

Minutes
Rio Salado Enhanced Services Commission
April 16, 2024

Minutes of the Enhanced Services Commission meeting that was held on April 16, 2024, at 8:30 am in person at 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281 in the CD – Conference Lobby Room and with a hybrid option through Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Craig Hayton, Com Svcs. Director, Chairman
Tara Ford, President, Director – Public Works
Jarett Brock, Vice President Commission/Area 1 Rep
Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director
Patrick Panetta, ASU Member
Nick Woodruff, Landowner Member 2
Ted Rabban, Landowner Member/Area 3 Rep

City Staff Present:

Michael Martin, Downtown Tempe Authority Member
Ryan Levesque, Dep. Comm. Dev. Dir. of Planning
Mike Baxley, Dep. Comm Dev. Dir of Building Safety
Craig Caggiano, Dep. Mun Util Dir – Water Util
Shawn Wagner, Dep.Com. Svcs. Dir Parks & Rec
Alex Jovanovic, Dep Com Svcs Dir Parks & Rec.
Roger Hallsted, Administration Manager, Comm. Dev.
Sarah Adame, Executive Assistant, Comm. Dev.

Members Absent:

Tom Duensing, Treasurer, Financial Svcs Director
Mark Clouch, At-Large Residential Property Owner
Barbara Haris, Public Member

Guests Present:

None

Meeting convened at 8:31 am

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

January 16, 2024, Regular meeting minutes

Mr. Craig Hayton called for a motion to vote on approval of the regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director, motioned to approve.

SECOND: Patrick Panetta, ASU Member, seconded the motion.

VOTE: Approved 7-0, 2 absent

AYES: Craig Hayton, Chairman, Com Svcs. Director,
Tara Ford, President, Public Works, Director
Patrick Panetta, ASU Member
Jarett Brock, Vice President Commission/Area 1 Rep
Nick Woodruff, Landowner Member 2
Ted Rabban, Landowner Member/Area 3 Rep
Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Tom Duensing, Treasurer, Financial Svcs Director; Barbara Haris, Public Member

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Budget Update – Roger Hallsted

Reviewed the budget's history for this fiscal year, the last three years, and current budget. Reviewed the budget

proposed for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025 that will be going before council for approval in June 2024. The biggest change for next fiscal year's budget is additional security costs. This section of the budget has increased due to providing more security staff and hours of coverage for the lake and the surrounding area. Discussion about moving forward with the new changes for security and how funding will be affected. There are other parts of the budget such as admin and insurance cost that has increased by 15% as well. Additionally, the boat permit revenues have been decreasing over the past couple of years. This next year would be a great time to review the Park Ranger program and the security through the DTA contract.

Mr. Jeff Tamulevich called for a motion to vote a recommended approval

- MOTION:** Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director, motioned to approve.
SECOND: Tara Ford, President, Public Works, Director, seconded the motion.
VOTE: Approved 7-0, 2 absent
AYES: Craig Hayton, Com Svcs. Director, Chairman
Tara Ford, President, Public Works, Director
Jeff Tamulevich, Sec. of the Commission/CD Director
Patrick Panetta, ASU Member
Jarett Brock, Vice President Commission/Area 1 Rep
Nick Woodruff, Landowner Member 2
Ted Rabban, Landowner Member/Area 3 Rep
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Tom Duensing, Treasurer, Financial Svcs Director and Barbara Haris, Public Member

Agenda Item 4 - Town Lake Operations – Craig Caggiano

The lake is undertaking another round of cylinder rehabilitation. The cylinders are aging well. There will be four taken down to be evaluated for resealing and rehabilitation. During this time, five to eight gates will be in operation. We can operate down to three gates, and that is still safe for us. The cylinders will be pulled off from the bottom inside section of the dam in the concrete area. There is ongoing habitation maintenance of this access road that leads down into the concrete area where the spilling concrete area lies. This rehab process occurs every seven to eight years. It helps keep the bottom of the dam area clean and well-maintained, which is highly recommended by the Flood Control. In March 2024, Water Utilities Division reported blue green algae bloom in the lake. It is mostly harmless. It was monitored very closely and screened for toxins by a 3rd party laboratory. The use of the lake was restricted during this period. When we received the results, it was negative for toxin and the lake was reopened for use. Water quality in the lake looks good heading into event season. The quantity has been great this year we received a few deliveries compared to last year when we did not have any deliveries of replacement water. The hope is that after the monsoon season, we won't need any additional deliveries.

