

**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES
May 23, 2024**

Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<u>Board Members Present</u> Kelly Dalton Sarah Porter Dorina Bustamante Ed Zuercher Tony Moya Aubrey Barnwell <u>Board Members Absent</u> Emma Viera	<u>Staff Present</u> Cynthia Aguilar Tracee Hall Martin Whitfield Theresa Faull Jarod Rogers Felicita Mendoza Dustin Cammack Xandon Keating Heather Rasmussen	<u>Community Members</u> Julia Taggart Jes Dobbs Jerry Van Gasse Timothy Sierakowski Rick Naimark
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dalton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with Board Members Porter, Bustamante, Zuercher, Moya and Barnwell in attendance.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

No formal presentation on these items. Information only.

2b. Cholla Trail Update

Jes Dobbs requested staff consider adding shade structures and a bench while trail is closed for tree plantings since the trail does not currently offer those amenities.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

No formal presentation on these items. Consent and request for approval only.

3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes- March 28, 2024

3b. Encanto Park Playground Sponsorship by Kiwanis Club of Phoenix

3c. Request to Vend at Steele Indian School Park and Cesar Chavez Park

3d. Sub-License/Lease for ENTRAVISION/Crown Castle (CT134531)

- 3e. T-Mobile Tower Cell Site License Approval for Retroactive Renewal**
- 3f. Telephone Pioneers of America Park Pickleball Sponsorship by Pharmavite dba Nature Made**
- 3g. Assignment of Telecommunications License at South Mountain Communications Towers from A-Communications South Mountain LLC (134292) to Airfiber Wisp LLC**

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve consent items 3a through 3g. Board Member Porter, seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 6-0.

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

4a. South Mountain Update

Parks Director Cynthia Aguilar introduced the South Mountain Update and Deputy Director Jarod Rogers to present the update.

Deputy Director Jarod Rogers began by providing a historic review of South Mountain Park/Preserve.

Mr. Rogers continued with an overview of recent projects completed from 2016 through 2024. In 2016, the Parks Department invested in storm damage and waterline repair. The South Mountain Trails Masterplan was completed in 2017. In 2018, the Pima Canyon Trailhead and Big and Little Ramada renovations and entry monument were completed. New amenities were added to Desert Foothills Trailhead in 2019. Mr. Rogers highlighted the construction of the New Ranger Station and intersection and Dobbins Lookout improvements that occurred in 2021. He continued by summarizing the edge protection added to the Chandler Blvd. portion of the park as well as the purchase of 56.25 acres of land. The popular amenities, San Juan Bike Hub and Gila Valley Lookout, received improvements in 2023 and 2024.

In-progress projects at South Mountain Park/Preserve were summarized by Mr. Rogers. He presented information on The Historic Ranger Station and plans to complete design for its restoration. He also discussed, at 19th Ave. and Chandler Blvd., the Bursera Trailhead is being relocated just west of the current location due to the construction of Fire Station 74 by the City of Phoenix Fire Department. Further information was communicated regarding the South Mountain Environmental Education Center which is in the process of receiving an exhibit refresh. A video was played during the presentation depicting the improvements and changing exhibit spaces using today's technology to tell new stories. An unveiling celebration will occur later in 2024. Mr. Rogers shared information on the upcoming renovation of the South Mountain Activity Complex. He explained that a steering committee of stakeholders was established and helped shape it's final design. He also shared that there will be multi-lingual signs at large

gathering bands pointing to other peaks in the valley and how the Parks Department worked with local tribes to obtain guidance and proper verbiage to describe landmarks. Mr. Rogers provided information on the South Mountain Roadway Safety Enhancements funded by the voter approved GO Bond Program. He went on to summarize the total financial investment made to the South Mountain Improvement Projects.

Mr. Rogers concluded his presentation by providing reminders of ongoing programming offered by Park Rangers and the social media campaign 100 Things We Love About South Mountain Park and Preserve.

Chairperson Dalton thanked Parks staff for the presentation and opened public comment on the item.

Jerry Van Gasse commented on funding for renovation of South Mountain Park in preparation for the centennial celebration and his concerns regarding the dumping of rock and debris in the preserve that took place in 2020.

Timothy Sierakowski inquired about maintenance of the park and a records request regarding the South Mountain Environmental Education Center.

Jes Dobbs expressed concern about spending money wisely.

Julia Taggert suggested more transparency about renovations and activities. She also proposed additional outreach to community groups and block watches.

