

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

DATE: Wednesday, May 10, 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; Vice-Chair Troy Campbell; Board Members Nina Fader; Robert Ingram; Nycole Leyba; Brent Maldonado; Melanie Narish; Orchidia Peterson; Amelia Romney; Jeff Rush; and Michelle Streeter

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm by Chair Jacob Martinez

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Jacob Martinez; Troy Campbell; Board Members Nina Fader; Robert Ingram; Nycole Leyba; Brent Maldonado; Melanie Narish; Orchidia Peterson; Amelia Romney; Jeff Rush; and Michelle Streeter

Absent: None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board member Nycole Leyba motioned to approve the March 8, 2023 minutes, and Board member Amelia Romney seconded the motion.

Upon tabulation of votes it showed:

AYES: Jacob Martinez; Troy Campbell; Board Members Nina Fader; Robert Ingram; Nycole Leyba; Brent Maldonado; Melanie Narish; Orchidia Peterson; Amelia Romney; Jeff Rush; and Michelle Streeter

NAYES: None

Absent: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

5. PARK RANGER'S PRESENTATION

Park Ranger Supervisor Brett Burton gave a presentation overviewing the Park Ranger division. In 2021 six additional Park Rangers were hired bringing the total number of Park

Rangers to twelve for the department. With the additional Park Rangers the number of park visits increased tremendously. By having more Park Rangers patrolling the parks on a more consistent basis, there was a decrease in criminal activity in the parks. A lot of what the Park Rangers are dealing with is the homeless population. The Park Rangers collaborated with the Community Court program where many citations for homeless individuals directed because it is less punitive than regular court. The City of Mesa also has a program called Operation off the Streets in cooperation with Community Bridges. Community Bridges assesses whether resources are available and appropriate to make a hotel room or shelter bed referral. Pioneer Park, Kleinman Park, and Riverview Park are where Park Rangers focused a majority of their efforts to help the homelessness population. The Park Rangers are a front line leader in the yearly City of Mesa Hydration Program. They were able to hand out over 10,000 bottles of water from May 2022 – September 2022 to those experiencing homelessness in and around the parks. Because of this initiative, 33 Fire and Medical calls were generated in 2022 for individuals experiencing some level of heat exhaustion.

Park Ranger Mike Whitney gave an overview of Outdoor Educational Programs that the Park Rangers offer. The Low Stakes Camping program teaches some primitive skills such as building a fire, fire safety and setting up tents. Scorpion Night Hikes are free drop-in programs where Park Rangers help participants look for scorpions. They discuss how to be safe while hiking and not to handle scorpions. The Park Rangers partnered with Mesa PD to put on the Cops and Bobbers fishing clinic to teach kids how to fish. The Park Rangers also built habitats to help the fish population stay healthy in the City of Mesa lakes. The Park Rangers have partnered with We Run Mesa to join the kids in some work outs and to give some educational speeches. The Park Rangers partner with the City of Mesa Youth Sports to teach archery to kids ranging in age from 8-12 years old.

Board member Melanie Rush asked how the programs are marketed. Park Ranger Burton stated that the programs are marketed through social media and the ActiveNet system.

Board Member Jacob Martinez asked if there is any data on the success rate with the Community Court system. Park Ranger Burton stated that the Community Court process is working very well with a 75% success rate.

Board member Melanie Rush asked if other Cities are doing Community Court. Park Ranger Burton stated that other Cities are coming to the City of Mesa to learn about the Community Court process.

6. DIVISION UPDATES – Planning & Operations, Recreation, Commercial

Deputy Director Aimee Manis gave an overview of the Recreation Division:

Adaptive Division has 491 registrants in sports and social programs. April was Autism Awareness month and the Adaptive Division had an increased presence on social media showcasing Mesa programs. On May 13, 2023 the Adaptive participants will partake in a fashion show that is sponsored by Kohls. Desert Challenge games are happening May 24-28th, and ten different countries will be represented during the games.

Front desk/ registration/ reservation has hired a new Office Supervisor. Summer registration began in mid-April and over 13,000 registrations have been processed so far for summer

programs. The revenue generated from registrations since April 1, 2023 is over \$500,000. The Mesa Recreation Scholarship is being used by 269 families for summer programs.

