



Minutes Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board August 21, 2024

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting held on August 21, 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
Mary Farmer
Thomas Klabunde
Shereen Lerner
Gerardo Lopez
Cory Pechtl
Lane Waddell
Lisa Zyriek

Members Absent:

Regina Ponder

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks (Staff Liaison)
Maja Aurora, Community Services Manager – Arts & Culture
Joshua Bell, Management Assistant II – Recreation
Evelyn Brumfield; Youth Climate Action Coordinator
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager
Eric Iwerson, Sustainability & Resilience Director
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation

Other Guests Present:

Janet Hamlin
Jake Hoselton, Grass Clippings Rolling Hills
Connor Riley, Grass Clippings Rolling Hills
Donald Zyriek

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Susan Carlson. Susan welcome new board member Cory Pechtl and congratulated Sharon Doyle for receiving 2024 Don Carlos Humanitarian award.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2024

Motion by Thomas Klabunde to approve the meeting minutes of June 26, 2024. Seconded by Lane Waddell. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote.

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

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

Agenda Item 3 – Dementia & Age Friendly Park

Susan discussed putting to a vote the concept of Dementia & Age Friendly Park that was presented at the last meeting.

Motion by Shereen Lerner to approve. Seconded by Lane Waddell. Motion passed on a 10-0 vote.

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

Absent: Regina Ponder.

Agenda Item 4 – Golf

Jake Hoselton from Grass Clippings Rolling Hills provided an update on various items and projects.

- Rounds of golf from 7/1/23-6/30/24: Resident 3,106, Non-Resident 44,692, Day 26,889, Night 19,609; night golf started 12/1/23; year before Grass Clippings had about 55,000 rounds total
- Construction updates: patio, event lawn, outdoor bar, parking lot expansion set to deliver 11/1/24; driving range, covered hitting bays, misters, tracer technology set to deliver 10/1/24; restaurant interior set to deliver 3/1/25; grand opening for everything after 3/1/25
- Construction golf course: Holes 1 and 9 par 4 tee boxes restored 11/1/24; pending plans to extend driving range, reangle Hole 2; plans to add tee boxes or expand square footage across course, keep hole integrity; three specific zones that are eyesores; formerly grass, now dirt; wanting to work with City of Tempe to restore
- Overseeding entire month of October; in future aim for three-week overseeding period
- Professional golf event 12/5 and 12/6, expected to be broadcasted on professional network
- Club championship 9/13 and 9/14; night golf on 9/13, day golf on 9/14
- Advertising Tempe resident discounts in pro shop; want to work with City of Tempe to use outlets to incorporate more marketing and communication; marketing using Tempe outlets can be competitive; will talk to Communication and Marketing about options
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Huge difference between resident and non-resident golf rounds played
 - People make their decision about where they're going to play before they leave the house; not enough to just post resident rates in pro shop
 - Resident rate is not easy to find; have to look in FAQs; can rate be posted on main page or included in newsletter
 - How do current number of rounds played compare to when Tempe oversaw course?

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- Agreement says \$35 for resident 9/1-5/31 during week, not at night; summertime \$20
 - Can we find out what deadline is to submit something monthly to market with Tempe?

Agenda Item 5 – Mill Ave.

Eric Iwersen from Transportation and Sustainability provided construction updates on projects around Mill Avenue and downtown Tempe.

- Sidewalk and ADA improvements, expanded pedestrian space, new sidewalk pavers, historic markers, electrical and irrigation upgrades, new bus shelters, new trees
- LithoMosaics celebrating Tempe history being installed on a lot of corners, similar to what is at Clark Park Community Center and Pool; worked with Community Services, Museum, Historic Preservation Commission on recommended images; newer but expect to last a long time
- A lot of ficus have died, will keep healthy ones and replace others; all ficus will eventually be replaced; new trees do better with higher temperatures
- Phase 1 of Mill Ave. and University Dr. intersection complete; widening some sidewalks
- Timeline for completion unknown but thinking another 1.5 years; looking at ways to shorten
- Deeper planting wells and new designs to capture more water
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Are all ficus trees being taken out and replaced?
 - Are the LithoMosaic images?
 - Will new trees do well with higher temperatures at night?
 - Were you able to incorporate Rain to Roots?
 - Expected life on LithoMosaic or concern about expected life?

