

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

DATE: Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
TIME: 5:00 PM  
LOCATION: 708 W Baseline Road Bldg. #4, Board Room, Mesa, AZ

The Mesa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held 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, Board Members: Nina Fader, Krista Rowley, Marie Johnson, Jeff Rush, Benjamin Manning, and Michelle Streeter

**BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Melanie Narish

**BOARD MEMBERS ARRIVED DURING MEETING:** Vice-Chair Brent Maldonado, Orchidia Peterson, and Cali Goldsby

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Rowley and seconded by Member Rush to approve the regular meeting minutes from September 11, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Troy Campbell, Nina Fader, Krista Rowley, Marie Johnson, Jeff Rush, Benjamin Manning, and Michelle Streeter

NAYES: None

**4. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE FEES AND CHARGES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 15, 2024**

It was moved by Member Manning and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the minutes from the fees and charges subcommittee held on October 15, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Troy Campbell, Nina Fader, Krista Rowley, Marie Johnson, Jeff Rush, Benjamin Manning, and Michelle Streeter

NAYES: None

**5. OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCUSSION ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-26**

It was moved by Member Fader and seconded by Member Manning to open a public hearing to discuss the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-2026.

Director Moore introduced Alison Walker, Senior Fiscal Analyst, and stated that Alison reviewed the Fees and Charges Schedule with the subcommittee and will go over the changes that will be presented to Council with staff recommendations for approvals.

### **Commercial Facilities-**

Hohokam Stadium: Removed high level lighting, Diamondvision from scoreboard rental, forklift w/operator, and lift platform w/ operator from the schedule and added a fee range of \$25-\$50 per hour/per employee for Field Supervision.

Dobson Ranch Golf Course: Added School Use/Partner Use, The Stable Putting and Inrange Course and a Course Buyout option with a range of 0 - \$30,000/day fee range. Director Moore clarified that Paradigm runs the golf course. When the switch was made in 2019, we committed to continue bringing the charges on their schedule forward through this public process. Walker continued explaining that we also removed the one day and monthly pass, we changed the Ranch card to include merchandise, and we added the new Smash Pass and Proshop Merchandise and services.

Convention Center/Amphitheatre/Post: Clarified the hours for overtime. For the Library Green, The Plaza, The Post, the Main and MLK Way parking lots we removed "negotiated" and added actual price ranges for clarification. An internal and partner rate range for the Post and Neon Garden was added as a line item. The dance floor fee was updated to per piece pricing instead of the entire dance floor. A fee range for extension cords was updated to \$25.00-50.00 and the non-tickets events fee range was updated to \$1200-\$15,000. Member Rowley asked if the fee for the extension cords was to purchase them. Singleton stated it is a fee to use them, but since they typically are not returned we're recouping the cost of replacing the cords. Director Moore clarified that there is a low fee to use it and if it isn't returned then they are charged the replacement value.

Walker stated that the estimated total annual fiscal impact is \$30,400 for our Commercial Facilities.

### **Recreation-**

Aquatics: Added a seasonal lane surcharge of \$1.50 per lane/per hour which is a fee to heat the pool September through April.

Parks Miscellaneous: Large Events was updated by clarifying descriptions and adding actual fee ranges. We added the word damage to the cleaning deposit, updated fee ranges and actual fee range for space rental and updated a fee description to add portable restrooms and the stage. A new Event Fee was added with a range of \$.50-\$3.00 per participant/per event. Renting out the ice rink has a new range of \$0-\$3,000 instead of negotiated.

Special Events: Line items were added with ranges for set up/support/teardown and city produced ticketed special events.

Recreation Centers/Gymnasiums: We are increasing the fee range for out of school time programs to \$5.00-\$120.00 for residents and \$5.00-\$150.00 for non-residents. We are

removing line items for the party packages, rooms can still be rented but do not include party supplies.

Mesa Tennis and Pickleball Center (Kleinman included): Added a line item for sand volleyball court rental. Removed individual field names but added “sports complex field and sports complex & courts prep” instead. We removed school field rental rates since those facilities are completely managed by the school districts. We updated the name of Affiliated Youth Groups.

The estimated total annual fiscal impact will be \$59,520 for Recreation.

The combined estimated total annual fiscal impact will be \$89,920 with the new fees starting on April 1, 2025.

Member Fader asked why some of the items and fees discussed in the minutes were not broken out for the tennis center and their leagues. Director Moore explained that the process is to have Council adopt a range. When fees are adjusted within that range it does not go before Council for approval. This is why we take a deeper dive in the subcommittee. The Board’s report and minutes only reflect what we are asking Council to adopt.

