



## **Minutes Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board June 26, 2024**

**Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting held on June 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library (Cottonwood Board Room), 3500 S Rural Rd, Tempe, AZ, and virtual through Microsoft Teams.**

**Members Present:**

Susan Carlson – Chair  
Elizabeth Hatch – Vice Chair  
Sharon Doyle  
Thomas Klabunde  
Shereen Lerner  
Regina Ponder  
Lane Waddell  
Lisa Zyriek

**Members Absent:**

Mary Farmer  
Gerardo Lopez

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks (Staff Liaison)  
Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II – Recreation  
Sima Gharagozly, Sr Educ Career & Family Services Coordinator  
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director  
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager  
Leneah Muschinski, Age-Friendly Tempe Facilitator  
Kelly Rafferty, Community Services Manager  
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation

**Other Guests Present:**

Doreen Garlid, Councilmember  
Janet Hamlin  
Donald Zyriek  
Franklin Zyriek

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Susan Carlson.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Alex Jovanovic read a letter in support of the Age and Dementia Friendly Park concept from Tempe resident Jan Dougherty.

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### **Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2024**

Motion by Elizabeth Hatch to approve the meeting minutes of May 15, 2024. Seconded by Shereen Lerner. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Susan Carlson, Vice Chair Elizabeth Hatch, board members Sharon Doyle, Thomas Klabunde, Shereen Lerner, Lane Waddell, and Lisa Zyriek.

Absent: Mary Farmer, Gerardo Lopez, and Regina Ponder. Regina Ponder arrived after the vote.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Golf**

Lane Waddell informed the board there is no report at the time and that there may be possible action items at the August meeting

### **Agenda Item 4 – Recreation Update: Community Facilities, Partners & Boating**

Shawn Wagner introduced Kelly Rafferty to discuss his recreation team and areas he supervises.

- North Tempe and Westside Multigenerational Centers
- Boating programs and events: Dragon Boat Festival in March brings around 1,500 every year, Desert Springs Regatta brings rowing teams from variety of states
- Three in rowing certified to run own rowing teams, seven in paddling are level 2 safety trained
- Variety of user groups that use lake: Rio Salado Rowing Crew, Tempe Junior Rowing, ASU rowing and sailing, Xavier and Brophy, Ability 360, dragon boat groups, City of Mesa's Adaptive program
- Boat storage locations under 202 near Marquee Theater and marina
- Boat permits available for Tempe Town Lake and Kiwanis Park Lake; permits required for those who want to go on the water; information posted online and signage exists at lake communicating permit requirement; prices vary between residents and non-residents
- Tempe Town Lake permits: \$10 daily, \$25/\$50 annually for Tempe resident/non-resident
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - If you own your own kayak do you need to get a permit to go on the water?
  - Is there a difference in price for resident vs non-resident for boat permits?
  - How would I know I need a permit to go on the lake?
  - How much do permits cost?
  - The work that goes on at the centers and availability of programs is great

### **Agenda Item 5 – AZ Hugs**

Chair Susan Carlson moved this agenda item to occur after Agenda Item 6 Dementia & Age Friendly Park. Susan informed the board the agenda item was included due to recent news stories involving parks. Alex Jovanovic said there is a pending court case in City regarding charitable events.

- Started hosting smaller events in 2022; notified of special event process
- Increase in size, frequency, and impacts of events towards end of 2023; informed of process they would need to go through; AZ Hugs submitted incomplete application in December 2023
- AZ Hugs continued to host events after submitting incomplete application; City denied application and informed ineligible to apply again for one year due to continued hosting of events and impacts to health and safety

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- AZ Hugs submitted appeal to Community Services Director; permit was not reconsidered
  - During this time as AZ Hugs continued to host events without a permit, official letters were sent and Park Rangers and Police Department made direct contact to inform organizers of what they were in violation of; they were not cited or shut down
  - City Prosecutor's Office issued a citation; currently pending court case, evidentiary hearing
  - AZ Hugs continues to host events; called "Family Picnics"; hosted three times per week; hosted at Moer Park and Papago Park
  - Any event that's open to the public would make it an event; to change the process it could require changing City Code
  - There are fees related to the special event application process; application, rental of space, additional resources and services that may be required
  - Public health and safety factors, impacts to City services and infrastructure, impacts greater than what may typically occur with use
  - January council meeting where some local community members made comments about their experiences and impacts after events
  - They are not related to the event hosted at the Mountain Park Health Campus; that organization goes through the application process
  - Deviation of use even for private property goes through special events; task force includes Special Events, Solid Waste, Fire, PD, Tax and License; process helps ensure public safety and enjoyment
  - Board members asked questions and made comments about:
    - What is a special event permit? Thinks of Boots in the Park, triathlon as events.
    - Could there be a different kind of permission?
    - What are the costs?
    - Are they cleaning up after themselves?
    - Are they related to an event hosted at Mountain Park Health?
    - Did Rolling Hills go through the process for their event?