Board Member Bustamante expressed her appreciation of the effort of Parks staff undertaking the planning and maintenance of projects.

Chairperson Dalton commented that this was a remarkable investment with a significant return making South Mountain a gem for the community.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM(S)

5a. Impact Melanoma Pilot

Director Aguilar introduced Special Project Administrator Felicita Mendoza to present information on the Impact Melanoma pilot program. Ms. Mendoza provided an overview of the partnership opportunity with Impact Melanoma that will bring free sunscreen to selected splashpad sites. She described the potential dangers of skin cancer including melanoma.

Ms. Mendoza introduced Lori Seavey, a Project Manager at Impact Melanoma to continue the presentation. Ms. Seavey provided additional information on the history of Impact Melanoma, a national non-profit organization. She provided further facts on the three types of skin cancer and prevention. Ms. Seavey

highlighted additional programs that her organization offers. She discussed the partnership, and the support and maintenance Impact Melanoma will provide at no cost because of funding obtained by an outside party for the pilot program.

Ms. Mendoza concluded the presentation by listing the splash pad locations benefiting from the pilot program and recommending approval of the pilot program that will occur May 25 to October 1.

Chairperson Dalton expressed her appreciation and excitement for the program and understanding of the serious implication of skin cancer and importance of wearing sunscreen.

Board Member Zuercher asked staff for further information on leveraging the partnership for a broader message.

Director Aguilar answered that there is a lot of potential opportunities with this pilot. She explained the intent was to start small and is very interested in exploring how further partnerships with this group can evolve in additional park and trailhead locations.

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve Item 5a and Board Member Porter seconded the motion which was approved 6-0.

5b. Firehouse Update

Director Aguilar introduced Assistant Director Marty Whitfield to present the Firehouse Update. Mr. Whitfield spoke about the high-profile events attended by thousands of people at Hance Park where the former firehouse is located. He then turned the presentation over to the Deputy Community and Economic Development Director, Xandon Keating.

Mr. Keating talked about the background of the historic Phoenix Fire Station No. 4 and requested authorization for the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a lease of the property. He then introduced the Economic Development Program Manager, Heather Rasmussen, to continue the presentation.

Ms. Rasmussen provided information on the Request for Proposal processes issued by the Parks Department in 2015 and 2022. She explained that the 2015 process did not produce an approved proposal. However, the 2022 process received a successful proposal from the Poolhouse Group. Ms. Rasmussen shared the Poolhouse Group is a local company familiar with repurposing properties and intends to develop the firehouse into a new concept for a full-service restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating accessible to Hance Park.

Mr. Keating explained proposed business terms funding the building rehabilitation.

Ms. Rasmussen concluded the presentation with examples of the community outreach conducted through the process and recommended Parks and Recreation Board authorize staff enter into a lease with Poolhouse for the operation and maintenance of the firehouse site located at 1130 N. 1st St.

Chairperson Dalton requested clarification on next steps.

Mr. Keating clarified this step is to recommend Parks Board approval of the property lease then next steps are to request City Council approval of project funding.

Rick Naimark introduced himself as the President of the Hance Park Conservancy and thanked the board and staff for their support of the park.

Board Member Bustamante shared her familiarity with the area and excitement of bringing in a tenant.

Board Member Porter commented that she was a part of the original group that created the Hance Park masterplan and her excitement to see the restaurant coming in.

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve Item 5b and Board Member Porter seconded the motion which was approved 6-0.

6. Call to the Public

Julia Taggart expressed her appreciation for the upcoming parking lot improvements at North Mountain Park. She suggested an update to exhibits at the North Mountain Visitor's Center. Ms. Taggart also proposed expanding the Impact Melanoma project to local hiking spots.

7. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Dalton provided a reminder that the trailheads will be closed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. when an excessive heat warning is issued.

8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Director Aguilar introduced Assistant Director Hall to begin the update. Ms. Hall highlighted ribbon cutting celebrations at Paradise Valley Community Center and Roadrunner Park. She also shared the 9th Annual STEM Fair and Eastlake Bike Rodeo.

Assistant Director Marty Whitfield presented on the Dean Lindsey I10 tunnel dedication at Hance Park and shared the Grand Re-Opening Celebrations at Hoshoni Park and Deer Valley Community Center.

Director Cynthia Aguilar celebrated two parks staff that earned City Excellence Awards. She also shared the beginning of swim season and opening of Phoenix pools this weekend.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Dalton adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.