Member Rush asked if any of the fees are negotiable for events. Director Moore stated that rentals are different based on variables for each event, but they are not negotiable.

Chair Campbell stated, for the record, that members Orchidia Peterson and Vice Chair Brent Maldonado were now in attendance.

Member Fader asked why the tennis fees did not specify an increase for non-residents, only residents. Director Moore stated that the fees for the tennis leagues on the fee schedule are not broken down into resident/nonresident fees, but they are charged that way within the overall range. This will be clarified in next year’s schedule. Member Fader asked if “snowbirds” are non-residents. Director Moore stated that residency depends on what address is used when registering.

Member Rush asked if we needed to check all of our other programs for resident and non-resident fees and Director Moore stated we have them on all of our recreation programs and this distinction was just missed for the tennis leagues.

Chair Campbell asked for the members that were on the subcommittee to tell how they felt about the fees and charges changes. Member Manning stated that he wanted to thank Alison and the team for their hard work. He said that she answered all questions. The committee agreed that the small shift up in fees is just enough to keep the level of service that we currently enjoy without excluding people because of the cost. Member Peterson explained that there was benchmarking done with other municipalities to make sure the City is staying within range and being competitive with employee pay. Member Johnson mentioned how it showed how the staff really put a lot of thought into the process and trying to keep the costs affordable and accessible.

**6. CLOSE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCUSSION ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-26**

After a review of the staff recommendation and discussion by the Board members, there was a motion by Member Rush to close the public hearing for the discussion of Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Troy Campbell, Nina Fader, Krista Rowley, Marie Johnson, Jeff Rush, Benjamin Manning, Michelle Streeter, Brent Maldonado, and Orchidia Peterson

NAYES: None

**7. TAKE ACTION TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION FEE AND CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-26**

It was moved by Member Rush and seconded by Member Johnson to recommend Council approval of the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Troy Campbell, Nina Fader, Krista Rowley, Marie Johnson, Jeff Rush, Benjamin Manning, Michelle Streeter, Brent Maldonado, and Orchidia Peterson

NAYES: None

**8. UPDATE ON THE CITY CODES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY, INCLUDING URBAN CAMPING, AND DISCUSSION RELATED TO E-BIKES**

Director Moore stated that there have been some recent court cases that changed what municipalities can do to address concerns related to homeless encampments on public properties. There have been discussions with Council's Public Safety Committee which started in September. Staff presented code changes for full Council consideration on Thursday. Director Moore shared that she wants the board to be aware of the code changes that Council is considering for enforcement efforts related to camping and start a discussion about e-bikes. She stated that Mesa City Code is approved by City Council. The Code regulates parks rules and is enforceable by our Park Rangers.

A new case (Grants Pass vs Johnson) went before the Supreme Court in June of this year which established that it is no longer considered cruel and unusual punishment to enforce a camping ban within the City as previously considered under the Martin vs Boise case. Now the City is updating the city code to reflect the new ruling that allows for citations for camping throughout the city, as well as trying to help get people off the streets. The new city code states that an appropriate level of violation for camping is a Class 3 Misdemeanor.

Current code classifies any violation of City Park Code as a Class 1 Misdemeanor. With the change of camping violations to a less severe Class 3 Misdemeanor, it became appropriate to evaluate the severity of all Park Code violations. Thus, the City is updating all the Parks Code violations and reclassifying them as Class 1, 2, 3 or Civil Misdemeanors. If Council approves the updates, the code changes will be in place by January.

Director Moore reiterated that the Park Rangers always start with education before they go to citations. She also stated that their interactions with people experiencing homelessness in the parks have decreased by about 80%. This is due to the increase from 5 to 16 Park Rangers. They are very effective in what they do and their added presence at the parks,

plus the Fun 'N Fitness mobile recreation program, has had a positive effect on the park environments.

Member Rowley asked if the City is no longer required to offer shelter beds to homeless people. Director Moore said that the Rangers are no longer required to offer that before writing a citation for camping but that the main goal is to lead with services.

Member Rush ask if camping is defined as being in the park after hours. Director Moore stated that camping is defined as having living accommodations, personal possessions, clothes, belongings with you. It is not just taking a nap in the park. Member Rush asked if there are parks in Northeast Mesa that are harder to enforce. Moore stated there is park land between Brown and McKellips East of the 202 that has had encampments set up there in prior years. Member Fader asked if there were drones that patrolled those areas and Moore said that we just use vehicle enforcement.