### **Agenda Item 6 – Dementia & Age Friendly Park**

Chair Susan Carlson moved this agenda item in front Agenda Item 5 AZ Hugs. Lisa Zyriek and Janet Hamlin presented on concept of a Dementia & Age Friendly Park, which would be a permanent outdoor space within an existing park and first dementia friendly park in Arizona.

- Compliments and supports Tempe's Age Friendly Action plan, strategic priorities, Equity Study, 2050 General Plan
- Increase in population over age of 65 in Tempe, individuals with physical and mental disabilities; Alzheimer's cases in Arizona expected to increase 33% between 2020 to 2025
- Conceptual drawings provided as part of proposal in order to move forward in conversations; single point of entry and exit, fencing around perimeter, wide paths, benches with arm rests, picnic tables, trees and shade, good sightlines, no sharp turns or dead ends
- Space identified at Kiwanis Park as part of discussion, between batting range and ballfields
- Performance area, outdoor area to host classes and activities
- Recognize parks are expensive; potential grant funding and donors identified

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- Estimated costs vary between \$300k and \$800k; Alex explained costs can be scalable depending on features in park, scope of project, and process it might need to go through
  - Considered features to include as park grows; cited Chandler Sunset Library as example; cautious about noise-making sensory attracting children, consideration of older population
  - Talked to Tom Duensing; no additional liability; someone who may choose to leave someone at park is similar to parent leaving child at park, call Police
  - Alex noted there would be a proper review and vetting process in the City
  - Alex noted Councilmember Garlid's presence and support for the project, as well as support from other members and organizations
  - Alex noted projects at Kiwanis Park: dog park on north side, improvements to boating concessions building, bathrooms, playground on north side; athletic lighting improvements at Fiesta volleyball courts; improvements to plaza area and scoreboards at ballfields; Sister Cities Garden area
  - Alex noted nothing currently planned or budgeted for area that's been identified for park; as a staff and City supportive of proposal; need to work into 5 year CIP
  - Craig noted potential grant and donor opportunities presented could help flexibility of placing project in 5 year plan; have to consider operating and maintenance costs to ensure being good stewards of budget
  - In considering locations, considered elements that were must-haves for park: access to restrooms, parking, peaceful and tranquil; Sister Cities was given some consideration
  - Board members asked questions and made comments about:
    - What are some estimated costs?
    - Keep Tempe Beautiful and other local groups could potentially help
    - Have you thought about including sensory areas?
    - Brought this agenda item to present information; what is your expectation?
    - Concern about safety and risk
    - Concern about people bringing someone to park, leaving them there to go do errands
    - Are there other projects at Kiwanis Park happening?
    - Park could go to Kiwanis Park or another park as long as it has needed facilities?
    - Put as item for August agenda

### **Agenda Item 7 – Board Operational Updates**

Susan discussed goals, next steps, and opportunities.

- **Goals**
- **Next Steps**
- **Opportunities**
  - Tom discussed Tempe proclaiming itself a “Monarch City”; time to start figuring out how it will work; would like to have future presentation on how to get involved, understanding funding and expertise; Alex will follow up to see about scheduling in August or September
  - Request for update on Desert Conservation Commission

- Susan shared a draft of a “statement of support and advocacy” for the board
- Susan asked if anyone had submitted any feedback or a draft for a donation policy; Alex noted there is not a deadline

**Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

Future agenda items previously discussed.

**Agenda Item 9 – Public Meeting Attendance, Notices & Announcements**

Sharon Doyle said the Kiwanis Club is looking for volunteers for the Fourth of July Festival. Shawn informed the board the festival is returning to Tempe Town Lake. Alex noted Kiwanis Club is making a donation for the north playground at Kiwanis Park.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.**

Prepared by: Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II, (480) 350-8676

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director- Parks, (480) 350-5811