

**City of Phoenix
General Obligation Bond Committee
Parks & Recreation Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Monday, August 15, 2022**

City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Ariz.

Subcommittee Members Present

Hon. Mary Rose Wilcox, Chair
Ms. Dana Burns
Mr. Brett Hunt
Mr. Gary Kaasa
Ms. Ellie Perez-Pawloski
Mr. Jeff Spellman

Subcommittee Members Absent

Mr. John Bullock
Mr. Adrian Garcia
Mr. Tim Madrid

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilcox called the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee to order at 1:04 p.m. with committee members Dana Burns, Brett Hunt, Gary Kaasa, Ellie Perez-Pawloski, and Jeff Spellman present.

2. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chair Wilcox thanked Mayor, Council, City staff, and members of the public participating.

Assistant Chief Counsel Patricia Boland explained the rules for public comment.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Committee member Burns made a motion to appoint Committee member Perez-Palowski as Vice Chair. Committee member Spellman seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 6-0.

4. CAPITAL NEEDS STUDY

Chair Wilcox introduced Park and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar to present on the Parks and Recreation Prioritized Capital Needs. Ms. Aguilar began by providing an overview of the services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department and their facilities.

Chair Wilcox asked staff to prepare an overlay map for the next meeting of current and proposed city facility locations. She explained if cuts to the prioritized list were needed, the committee members could reference the map for the next closest city facility location.

Ms. Aguilar continued by giving an overview of the GO Bond Process and the prioritized projects, including undeveloped parks, aquatics improvements, park improvements and projects for the South Mountain Park and Preserve.

Chair Wilcox asked for the sport of pickleball to be explained and whether the City would be addressing a need that could be accommodated at existing facilities.

Deputy City Manager Inger Erickson provided an overview of the sport and mentioned it is the fastest growing sport for all ages. Ms. Erickson mentioned North Phoenix lacked pickleball courts.

Chair Wilcox asked if the South Mountain Roadway Safety Enhancements would include areas around the park ramadas.

Ms. Aguilar explained it was strictly for roadway repair throughout South Mountain Park, but there is other funding outside of the bond program set aside for improvements that could include the activity complex.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview of Parks and Recreation Future Capital Needs, including additional parks and irrigation system improvements.

Committee member Burns asked for additional information on the enhancements to Esteban Park project listed as a Future Capital Needs.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview of the existing park amenities and discussed the proposed needs.

Committee member Burns mentioned there was a group petitioning for a recreation center at Esteban Park, similar to the one at Hermosa Park, and requested the plans for that center be added to the list of needs.

Ms. Aguilar stated Committee member Burns is welcome to provide that to the subcommittee and it would be at the direction of the subcommittee to decide to move forward with that project.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked if there were ADA improvements after the dog park was added at Esteban Park.

Ms. Aguilar stated improvements have been made over the years for ADA compliance, but as ADA standards progress, additional ADA upgrades need to be made.

Ms. Erickson stated that ADA improvements were made to the playground and access into the park.

Chair Wilcox asked if staff would come back to the next meeting with what the cost would be to build a recreation center at Esteban Park combined with the park enhancements.

Ms. Aguilar stated that they could bring back the cost of building the recreation center at the next meeting.

Chair Wilcox asked if second priority meant second bond that is estimated in five years.

Budget & Research Director Amber Williamson explained that projects identified as future capital needs could be considered for future bond programs, and the City Manager envisions reoccurring bond programs every five years. Ms. Williamson explained the committee can look at all projects in the report and decide if future capital needs projects are a higher priority need.

Committee member Spellman requested information on where and how individuals are using city facilities, participation numbers for programs and facilities pre and post the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuing federal grants to leverage bond dollars, and wanted to know why the report did not contain bikeways.

Chair Wilcox referenced the development between 91st and 99th Avenues and wondered if impact fees were on option to assist in building the Estrella Civic Space.

Ms. Aguilar stated that staff could bring back information on Mr. Spellman's request and impact fees for the development of that area.

Chair Wilcox asked if the heated pools would be used to train lifeguards.

Ms. Aguilar stated the heated pools would have the ability to add year-round lifeguard training and certification opportunities.