Also related to Code changes, Director Moore started a discussion about e-bike usage. The City has not kept up the code as it relates to e-bikes and recreation. Currently e-bikes are not allowed in parks at all, as they are considered motorized vehicles. Moore continued explaining that there are different classes of e-bikes that are already defined in state law and that the City is considering allowing Class 1 e-bikes anywhere non-motorized recreation is allowed. Class 2 would not be allowed except for on canal paths. Class 3 e-bikes would only be allowed where vehicles are allowed. Moore proposed this change and asked for feedback from the board.

Member Rush inquired why a Class 1 would be allowed and why not a Class 2. Director Moore stated that Class 2 would be allowed on the canal paths but not in a park. The intent has always been for non-motorized use within parks. The proposal is to not allow a bike with a throttle near pedestrians for safety reasons. Upon further discussion, Director Moore, said she will propose allowing Class 1 or 2 e-bike in parks and on canal paths as long as they are not causing damage or a dangerous condition. If a rider causes damage or endangers other park patrons, then that would be considered a park code violation. Member Rush agreed that would be preferable. Class 3 e-bikes will still not be allowed in parks or on canal paths.

Member Fader asked if there is already a code for e-scooters. Director Moore stated that e-scooters are not allowed, which is in line with state law.

Member Rowley asked if the park signs will be updated to let people know what is allowed and not allowed. Director Moore stated that there was not a plan to update the signs but there is a QR code for park patrons to reference the full list of park rules.

Chair Campbell asked if there was a decision that needed to be made, and Director Moore stated that this was just an open discussion. Member Streeter stated that she supported the idea of allowing both Class 1 and 2 e-bikes. Member Peterson asked if there was any concern from the Park Rangers as it pertains to e-bike use and safety. Director Moore stated that the Rangers get a lot of resistance when they tell people that e-bikes are not allowed in the parks. They would appreciate having the definitions in place to educate people on the new code.

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

## **10. CEMETERY AND DOBSON GOLF/PARADIGM PROGRAM OVERVIEWS**

Roger Singleton – Deputy Director of Commercial Facilities

Deputy Director Singleton gave a quick overview of the history of the Dobson Golf Course. It is managed by Paradigm Golf Group under a 10-year contract with annual contributions to a facility improvement account which currently has \$1,187,500. The philosophy of the golf course is “You don’t need to be rich to play golf”. Some of the improvement highlights are the InRange System, shade structures, Chayenne short course, the Stable putting course, renovation of restrooms, upgraded lights, new golf carts and 100’s of new trees. Some of the outreach and events include Women’s and Girl’s Days of Golf, Pops and Jr Youth Golf Program, Adaptive Recreation and the annual water donation drive.

Singleton also gave a brief history of the Mesa Cemetery that has been in operation since 1883. They have 12 staff members. They most recently installed an urn garden and increased inventory by 1534 graves with 1484 currently available. Future expansion options include developing the North and South sections and renovation of office buildings. Some of the recent events have been the Royal Air Force Memorial, the Memorial Day Ceremony, the Historical Walking Tour, and the MCSO Memorial. Volunteer activities have included tree planting, marker cleaning, and debris pick up.

Member Goldsby asked what the plans were for the Facility Improvement Account for the Dobson Golf Course. Singleton said that there are joint discussions to decide how it will be utilized for Course investments.

## **11. DIVISION UPDATES – Recreation, Commercial, and Planning & Operations**

**Commercial Operations – Roger Singleton – Deputy Director of Commercial Facilities**

Deputy Director Singleton started by announcing the concert line up at the Amp. Revenue is currently at \$1.2 million for FY25. The Post had a total of 55 events from August to October. The Facility Improvement Study for the Convention Center will be coming in December with recommendations. Special events had some highlights including the Mesa Pow Wow and Celebrate Mesa. Upcoming events include the Turkey Trot, Merry Main Street, Breakfast with Santa, the Santa Express, the MLK Parade, and the Mesa Marathon in February.

**Recreation Division Updates – Micah Bodine – Supervisor of Recreation Centers**

Aquatics: Pumpkin Splash event had two sold out sessions with over 825 attendees. There was \$43,449 in revenue from pool rentals to schools, clubs, parties and Special Olympics. New Sound Bathing meditation classes happened last month, and the pools had over 82,000 visitors in September and October.