Agenda Item 6 – Monarch Butterfly

Evelyn Brumfield from Sustainability and Resilience discussed the Mayor's Monarch proclamation and Rain to Roots.

- Mayor's Monarch Pledge is an international program put on by National Wildlife Federation; collection of cities and town who have agreed to promote pollinators to support Monarchs
- Rain to Roots is name for green stormwater infrastructure; harvest rainwater; turn hardscapes into sponges; conversations are happening with golf courses
- Website is being updated to provide information and resources about pollinator plants; Rain to Roots Ambassador meetings happen monthly
- Working on integrating Sustainability staff into meetings and conversations; working on refreshing landscapes; want to promote and incorporate more native plants
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - There may be an opportunity to work with golf courses
 - Do you have Rain to Roots handouts?
 - Have you thought about communicating with Development Review Commission?
 - Are you looking at putting native plants along pathways?

Agenda Item 7 – Arts in the Parks

Maja Aurora from Arts & Culture discussed the Arts in the Parks program and upcoming events.

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- Community Arts based out of Edna Arts Vihel Center, also do community-based and school-based programs, grant funder of programs and teachers
 - Arts in the Parks are free, hyper-local events in neighborhood parks; going to 10 different parks in next year; invite neighbors who live near park; send out mailers, yard and banner signs in park, communication to local schools; live music, food trucks, interactive art activities; work with Neighborhood Services to communicate with HOAs and local contacts
 - When picking parks consider demographics and target all areas of City, accessibility, construction projects, dates to coordinate with other departments, schools and neighborhoods
 - Arts & Culture Master Plan had comments about South Tempe feeling disconnected and wanting more accessibility to Arts & Culture; Equity Study helped identify parks
 - Use Request for Proposal process for selecting artists; evals to select themes
 - September 16 Grand Re-Opening for Creamery Park; Maja's team is involved
 - Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Do you communicate with HOAs?
 - It looks like a lot of Arts in the Park events are in the south; how did you decide?

Agenda Item 8 – Park Rule Change

Alex Jovanovic discussed recent park rule change prohibiting smoking at some parks.

- City Code allows Community Services Director has ability to add prohibited activities
- Parks considered based on density, proximity to schools, shared facilities with schools
- Can be considered pilot and in future plan to go to Mayor and Council to update City Code to apply across entire park system; would be public process that allows for public input
- Enforcement will be education through September 1; still advocate for education after, but will consider other levels of enforcement, if needed; enforcement is within boundaries of park
- Language in rule allows for Community Services Director to allow smoking at events that want to allow smoking; designated spaces that allow smoking are considered
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - Is this considered a pilot project? How will it be monitored and enforced?
 - Focused on area that is developed in park and not a grass area?
 - Concern about ability to really be able to enforce, especially when thousands of people
 - Most effective way to enforce is to communicate how smoking affects others
 - Parks identified are not ones next to high schools; should consider adding

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

Board discussed possible items to consider for future meetings.

- Have Shereen provide update on Desert Conservation Commission
- Thomas would like to follow up on Monarch-related projects across parks
- Would like to know about status of the vacant Tennis Coordinator position; Alex informed board Dan Bratetic has filled the vacant position; would like to discuss all of tennis and not just tennis at Kiwanis Recreation Center and would like to have Dan present to the board

Agenda Item 10 – Public Meeting Attendance, Notices & Announcements

Alex Jovanovic recognized and congratulated Sharon Doyle on being selected to receive a 2024 Don Carlos Humanitarian award.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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

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