

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

DATE: Wednesday, May 14, 2025
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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Troy Campbell; Vice-Chair Brent Maldonado; Board Members Nina Fader; Marie Johnson; Cali Goldsby; Orchidia Peterson; Krista Rowley; Melanie Narish; Michelle Streeter; and Jeff Rush

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Benjamin Manning

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Member Rush and seconded by Member Narish to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 12, 2025. The motion passed.

Upon tabulation of the votes, it showed:

AYES: Troy Campbell, Brent Maldonado, Nina Fader, Marie Johnson, Cali Goldsby, Orchidia Peterson, Krista Rowley, Melanie Narish, Michelle Streeter, and Jeff Rush
NAYES: None

4. DIRECTOR UPDATE

Board Recognition- Director Moore presented plaques to Orchidia Peterson and Brent Madonado as their terms on the board are ending. She thanked them for their service and for serving two terms on the board. Chair Campbell also thanked them for their service and wished them both the best of luck in the future.

5. HEAR UPDATE AND COMMENT ON FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSED TO BE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025 (See attached proposed changes)

Director Moore stated that due to the outlook of the City budget, we are entering into a second round of fees and charges discussion, with an average increase of about 9% across all programs to be effective starting August 1, 2025. All increases will stay within their range so these increases will not need to go before the City Council for adoption. Our department needs to decrease expenditure from the general fund by \$800,000 out of our total budget of about \$55,000,000. Moore also stated that our participation in programs has skyrocketed,

and we have had to bring on additional staff to support that increase. Our programs recover about 30% of our expenses through fees so with additional staffing we are looking to recover a total of \$1.2 million and recover closer to 50% of our expenses over the next couple of years.

Sr Fiscal Analyst, Alison Walker walked through all the fees and charges that were going to increase effective August 1, 2025. (see attached spreadsheets)

After discussion a motion was made by Member Rush and seconded by Vice-Chair Maldonado to support the increases to the fees and charges effective August 1, 2025, as outlined in the staff recommendation. They also recommended a modification to increase the Beer and Wine Permit Fee from \$33 to \$100 as well as correcting the Hohokam meeting room fee to stay within the range at \$100 an hour.

Upon tabulation of the votes, it showed:

AYES: Troy Campbell, Brent Maldonado, Nina Fader, Marie Johnson Cali Goldsby, Orchidia Peterson, Krista Rowley, Melanie Narish, and Jeff Rush

NAYS: Michelle Streeter

ABSENT: Benjamin Manning

Chairperson Campbell declared the motion carried by majority vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Campbell reported that we had ten comment cards submitted.

1. Natalie Graham-Not Present-Concerns about proposed elimination of Flow Rider Leagues.
2. Andrew Bonas -Present- Would like the re-instatement of advanced court reservations for Gene Autry (MTPC). Andrew stated that his group has been reserving 2-3 courts five days a week for the past 2 years. With the new process, he needs to go in-person to the counter and reserve courts every day, which is extremely inconvenient. Andrew has been in contact with Jason Hendrix and has concerns about the lack of participation of stakeholders and only addressing concerns from staff. He asked for help from the board to get the new process changed and get input from stakeholders from within the community.
3. Sara Bacca-Not Present- Concerns over most activities for children with disabilities being at 6:30 or later. Chair Cambell stated that staff will reach out to her to address her concerns.
4. Dennis Forlenzo-Present- Concerns about needing more shade cover at Greenfield Park to improve sun safety issues. Dennis stated that his concerns had already been addressed by Brandon Erno.
5. Maria Mancinas-Present-Introduction of Washington-Escobedo Heritage Neighborhood at the NE corner of Center and University. Maria stated that she and the community developed an Advisory Committee with a strategic plan outlining 7 different goals to increase quality of life within the neighborhood. Maria invited the board to the community meeting on June 7th to discuss the vacant Washington Activity Center and the possibility of developing it for a place to meet, play, learn and work.
6. Jillian Ryan-Present- Concerns about the Park Rangers and ask for accountability and termination of all park rangers that have violated the City's code of conduct. She also requested a public statement detailing all the investigation findings.

