

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 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 5:00pm by Chair Martinez.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Jacob Martinez; Nina Fader; Robert Ingram; Nycole Leyba; Melanie Narish; Orchidia Peterson; Amelia Romney; Jeff Rush; and Michelle Streeter

Absent: Troy Campbell, Brent Maldonado

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2023

Nycole Leyba motioned to approve regular meeting minutes, Jeff Rush seconded motion.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Jacob Martinez, Michelle Streeter, Nina Fader, Jeff Rush, Nycole Leyba, Melanie Narish, Orchidia Peterson, Robert Ingram, Amelia Romney

NAYES: None

Absent: Troy Campbell, Brent Maldonado

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to speak at the Mesa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) regular meeting on either an item on the agenda or to comment on an issue that is not specifically on the agenda. For agenda items, comments should be relevant to the item being discussed. For more general issues, Board members are not generally permitted to discuss or take action on any matters raised by the public that are not specifically on the agenda. If you are with a group, please designate a spokesperson.

White speaker/comment cards are available to the public and should be filled out prior to the meeting, and then given to the Board Liaison. Those wishing to speak have the choice either to have their comments read aloud or to speak on the matter directly. Speakers: if you choose to speak, your name will be called, and you will be asked to come forward to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

5. TAKE ACTION ON PROPOSED CITY OF MESA CITIZENS BROADBAND RADIO SERVICE COMMUNICATION TOWERS PRESENTATION

Deputy Director Brandon Erno gave an overview of the installation of three communication towers that would provide free Wi-Fi services to residents within the range of the towers. The three locations are Acacia Park, 1663 E Main St, 85203, Pioneer Park, 526 E Main St, 85203, and Reed Park, 1631 E Broadway Rd, 85204. The towers are proposed to be 70' Monopalm installations with 47 faux palm fronds ranging in length from 3'-9'. Resident notices were sent out within a 1,000'-1,200' radius.

Board member Melanie Narish asked how were these three parks selected to have the communication towers. Mr. Erno stated that the parks were selected based off the need within that specific area.

Board member Narish asked what the intent is with the communication towers for services. Mr. Erno stated the main intent is to help those who don't have access to Wi-Fi to gain internet access in low/mod income areas.

Harry Meier with the City of Mesa Department of Information Technology added that the City is providing devices for individuals within range of the communication tower to have in their home for use. Board member Jeff Rush asked how many devices have been distributed. Mr. Meier stated that about 300 of 4000 devices have been distributed.

Board member Jeff Rush asked what the cost of the project is. Mr. Meier stated that the cost was covered by the American Rescue Plan, which was about \$2.8 million.

A concerned citizen who identified himself as Adam asked if there are any health concerns related to the communication towers. Mr. Meier stated that the communication towers are limited in the amount of power they can transmit and that it is a negligible amount. The towers are only able to put out one watt of power per channel.

Board member Orchidia Peterson asked where families can get routers to connect to the Wi-Fi. Harry Meier stated that individuals who live in the proximity of the tower can receive a router from the Mesa Library and schools in the Mesa Public Schools District.

Board member Nina Fader made a motion to approve the location of the three communication towers in the listed parks, Board member Robert Ingram seconded the motion to approve.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Jacob Martinez, Michelle Streeter, Nina Fader, Jeff Rush, Nycole Leyba, Melanie Narish, Orchidia Peterson, Robert Ingram, Amelia Romney

NAYES: None

Absent: Troy Campbell, Brent Maldonado

6. THE CITY OF MESA 2050 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Jeff Robbins, project manager for the City's Development Services Department, gave a brief overview of the 2050 General Plan for the City of Mesa. Mr. Robbins stated that the General Plan sets major policies concerning desirable future physical development. Jeff Robbins opened the floor to the board for any questions.

Board member Jeff Rush asked what kind of opportunities there are with enhancing canals. Mr. Robbins stated that usage of canals is one of the more popular topics with the 2050 General Plan.

Board member Amelia Romney asked who decides the focus of the General Plan. Mr. Robbins stated that it starts with the residents then goes to City Council. Ultimately, the voters will approve the plan in November 2024.

