



Minutes

Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board

September 20, 2023

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting held on September 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Escalante Multigenerational Center, 2150 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ, and virtual through Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Sharon Doyle
Kara Espino
Elizabeth Hatch
Thomas Klabunde
Shereen Lerner
Gerardo Lopez
Dawn Parker

Members Absent:

Susan Carlson – Chair
Lisa Zyriek – Vice Chair
Dillon Moore
Amanda Stewart

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director- Parks (Staff Liaison)
Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director- Recreation

Guests Present:

Heather Tibbet, Suicide Awareness Benches
Jay Albertson, Suicide Awareness Benches
Shelly Seyler, Interim Engineering and Transportation Director, City of Tempe

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Alex Jovanovic.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Elect a Chairperson Pro Tem

Motion by Elizabeth Hatch to approve Thomas Klabunde Chairperson Pro Tem; seconded by Gerardo Lopez. Motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Ayes: Board members Sharon Doyle, Kara Espino, Elizabeth Hatch, Gerardo Lopez, and Dawn Parker.

Abstained: Thomas Klabunde.

Absent: Chair Susan Carlson, Vice Chair Lisa Zyriek, Amanda Stewart, and Shereen Lerner.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

Motion by Gerardo Lopez to approve the meeting minutes of August 16, 2023, as submitted; seconded by Sharon Doyle. Motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Pro Tem Thomas Klabunde and Board members, Sharon Doyle, Kara Espino, Elizabeth Hatch, Gerardo Lopez, and Dawn Parker.

Absent: Chair Susan Carlson, Vice Chair Lisa Zyriek, Amanda Stewart, and Shereen Lerner. Shereen Lerner arrived in person after approval of meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 4 – Awareness Benches/Memorials/Suicide Prevention

Heather Tibbet and Jay Albertson provided information and awareness about suicide awareness benches and sponsorship.

- Partnership with non-profit Josh's Benches; provides awareness benches
- Benches are sponsored; almost 200 benches nationwide in 20 states
- Awareness of 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Currently none in Arizona; would like to recruit ASU, U of A, parks; parks are places people turn to
- Arizona Department of Health Suicide Prevention Plan
- Process of getting bench: get approval to have bench in a location, she will get sponsors, couple months manufacture bench, facility's manager installs bench
- Currently no policy in place in City for awareness benches
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Expressed willingness to help
 - Put on future agenda to help develop policy; provide board examples of how to help develop policy

Agenda Item 5 – Mill Ave. Streetscape – University Dr. to Rio Salado Parkway Project

Shelly Seyler, Interim Engineering and Transportation Director from City of Tempe, provided a PowerPoint presentation and information about Mill Avenue Streetscape project that goes from Rio Salado Parkway to University Drive.

- Project Schedule & Brief Overview
 - 40 year infrastructure needing to be replaced, including electrical and irrigation
 - Refresh area
 - Public input was received through August 31, 2023
 - Final engineering design expected February 2024 and construction starting shortly after
 - Wants project to reflect Tempe's art, culture, history
- Hardscape/Sidewalk Concepts
 - Three concepts
 - Concept 1: salvage as much of brick as possible, incorporate new brick, lithocrete accents (meant to recognize river and Tempe Town Lake), lithomosaics

- Concept 2: reflects what exists today, salvage brick, new brick, ends of streets concrete unit pavers (ties into 5th Street streetscape project), opportunities at end of blocks for artwork
 - Concept 3: salvaged brick and concrete unit pavers, artwork at end of blocks
 - Incorporate Silva Cell Systems; help trees get water, stay healthy and live longer
- Street Tree Concepts
 - Ficus tree primarily seen on Mill Ave. currently
 - Tipu, Ghost Gum, Fruitless Olive, Mastic
 - Concept 1: Primary 50% Ficus, 50% Tipu; Median/Accent Ghost Gum, Mastic
 - Concept 2: Primary 70% Ficus; Secondary 30% Tipu; Median/Accent Ghost Gum, Fruitless Olive
 - Takeaways: new tree options more resilient, drought tolerant, climate appropriate; retain lesser percentage of Ficus but maintain historic character
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - All three hardscape concepts incorporate salvaged brick
 - Concern expressed about possibility of trees covering up historic buildings, preserving “historic core”
 - Liking river design
 - Using less dense trees
 - More trees offer benefits other than just shade

Agenda Item 6 – Water Conservation/Turf Reduction

Presentation and information provided by Alex Jovanovic on behalf of Water Utilities.

- WIFA grant; \$107,000 water conservation grant and rebate funds
- 27,600 square feet of non-functional turf to be removed from parks
 - Examples: Creamery Park in process, Goodwin Park upcoming, Dwight Park complete
- 25% cost match requirement by City
- Save water, reduce costs, introduce more habitat and pollinator plants
- City looking to apply for future grants; approximately \$500,000 and 157,000 square feet
 - City Hall 5th Street Streetscape, Kiwanis North, Fiesta and Ruben Romero, Rio Salado Park, Campbell, Mary & Moses Green, Michelle Brooks-Totress
- Waterfluence: data driven water conservation
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - How were areas identified for removal of non-functional turf?
 - Do residents have access to Waterfluence?
 - Great program for residents

Agenda Item 7 – Board Operational Updates

- **Parks & Recreation Structure**
 - Update and overview on organizational charts for Recreation-side and Parks-side of operations
 - Parks:
 - Two Manager positions recently filled
 - Preserves and Volunteer Management team: from one staff to team of two staff

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- Incorporating Park Rangers to organization chart; in process of filling vacancies for Supervisor, Leads, Rangers
 - Copies of organizational charts to be sent to board members not present for meeting in person
 - Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - What kind of process will there be for residents' comments, feedback about Ranger program?
 - What is Parks' responsibility at Diablo Stadium?
 - Status of Tennis Coordinator recruitment?
 - **Goals**
 - **Next Steps**
 - **Opportunities**
 - Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Status of Equity Study?

Alex Jovanovic introduced and welcomed new board member, Dawn Parker.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Awareness/memorial benches, policy development and related.
- CourseCo

Agenda Item 9 – Public Meeting Attendance, Notices & Announcements

- Community Events (list was included in board packet)
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Parks and Recreation did a great job with Backstage Pass with CM Garlid at Clark Park and introducing public to facility
 - What is Escalante Fall Festival?
 - Commend Arts in the Park

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

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