The Rio Salado Community Facilities District funds two positions in the Water Division who work with maintaining and working on lake projects. As the lake operations is expanding, staff will be hiring for another position.

Agenda Item 5 – Community Services & Special Events – Craig Hayton, Alex Jovanovic and Shawn Wagner

Currently, there are park ranger positions that are funded through the CFD. Recently, the CFD Lead Park Ranger passed away due to a traffic accident on March 12, 2024, that was non-work related. There have been some transitional outreaches to the community and programs. Park Rangers may be receiving bikes to use around the lake, the CFD, and park areas. Staff is working with management, human resources, and risk management on a policy for park rangers to carry out the functions, and may use Narcan in emergency situations. Staff is still waiting for additional vehicles and computers for the park rangers. The first quarter park ranger report shows that there were 4,677 interactions with the public (?) and 933 CFD related.

Park Ranger Report Details:

- 4,677 proactive
- 282 dispatched
- 186 direct contacts
- 48% leadership direction
- 27% PD
- 11% 311

- 448 warnings
- 374 unsheltered engagements
- 224 dogs off leash
- 161 parking 26 trespass
- 36 urban camping
- 82 connections to services (71 HOPE)
- 244 Handoffs
- 127 parks maintenance
- 49 PD
- 287 Hazards
- 120 drug paraphernalia
- 107 abandoned properties

Park Ranger: Sentiment Survey of the Zen City Sentiment Survey

Zen City Sentiment Survey		
	December-23	February-24
Responses	427	419
Frequency of use	50% weekly or more	50 % weekly or more
Park Use	28% Rio Salado, 21% Kiwanis	22% Rio Salado, 19% Kiwanis
Top Concern	Homelessness	Homelessness
Time of Use	42% evening	34% morning, 33% evening
Limits Use	32% feeling of safety, 26% proximity, 21% parking	28% feeling of safety, 26% parking, 23% proximity
Feeling of Safety	56%	56%
Ranger Awareness	57.8% unaware	57% unaware
Interaction w/Ranger	96% satisfied, 85% improved feeling	89% satisfied

Lake View Drive had some issues with car meet-ups, street racing, burnouts & doughnuts, and criminal activities. There are some temporary solutions in place such as closing the gates to Lake View Drive at 8:00 pm. New signage, and A-frames signage will be posted on concert nights which will redirect traffic. The long-term plan is to install speed humps in the 4-way intersection. Also, in the parking lot area, parking blocks will be installed so the people won't be able to do doughnuts with their vehicles. There may be some installation of spike strips at the entrances of the parking lot. Staff is working on repairing the road surface on parts of Mill Ave & Rio as well as Rio Salado South Pathway which will be re-graded in the South Path.

Special Events: Spring/Summer 2024

April

4/16-20	Glass Clippings Open	Rolling Hills
4/19	ASU Sustainable Elegance Fashion Show	FABRIC

4/24	Splash & Dash	Tempe Town Lake Marina
4/28	Catus Man Triathlon	Tempe Beach Park
May		
5/4	Tempe Night Market	CenterPoint Plaza
5/11	Donut Judge Me 5K	Tempe Beach Park
5/12	AZ Road Racers Summer Series	Giuliano Park
5/19	Boots in the Park	Tempe Beach Park
June		
6/1	DTA Tempe PRIDE Party	CenterPoint Plaza
6/2	Hot as Hell Trail Run	Papago Park
6/15	Juneteenth Block Party	CenterPoint Plaza
July		
7/4	July 4 Festival	Tempe Beach Park

Agenda Item 6 – Downtown Tempe Update

DTA Update:

Upcoming June Events

- Pride Celebration on Saturday, June 1 from 7 – 1 pm in CenterPoint Plaza. This is a free event with Silent Disco, dancing. Music, food, and beer and wine.
- Juneteenth Block Party on Saturday, June 15 from 7-11 pm in CenterPoint Plaza. This is a free event featuring a DJ, spoke word performances, steppers, breakdancing, double-Dutch jump roping, a mobile cigar lounge, adult beverages & more!
- Mill Avenue Streetscape has begun at the Mill Avenue & University Dr. intersection with electrical work and corner sidewalk and ramp reconstruction through August 2024. Access to Mill Avenue businesses will remain open and construction schedule will accommodate planned events like 4th of July.
- Addition of festoon lighting on 4th Street, west of Mill Avenue should be complete by end of April; then project moves to 6th Street, west of Mill for festoon lighting to be added to both sides of 6th Street; project should conclude by middle of June.
- Downtown Tempe Façade Improvement Grants for downtown merchants, with funding provided by the City of Tempe, have earmarked over \$158,000 for the improvement of retail facades, aligning with the streetscape project on Mill.
- The DTA Board of Directors is currently accepting nominations for individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. There are currently four seats open for election or term renewal. Any members of the Downtown Tempe Authority (property owners and merchants within the district) can nominate individuals to be added to this list. All nominations must be received by 5pm on May 15, 2024. Details can be found on the DTA website at www.downtowntempe.com

New Businesses

- Parlor Donuts (in The Hudson at Farmer & University)
- Dazey Aesthetics (in the former JUUT Salon space on Mill)
- Devil’s Hideaway & Idle Hands (former Rula Bula space)
- The Plant Mill (in old bookstore space near Cactus Sports) – a cool new plant co-op

Opening soon:

- Bonchon (Korean Fired Chicken) in OliV building corner of 7th & Myrtle
- Taco Chelo on College Ave

4th Quarter 2023 openings: 8 new businesses, 2 closed

1st Quarter 2024: 3 new businesses; 6 closings (JUUT Salon, Salvation Army, Antijos Linda Mar, U Break I Fix, The Lunch Box, Zuma Grill)

Currently there are 170 street levels businesses in the downtown district, 63% are local/independent. 3,333 residential units with 1,550 in pipeline and 1,716 hotel units.

Agenda Item 7 – ASU Updates – Patrick Panetta

Novus Updates

- Vero Micro-unit Multi-family Housing project is complete and leasing
- Eureka!, Nautical Bowls and The Alley restaurants in the ground floor of the Piedmont MFH project are open
- Blue Sushi Sake Grill, and Over Easy restaurants on the ground floor of the Piedmont MFH project are under construction (Summer 2024 opening)
- Three Fox Restaurant concepts on Novus Place (Flower Child, Blanco Cucina & North Italia) are all under construction for an end of year opening.
- Transwestern MFH project at Rural and 6th Streets is under construction for a Fall 2025 opening

McCain Library Updates

- Architect RFQ was released on April 1st, with a pre-submittal conference held April 8th. Submittals are due May 6th for a targeted August selection
- Construction Contractor RFQ to be released in July
- Projected Phase 1 completion dates in 2027

Member of the ASU UCX Rio Reimagined team will join the August meeting for a project update to the Commission.

Agenda Item 8 – Public Works (Engineering) and Transportation – Tara Ford

Engineering/Transportation no longer is a department. Engineering has been reorganized to Public Works and Transportation has been moved over to Sustainability.

Engineering is working the project with the installation of spike strips at the entrances of the parking lot of the Lake View Drive. Engineering also submitted an RFQ for the Gateway Project downtown Tempe. There is also a heavy involvement with the Streetscape project. All these projects are being expedited and more updates to come.

Agenda Item 9 – Public and Private Development Update – Jeff Tamulevich, Ryan Levesque, and Mike Baxley

There is one project that is in the entitlement process at the time. The Pier lot 1 is a multistory building which is an office tower. The Roman restaurant is the last addition to the Hayden Ferri Lakeside property development.

The Hayden Flower Mill Silos: Development agreement was signed last year. The developer has until December to execute a ground lease and start the phase 1 with rehabilitation of the existing structure.

Phase 2 will start the archeological monitoring any day. The developer is planning a public outreach session in the Fall to showcase the development plans.

Announcements

Next meeting August 20, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Prepared by Sarah Adame

Reviewed by: Roger Hallsted and Ambika Adhikari



Jeff Tamulevich
Community Development Director
Secretary of the Commission