



# Minutes

## Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board

### February 21, 2024

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting held on February 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ, and virtual through Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present:**

Susan Carlson – Chair  
Elizabeth Hatch – Vice Chair  
Sharon Doyle  
Mary Farmer  
Thomas Klabunde  
Shereen Lerner  
Gerardo Lopez  
Dawn Parker  
Lisa Zyriek

**Members Absent:**

Lane Waddell

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks (Staff Liaison)  
Doreen Garlid, Councilmember  
Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II  
Savannah Harrelson, Public Information Officer  
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director  
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager  
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation

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

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Mike Hoffman spoke about Tempe’s Treasured Trees.

- Written narratives about select trees, QR code posted at each tree
- Cultivate emotional attachment and connect with Tempe’s heritage, as well as protect and preserve

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**  
**January 17, 2024**

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Motion by Lisa Zyriek to approve the meeting minutes of January 17, 2024, seconded by Elizabeth Hatch. Motion passed on a 8-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Susan Carlson and Vice Chair Elizabeth Hatch, board members Sharon Doyle, Mary Farmer, Thomas Klabunde, Shereen Lerner, Gerardo Lopez, and Lisa Zyriek.

Absent: Dawn Parker and Lane Waddell. Dawn arrived after vote.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Golf**

Susan Carlson discussed the first golf subcommittee meeting.

- Lane Waddell elected Chair, Susan Carlson Vice Chair
- Information from subcommittee meetings will be brought to the board

Alex Jovanovic added that future agendas may include a golf agenda item so that the subcommittee can report to the board as needed and take potential action, if needed.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Park Monument Information Panel Language**

Alex Jovanovic provided an update on the park monument design and construction process to replace currently existing signs.

- Information panel will have park information, history of park and naming of park
- Ragsdale-MLK Park previously did not have a sign, included in process after it was renamed
- Renaming committee, Tempe History Museum, Tempe Historic Preservation Office, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Mayor and Council, and families of individuals parks named after were involved in the process of renaming parks and the creation of the information panels
- Signs include picture, information panel, QR code to website with additional information
- Mayor and Council voted on monument sign design based on feedback from community
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - We do not currently have these at parks, is this new?

### **Agenda Item 5 – General Plan 2050**

Shereen Lerner shared her experience as the Board liaison for meetings about General Plan 2050.

- Parks, Recreation, land use, open space, differences between 2040 and 2050 plans; sustainability, climate issues more prevalent compared to 2040; 2050 plan looks at growth, character areas, higher density
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - General Plan 2050, density, open space identified as important to board

Alex Jovanovic and Shawn Wagner discussed General Plan 2050.

- Will be voted on by community in March 2024
- Total open space includes Arizona State University and private
- Open Space has six objectives and Recreation seven objectives, strategies for each objective
- Recreation is utilizing agreements with schools for additional space, working with Strategic Management and Innovation Office to implement priorities, including Equity Study
- City focused on public's feeling of safety in parks; implemented Park Rangers, rule changes, technology in parks, new playgrounds, better lighting

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- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
    - Private open space includes space owned and managed by HOA, no guarantee there will be access to that space
    - New parks are not currently planned even though population is increasing
    - What is the role of the Parks Board related to General Plan 2050 and topics covered?
    - Does open space include school acreage?
    - Advocate for requirement for creation of green space with new development
    - What are we doing to encourage people to use open space?
    - Would like to put on the next agenda to have an advocacy statement created by the Board based on what members feel is important to identify

### **Agenda Item 6 – Parks & Recreation Year in Review**

Alex Jovanovic, Shawn Wagner and Joshua Bell reviewed highlights, information and data related to 2023 for Parks and Recreation.

- Last two Park Ranger positions filled, 100% staffed
- ACTIVE Net management software provides data related to activity offerings, participation and facility usage in parks and centers
- Working with Strategic Management and Innovation to review Performance Measures and strategies and goals to make ensure reflect recent studies, plans and recent information
- Arizona Parks and Recreation Association, National Recreation and Parks Association are local and national agencies Parks & Recreation have memberships to; taking steps towards a long process to receive accreditation through NRPA
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - Is there a national association or awards recognition?

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

Alex Jovanovic discussed with the board previous, ongoing and parking lot goals. Mike Hoffman answered questions about his public input comments about Tempe's Treasured Trees.

- **Goals**
- **Next Steps**
- **Opportunities**
- Date options for Double Butte Cemetery Tour will be sent to board members following meeting; project charter was recently submitted to begin study for cemetery site
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - Would like to explore Development Review Commission, open space, and what role Parks Board, whether it's a role on commission or provide feedback
  - Who will decide what trees will be included in Tempe's Treasured Trees project?
  - Do trees have to be a certain age?

### **Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

Alex discussed with board future agenda items.

- Holding item for future agendas for golf, Tempe Arts and Culture Commission and Character Area 6 presentations at next meeting

- Information still being gathered about suicide awareness benches to help with crafting a policy
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - What happened to suicide awareness benches?

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

Shawn Wagner and Alex Jovanovic discussed upcoming events and opportunities.

- Innings Festival will have large impact to access around event, Play Day event, Diablos and ASU college tennis invitational event, volunteer opportunities in Recreation
- Piloting neighborhood park activations in partnership with Neighborhood Programs
- Ken McDonald clubhouse public meeting 2/28, public survey open for three weeks

**Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.**

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

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