Adaptive: The Special Olympics State Swim Meet was held at Skyline Aquatic Center. Hundreds of participants from all over the state attended. TGIF visited Vertuccio Farms pumpkin patch and Adaptive held its first ever ASL class to help participants and volunteers communicate with our deaf participants. They organized and led the Celebrate Mesa Sensory Zone activities.

**Park Rangers:** Conducted 9 Ride-A-Longs with community leaders last month. Outdoor education programming included a fishing clinic with 125 attendees. Archery classes began with new offerings on Sundays and Rangers organized and lead a successful Celebrate Mesa booth to introduce visitors to archery and fishing skills and share information about outdoor programs.

**Front Desk:** The Registration and Reservation team received a total of 821 calls and 1021 emails. There were 8,820 registrations for programs in October and 277 Ramada Reservations held last month totaled \$21,895.25 in revenue. Staff organized and led successfully creepy activities at the Celebrate Mesa Information booth.

**Recreation Centers:** Webster held a record setting Halloween Carnival with 1300 attendees. Jefferson afterschool program continues to operate at full capacity with over 100 participants each day. Red Mountain Center welcomed over 13,445 visitors last month.

**Athletics:** October was a banner month for field rentals with over \$131,000.00 in rental revenue. New All Girls Flag Football started this fall. Mesa Tennis and Pickleball Center continues to increase court rentals with almost 2,700 court rentals in October!

**Youth Programs:** Fun N Fitness ran the popular tricycle races at Celebrate Mesa and assisted with Tri Center Fall events. They received several hand-made, high-quality lawn games from a dedicated Eagle Scout. Volunteers gave over 700 hours of time supporting City programs in the last 2 months.

### **Park Planning and Operations Updates – Brandon Erno – Deputy Director of Park Planning and Operations**

Deputy Director Erno stated that the Courts at Eastmark should be going out to construction bidding at the beginning of next year. It will include: 4 basketball courts, 2 tennis and 8 pickleball courts, 2 sand and 2 concrete volleyball courts, play equipment areas for ages 2-5 & 5-12, a Ninja Warrior Course, exercise equipment, restrooms, ramadas and an RC course. The estimated construction costs are \$10.75 Million. The Estimated Construction Schedule Project start – Spring 2025 and completion – Winter 2025.

The Mountain Vista Trail is set for completion in the beginning of December. The Fire Fighter Memorial is set for ribbon cutting on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and invitations will be going out once it is solidified. Turf reduction through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of AZ Grant is making progress with a couple of setbacks including vandalism forcing redo of some concrete. There is no date yet set for completion.

Design updates include:

ADA Updates at Quail Run Park – 100% Construction Documents

Construction: Spring 2024 to Summer 2025

Brimhall Aquatic Complex Replaster and Filter Replacement – In Contract with JOC

Construction: Fall 2024 to Spring 2025

Carriage Lane Park Irrigation Renovation & Non-Functional Turf Removal – 100% Construction Documents

Construction: Winter 2024 to Spring 2025

Countryside Dog Park – Design Development

Construction: TBD

Mesa City Plaza Timeline Plaque Relocation – Design Development Complete

Construction: Spring 2025 to Summer 2025  
Signal Butte Park Phase II–90% Design Documents  
Construction: Spring to Winter 2025

## 12. DIRECTOR'S UPDATES – Andrea Moore – Director

Director Moore was very happy to share that the Parks Bond and the General Plan passed, which includes \$160 million in park projects over the next 5 years. Director Moore mentioned Breakfast with Santa is on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> and that Merry Main Street opens Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

## 13. REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR EVENTS ATTENDED

- Member Peterson attended Celebrate Mesa and learned how to play pickleball at Monterey Park.
- Member Manning volunteered at Celebrate Mesa with his wife and attended a concert at the Amphitheater.
- Member Johnson attended Celebrate Mesa.
- Chair Campbell attended Celebrate Mesa, a pickleball tournament at the Mesa Tennis and Pickleball Courts, went to a retention basin for his daughter's soccer team, and various parks for other activities.
- Member Streeter signed up for her first Pickleball lesson in December and her daughter attended a concert at the Amphitheater and Streeter was impressed with the medical attention given to her daughter during a medical situation.
- Vice-Chair Maldonado attended a concert with his daughter. He attended the Dia De Los Muertos festival at the Mesa Arts Center and went to Pioneer Park with friends.

## 14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Chair Campbell asked if anyone would like to meet at City Council Chambers when they open and asked if that could be arranged. All agreed that the opportunity would be appreciated. Staff agreed to check into that possibility.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

**APPROVED 10-0**, motion by Member Streeter seconded by Member Peterson. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.