. School day-based summer camps were at

capacity with a wait list, and there was a new camp app introduced this year to facilitate communication with families.

Member Fader asked about the rationale over tennis times change which Deputy Director Manis explained are due to seasonal changes after Labor Day.

Member Manning asked about camps and why there are waitlists which Deputy Director Manis stated were due to not having additional staff to increase capacities.

Member Martinez asked whether the morale at Pioneer Park is shifting. Deputy Director Manis responded that the goal is to reduce negative and increase positive interactions. The new programming focus at Pioneer is making a positive impact.

Member Rush asked about the storm damage at Shepherders Park with a tree down and how it relates to the Million Tree Climate Action Plan and the parks connection? Director Moore stated that we try to maintain inventory by replacing downed trees. We add trees when we can and when there is available funding.

Member Martinez asked if there are plans to do outreach at other parks besides Pioneer. Deputy Director Manis stated that they hope to replicate it in the future.

Director Moore speaking on behalf of Luis Ruiz-Deputy Director of Commercial Facilities

We are continuing to see increased revenue and staffing at both the Convention Center and Amphitheatre. The Post venue was behind schedule but now has a ribbon cutting scheduled for November 2nd. The Special Events office was launched in October 2022 to support citywide events. So far, they have produced and supported 21 events. Their upcoming Celebrate Mesa will be in October. Dobson Ranch Golf Course has added more time in between starts for better spacing of groups. Tracer golf continues to be a huge draw on the driving range.

Member Rush asked if golf fees are part of the subcommittee. Director Moore responded that there are.

Brandon Erno- Deputy Director of Park Planning and Operations

Monterey Park Expansion is going well with a ribbon cutting planned for October 28th. Red Mountain Park expansion has been planted with grass. Pickleball courts at the Mesa Tennis and Pickleball Center will be completed within the next month. Signal Butte is in phase II design and is over budget. Countryside dog park expansion has not started design yet. Mountain Vista Trail has a contract with construction starting this winter. Reed Park playground improvements are out to bid. Aripine and Whitman Park improvements are in early design stages with more to come. Eastmark will be a new recreational site with 20 acres which will be court heavy with play equipment, a ninja warrior course and exercise equipment.

Member Campbell asked if there was discussion about taking over Bell Bank Park which is a private park. Director Moore stated that Mesa is not pursuing that property.

10. DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

September 12th Storm Damage update: There was quite a bit of damage in Northeast Mesa. Falcon Field had a roof blown off the WWII hanger, doors blown in on hangers, and additional damage on all hangers. Crews are working on cleanup of Falcon Field Park which is closed for now. Red Mountain Park's softball fields had a light blown over; backstop fences

folded in half. Many trees were lost. Closures are posted on the website.

Potential 2024 Bond Discussion- The City is beginning a discussion on whether to put a bond question on the November 2024 ballot to include Parks and Rec, Museums, and Library facilities. We worked through the PRCF Master Plan to develop the list of projects that were sent out for this meeting. We are still developing scope and then Council will weigh-in on what they are comfortable with proceeding with. Pools-There is a gap in service in Southeast Mesa that a potential pool at Eastmark High School could fill. Another possibility is replacing Fremont Pool with a Red Mountain Aquatic Center. A Central Mesa community center is another possibility which could include a library. The West Mesa properties to add to the park system, playground renovations, irrigation improvements, and sports courts renovations all address current gaps in service. The development of the Red Mountain BLM property east of the Red Mountain Freeway is on the proposed list. A parcel on Mountain and Adobe is on the plan for adding a neighborhood park. Lehi Sports Complex Phase II has space for an open park area and Basins 114, 115 and 116 along Elliot Road at Crismon Road is proposed as a sports complex. Additional amenities are proposed to be added to Countryside Park as well.

Member Ingram asked about typical bonds that have passed in the past. Director Moore said that we have not had many, but we had one in 2012 for \$70 million and again in 2018 for \$111 Million.

Member Fader asked if there were other departments in the 2018 bond ballot. Director Moore replied that there were other departments on those bonds.

Mesa Sprint Triathlon is Saturday, September 23, 2023. It is at Skyline and is the main fundraising event for the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation. They are sold out but are still looking for volunteers.

Celebrate Mesa is Saturday, October 14, 2023

11. REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR EVENTS ATTENDED

Campbell attended the Celebration of Freedom and enjoyed it.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 8, 2023.

13. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED: 10-0, motion by Chair Martinez; second by member Ingram. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.