

**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES
April 23, 2026**

Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<p><u>Board Members Present</u> Tony Moya, Chair (virtual) Rick Naimark Emma Viera Jessica Fotinos Sarah Porter (virtual) Aubrey Barnwell</p> <p><u>Board Members Absent</u> Leon Thomas</p>	<p><u>Staff Present</u> Dustin Cammack Martin Whitfield Brandie I. Barrett Todd Shackelford Bob Adams Becky Kirk Jarod Rogers Felicita Mendoza Tannia Ruiz Cynthia Peiz Jana Krcek Luzivette Broderick Dalia Adams Ray Ficaglia</p>	<p><u>Community Members</u> Jerry Van Gasse Michael Norton (virtual)</p>
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Moya called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with Board members Naimark, Viera, Fotinos, Porter, and Barnwell in attendance.

2. INFORMATION ONLY

No formal presentation on these items. Information only.
 No comments or questions from the board.

2a. Renaming Plan for Cesar Chavez Park and Community Center

3. CONSENT ITEMS

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

3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes – March 26, 2026

3b. Request to Vend at City Parks

3c. Sponsorship for Wheelchair Softball Field Renovation from Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation, Inc. and Ability 360, Inc. at Telephone Pioneers

of America Park

Board member Naimark moved to accept items 3a through 3c, with Board member Viera seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Information and discussion items will be presented to the Parks Board and are for discussion only. No action will take place on these items at this meeting.

4a. Quarterly Code of Conduct Update

Deputy Director Jarod Rogers began the presentation, which outlined the updated Code of Conduct report format based on feedback from the January Board meeting. He highlighted the daily efforts of Park Rangers in keeping parks safe and accessible and shared 2025 educational contact statistics. He explained that the new monthly graphs make it easier to show trends in the data. He discussed the educational contacts made by Park Rangers from January 2025 to March 2026 in the first graph, focusing on public education about park rules. He displayed the detailed number of trespass notices and citations issued, clarifying that citations were given for city code violations observed by Rangers.

Deputy Director Rogers outlined the top reasons for trespassing violations, such as after-hours loitering, drug-related issues, prohibited wheeled devices, unlawful conduct, and alcohol offenses, as well as the top reasons for citations, including being in the park after hours, alcohol issues, off-leash dogs, and entering closed areas. He closed his presentation by thanking the Board and recognizing his team's work on improving the reporting format.

Chairman Moya opened the floor for questions.

Board member Naimark raised a question regarding the significant increase in Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaints (ATTC) citations in comparison to previous years. Instead of focusing on the month-to-month fluctuations, Board member Naimark emphasized the overall increase in the number of tickets issued. He also asked if there have been any changes in staffing that might explain this trend.

Deputy Director Rogers discussed recent observations regarding staff performance and citation writing. He noted that aligning the data from the graph would show a clearer trend in numbers from last year, specifically an increase from 51 in September to over 100 by the end of the year. He confirmed that the Department hired a significant number of new Rangers and Supervisors during the time period.

Board Member Naimark raised a question regarding the common citations issued

for staying past park hours.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that Park Rangers prioritize education when interacting with visitors. Signs at park entrances inform visitors about the rules and hours, contributing to the educational process. While some individuals might be unaware of their violations, most people in the parks after hours are typically aware they are breaking the rules, which can lead to citations for trespassing.

Board Member Viera noted that June through August consistently show the highest activity in all categories of the report and asked what preparations are underway for the upcoming summer, anticipating increased park activity during that period.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that more people seek refuge in parks during hot summer days and that this is acceptable as long as rules are followed, but illegal activities such as drug use still require enforcement. He emphasized ongoing collaboration with the Office of Homeless Solutions to provide outreach, reduce negative impacts, and maintain safe, welcoming parks, highlighting the need to balance community support with orderly park use.