7. RECREATION CENTER, YOUTH AND ADAPTIVE PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Recreation Supervisor Katie DeVenuto, and Recreation Coordinators Katie Paul and Nina Bernardo did a presentation on summer camp offerings for Summer of 2023. There will be eighteen summer camps offered, six full day, and 12 half day camps. There is a summer camp every ten miles within the city.

Full day camps being offered are Summer Escape and Summer Adventure. Both camps are geared towards kindergarten to fifth grade. Both camps run Monday – Friday, the students go swimming, have special guests, and lunch is provided by Mesa Public Schools. Weekly pricing ranges from \$100 to \$132.

Half day camps being offered are Camp Fiesta, Wiggles and Giggles, All Sports and Boredom Busters. These camps run Monday through Thursday. Weekly pricing ranges from \$44 to \$400.

The Teen Leadership program helps bridge the gap between camper and employee by providing training, volunteer work experience, and opportunities to both learn and practice life skills for ages 13-17. Last summer Teen Volunteers contributed over 7,400 hours, and over twenty former TLT's are currently employed with the City.

Adaptive camps that are offered are Camp Fiesta and Wiggles and Giggles. Camp Fiesta is offered for six weeks Monday -Thursday and Wiggles and Giggles is offered for three weeks Monday – Thursday. Camp Fiesta is \$400 for six weeks, but 90% percent is covered by the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities. Wiggles and Giggles ranges in price from \$65-\$130. Board Member Narish asked if there is a wait list since Camp Fiesta is 100% full. Nina Bernardo answered that there is always a waiting list. This past year a new application process was implemented to ensure the level of service and assistance that is being provided meets the need of the participants. Board member Narish asked if there are any plans to expand. Ms. Bernardo stated that they would like to expand to serve more in the City of Mesa. Board member Jacob Martinez asked how the application process works. Ms. Bernardo stated applications are reviewed to determine staffing ratios, campers' needs, and what type of services can be provided based on the amount of staff available for programming.

Some new items that are being implemented into summer camps are My Camp App, Happy Camper Campaign, and ePact. My Camp App allows push notifications to be sent out, parents to have access to calendar of activities, camp photos, newsletters, and camp contacts. The Happy Camper Campaign is a way for people to donate to help campers attend camps. ePact allows for collecting and accessing emergency information electronically for camp participants.

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

Deputy Director Brandon Erno gave an update on the Planning & Operations division. Aripine Park and Whitman Park playgrounds are being recommended to City Council for construction/renovation through Community Development Block Grants. If approved, those grant funds will be available in October 2023.

Deputy Director Luis Ruiz gave an update on the Commercial Division. The Mesa Convention Center is upgrading to a new state of the art booking software. The Post is estimated to be completed in June of 2023. Mesa Amphitheatre has held 14 concerts so far this fiscal year. The Special events office is continuing to host events and staying busy. The Mesa Cemetery opened phase two in February which added an additional 1,534 graves. Paradigm at Dobson Ranch Golf Course continues to do well and has become a great community partner.

Deputy Director Aimee Manis gave an update on the Recreation Division. All areas are heavily recruiting for staff. Little Libraries opened in February, and Park Rangers are partnering with different areas to provide outdoor recreation.

9. DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

- Celebrate Mesa April 15, 2023
- Budget presentation on April 27, 2023

10. REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR EVENTS ATTENDED

Melanie Narish attended I Love Mesa Day.

Nycole Leyba attended Mesa has Heart and a multicultural event hosted by East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Orchidia Peterson visited the new area at the Eastmark Great Park.

Jacob Martinez visited the new area of the Eastmark Great Park.

Amelia Romney attended the Lehi Sports Park grand opening.

Michelle Streeter participated in one of the stakeholder meetings for the Tomorrow's Mesa General Plan update process.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 10, 2023.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Jacob Martinez motioned to end the meeting, board member Nycole Leyba seconded motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Jacob Martinez, Michelle Streeter, Nina Fader, Jeff Rush, Nycole Leyba, Melanie Narish, Orchidia Peterson, Robert Ingram, Amelia Romney,

NAYES: None

Absent: Troy Campbell, Brent Maldonado



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 480.644.5290.