Chair Wilcox emphasized the importance of pools in the community, and made the following requests from staff:

- Provide information at the next meeting about coordination with Phoenix Union High School District to create a lifeguard class using heated pools
- Ensure the community can provide input on the water park features if splash pads are built
- Repurpose the Grant Park pool house for community use, if it is closed
- Provide information on the budgetary impact of capital projects under \$500,000 for minor renovations to small community parks

Chair Wilcox stated flatland parks are important and reiterated her request for a city overlay map showing existing and proposed Parks facilities.

Committee member Hunt wanted to know what it would look like for families to get a regional pool over the splash pad, and asked about the age of those using the facilities and how changing amenities would impact users.

Ms. Aguilar stated staff can provide data at the next meeting related to users and what transportation to the facilities for users would look like.

Committee member Kaasa wanted to know the impact of these projects on surrounding neighborhoods.

Ms. Aguilar responded she will provide information on impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods at the next meeting.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked how the capital needs list was developed and why no projects in Sunnyslope were included.

Ms. Aguilar explained the parameters that were used to develop the list of capital needs and referenced facilities assessments and their existing five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Aguilar stated that she can bring the committee current and future projects for Sunnyslope.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked why there was only one Parks project for District 3 and wanted to know whether there was an opportunity to add a project in the district or surrounding areas.

Ms. Aguilar said that once she provides the information requested about current and future Sunnyslope projects the subcommittee can decide if they want to add a project in Sunnyslope to their prioritized or future needs.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked if the reason some projects did not have operating costs associated was because they had a minimal cost or if there was already funding in place.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed that was correct and explained funding was already part of the ongoing cost of the facility and already budgeted or was minimal.

Committee member Perez-Palowski requested the cost to build a community center at Lindo Park be brought to the next subcommittee meeting.

Committee member Burns asked if the Eastlake Park pool is closed.

Ms. Aguilar responded that it is closed, and staff is working with the neighborhood to rebuild the pool, which was not included on the list of prioritized projects because it was in the planning process already.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked if the Hance Park partnership with Phoenix Community Alliance would help fund any of the enhancements if the subcommittee finds that the Hance Park project is a priority.

Ms. Aguilar responded that the GO Bond funding for this project will not fully fund the revitalization project for Hance Park and the Phoenix Community Alliance will continue fundraising for future Hance Park improvements.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked where the closest city facility would be that offered comparable programming to Telephone Pioneer Park, if the subcommittee did not move forward with that project.

Ms. Aguilar responded Telephone Pioneer Park is the only park in Phoenix that provides services, special programs, and opportunities for families with disabilities. She explained other city facilities offered adaptive programming, but Telephone Pioneer Park was the only facility dedicated to adaptive programming.

Committee member Perez-Palowski asked if new heated pools would be open year-round and how lifeguards could be recruited to staff them.

Ms. Aguilar stated the pools would not be open year-round but would be used for lifeguard training and certification, explaining it would be another \$205,000 impact to the operating budget per pool to be open all year. She explained staff works closely with Phoenix high schools and there is a plan in place to continue to reach out to high school students and recruit.

Chair Wilcox summarized items requested by the subcommittee for the next meeting:

- A map of Parks facilities with the overlay of a map of the prioritized projects
- Information on age demographics and the number of people using Parks facilities pre- and post-COVID.
- Estimated cost of building a recreational facility at Esteban Park and Lindo Park
- Potential for small projects less than \$500,000
- Potential partnerships with high schools to develop swim teams using the city's heated pools
- Information on the Rio Salado bank erosion, whether bikeway restoration is included, and potential assistance from Flood Control

- Information related the use of grants and matching grants

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Wilcox opened the floor to public comment.

Cyndy Gaughan spoke in support of the Hance Park revitalization project.

Joan Kelcher spoke in support of the Hance Park Central Avenue bridge revitalization project.

Tim Sprague spoke in support of the Hance Park revitalization project.

Jeremy Thacker opposed funding the irrigation repair/replacement for the golf courses.

Lew Laws spoke in support of the Hance Park revitalization project.

Sula Meyer spoke in support of the Hance Park revitalization project.

Sam Miller spoke in support of the Hance Park revitalization project.

James Teeple spoke in support of the Hance Park revitalization project.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Wilcox confirmed the next meeting date of August 29, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.