7. Wes Doetsch-Present-Concerns over the court reservations change at Gene Autry. Mr. Doetsch stated that he would like to be able to continue to reserve and rent out 2 courts at a time as he has previously done for the past 3 years.
8. Emily Parker-Not Present-Concerns with MTPC issues regarding communication, drop-ins, and delegation of staff.
9. Kim Choppi-Present- Concerns at Gene Autry and the reservations process. Ms. Choppi stated that she is representing a social group of 65 women who reserve 2-5 courts at a time. They are frustrated with the new process and their inability to reserve courts along with lack of communication and poor customer service.
10. Mary Kyle-Present- Concerns at Gene Autry Park. Mary Kyle is in the same Pickleball group as Kim Choppi and voiced her concerns over the new reservation process, poor customer service and the lack of communication from staff.

7. DIVISION UPDATES – Recreation, Commercial, Planning & Operations (see attached presentation)

RECREATION-Aimee Manis-Deputy Director, Recreation-Participation numbers were shared for aquatics, adaptive, athletics, recreation centers, and youth programs.

COMMERCIAL: Roger Singleton – Deputy Director, Commercial Operations, presented information to summarize events and attendance at the Convention Center, Amphitheater, The Post, Dobson Ranch Golf Course, the Mesa Cemetery along with all the recent and upcoming Special Events.

PARK PLANNING & OPERATIONS – Brandon Erno – Deputy Director, Planning and Operations, presented updates on projects in progress at Carriage Lane Park, Mesa City Plaza, Reed Park, Quail Run, turf to granite conversions and 2024 bond projects.

8. DIRECTOR'S UPDATES- Andrea Moore

- **Park Ranger's Update** - Director Moore stated that there is an active ongoing City investigation so she cannot speak too much on the subject, but the Park Ranger Division has been moved under the Police Department. They will be running that program moving forward. She stated that right now they are assessing the Park Rangers functions, so the rangers are not out in the field much and their phone number is forwarded to the non-emergency police number. Chair Campbell inquired about who would be updating the public on the investigation. Director Moore answered that it would be the Police Department.
- **FY26 Budget Update** – Director Moore will be going back to Council on Monday for a budget follow-up to give additional information about recommendations to cut/reduce certain programs. These programs include eliminating carnivals at recreation centers, closing centers and pools on City holidays and Sundays, eliminating break camps, open gym on Fridays at Eagles and subsidies to Feastivals. Fun N Fit would not run during July and August, and we would eliminate off-season water classes and reduce lap swim or look at full cost recovery for those. Aquatics special events would only be offered during public swim, and we are looking at reducing subsidies to affiliated group pool rentals. We are looking at getting rid of low participation swim lesson sessions and public swim. FlowRider programs would be canceled during the off-season, or we are looking at the possibility of cost recovery for that programming. We are looking at raising fees across the board for youth groups and private rentals. Member Rowley voiced concerns over the difficulty of booking swim lessons online. Deputy Director Manis recommended that she call the front desk for assistance.

- **Washington-Escobedo Update** – Staff will be meeting with the neighborhood residents on June 7th at 9:30 AM to hear thoughts about the activity center that the charter school is vacating.

9. REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR EVENTS ATTENDED

- Member Streeter volunteered at Celebrate Mesa.
- Member Rowley volunteered at Celebrate Mesa and went to Emerald Park and saw all the new trees around the lake that were planted by volunteers.
- Chair Campbell visited Jefferson and Webster Recreation Centers, Quail Run and hosted a party at Shepherders Park.
- Member Narish mentioned how wonderful the pocket map is and heard about families using it to visit all the parks.

Member Rowley questioned why there was a big hole and construction equipment at Emerald Park near the street at Harris close to the freeway. Deputy Director Erno stated that he would investigate it and let her know what is going on there.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2025.

11. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED: 10-0, motion by Member Rowley; seconded by Member Narish. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.