Aquatics has hired 81 new lifeguards and are getting ready to open the pools for the summer. The pools have sold 329 family swim passes generating \$49,350. Spring classes concluded and served 262 registrants.

Park Rangers had 2000 park visits in the month of April, and held a successful camping program and fishing clinic at Eastmark in partnership with Mesa PD.

Webster Recreation Center held its Spring Carnival with 400 guests and is starting a new drop-in pickleball program. Jefferson Recreation Center has reached its max capacity of 100 participants for its after-school program. The Red Mountain Center is beginning a renovation to create a new Teen Space, and Eagles Community Center has received new fitness equipment.

The Mesa Tennis Pickleball Center court rentals are up 10% from April of last year. Field rentals are up with over 37,000 visitors in April. Adult Sports league teams have increased by 7% in softball, volleyball and Flag Football. The Youth Sports summer camp is 90% full.

The Fun-N-Fitness program began a pilot program at Pioneer Park to increase neighborhood engagement. Through all the Fun-N-Fit locations, there were almost 800 participants in the month of April. Teen Leadership Training participants held their interviews for summer camps.

Deputy Director Luis Ruiz gave an overview of Commercial Operations:

The Convention Center & Amphitheater revenues for 2023 will surpass earned revenue from 2022. Sales staff are doing a great job generating business. They are bringing in new clients and repeat customers.

The Post is looking at completion in mid-July of 2023. The Neon Garden is in design phase, and construction is set to begin by the end of the year.

Some upcoming Special Events include the Arizona Celebration of Freedom on July 4, 2023 and Roller Skating Parties June 3 and September 9, 2023.

The Dobson Ranch Golf Course is seeing increased usage, and higher sales.

The Mesa Cemetery is seeing great cost recovery at 125%.

Deputy Director Brandon Erno gave an overview of Park Planning and Operations:

The Monterey Park expansion is going well and is projected to finish September 2023. The Red Mountain Park expansion is going well. The Mesa Tennis and Pickleball Center has begun the installation of eight new pickleball courts and is projected to finish in the Fall of 2023. Signal Butte Park phase II development has a tentative start date of Summer of 2024. Countryside Dog Park expansion is slated to begin in the Summer of 2023. The Mountain Vista Trail construction is slated to begin Summer of 2023. Reed Park playground improvements are slated to begin in Summer of 2023. Aripine Park received a CDBG award

for new play equipment, shade structure and benches. Whitman Park received a CDBG award to make improvements to the park.

7. DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Director Andrea Moore wanted to recognize Board member Nycole Leyba for her time on the Parks Board, and presented her with a parks sign.

Director Moore introduced the new Deputy Director Erin Rosenkrans who will be overseeing Facility Maintenance.

The Parks Foundation sold 822 wrist bands at April's Celebrate Mesa and raised \$4,100.

The Department is going through reaccreditation at the end of May for CAPRA.

Director Moore stated that for FY 2023/2024 some budget adjustments have been presented to City Council. The focus is on providing more park security and engagement.

8. REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR EVENTS ATTENDED

Michelle Streeter attended Celebrate Mesa and Mesa Music Festival

Troy Campbell attended Arizona Anime Expo at the Mesa Convention Center, and visited the Dobson Ranch Golf Course.

Brent Maldonado attended Cops and Bobbers at Eastmark.

Nycole Leyba attended the Police Department's Escobedo Park event, CycloMesa, Celebrate Mesa, Mesa Music Festival, and a STEM event at Porter Elementary School.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Jacob Martinez motioned to end the meeting:, Board member Jeff Rush seconded to end the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm

Upon tabulation of votes it showed:

AYES: Jacob Martinez; Troy Campbell; Board Members Nina Fader; Robert Ingram; Nycole Leyba; Brent Maldonado; Melanie Narish; Orchidia Peterson; Amelia Romney; Jeff Rush; and Michelle Streeter

NAYES: None

Absent: None



ACCESSIBILITY: The City of Mesa is committed to making its public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. For special accommodations, please contact the Board Liaison at 480-644-2269 or AZRelay 7-1-1 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Si necesita asistencia o traducción en español, favor de llamar al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 480.644.2269.