Board Member Fotinos asked whether the parks department tracks calls about potential code of conduct violations, including what typically happens after those calls, such as whether citations are issued or if individuals leave before staff arrive. She also questioned how effective the 24/7 reporting hotline is in addressing these concerns.

Deputy Director Rogers responded that the current 24/7 hotline system does not allow the Parks Department to track certain data, but they are looking into ways to enhance functionality and improve data collection. He explained that the existing phone line began as a pilot program and has proven useful, but there are areas for improvement, including the points raised in the discussion for future updates.

Board Member Barnwell asked how an action plan would be developed, expressing uncertainty about whether enough data currently exists to begin creating one or if additional information is still needed. He also asked how this action plans would ultimately be presented.

Deputy Director Rogers said they are making progress in viewing issues from a new perspective but are not yet ready to present a formal action plan. He noted that feedback has been helpful and that staff are still analyzing internal data to pinpoint areas of concern which will shape future direction.

Board Member Naimark sought clarification about police actions during the discussion, specifically asking if the actions being referred to were all carried out by Park Rangers.

Deputy Director Rogers stated that these are all Park Ranger actions.

Board Member Naimark asked about the protocols Park Rangers follow when they call the Police Department for assistance, particularly when someone ignores a trespass order. He also wanted to know how these incidents are documented, including the handling of trespass-related records, and whether the data tracks how often police are called to specific parks such as Hance Park.

Deputy Director Rogers responded that they currently do not track this information but expressed a willingness to collaborate with the Police Department to coordinate and understand the relationship between the two matters.

Board Member Naimark said it would be helpful to gather information on police activity in parks, noting that the overlap between law enforcement and park regulations can be complex. He explained that understanding police interactions in park spaces, including arrests or citations beyond park rules, would give the Board, Mayor, and Council clearer insight into overall safety conditions and enforcement patterns.

Board Member Porter reflected on her time on the Parks Board, emphasizing that the Code of Conduct is essential for keeping parks safe while ensuring fair treatment for everyone. She highlighted the importance of using data to continually improve the process and agreed with Board Member Naimark on the need for clearer insight into current park issues. Board member Porter also asked about how effective the Code of Conduct has been in leading to citations and what outcomes individuals experience afterward, expressing interest in any available follow up information on these cases.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that while the Department does not currently receive outcome information from the courts when individuals are cited for violating city code, and expressed interest in collaborating with the Police Department on parks-related data..

Chairman Moya echoed Board Member Viera's concern about the expected rise in summer citations. Chairman Moya requested follow up information on the citation process to better understand what to expect.

Board Member Barnwell requested clarification regarding a statement about the five parks that have the most observed violations.

Deputy Director Rogers reviewed the five parks with the highest monthly violations, and clarified the Board had requested this information to help identify locations experiencing the most issues in 2023.

Chairman Moya asked whether we have quarterly reports on this matter.

Deputy Director Rogers confirmed that quarterly reports are provided to the Board.

Board Member Viera said that increasing vigilance and adding services at Cortez and Hance parks could meaningfully reduce incidents and make the parks safer. She recommended prioritizing efforts in these two locations based on their violation data.

Director Whitfield said the Department continues to work closely with the Office of Homeless Solutions, noting that outreach teams visit Cortez Park several times a week to help people access shelters. He acknowledged the ongoing challenges but emphasized the city's commitment to consistent, supportive outreach.

Chairman Moya concluded the discussion by thanking staff for the presentation.

4b. 2026 Parks and Recreation Aquatics Season

Aquatics Supervisor Becky Kirk reported that preparation for the 2026 season is well underway, with early training, expanded certification efforts, and the accelerated Assistant Pool Manager program helping to build a strong talent pipeline. Recruitment has been active across schools, colleges, sports programs and community events. These efforts will support a season that will feature 24 four pools, which includes operation of Telephone Pioneer Pool through a partnership with Ability 360. She emphasized the importance of community support, noting major donations that provide free swimming for children and discounted lessons that will help more than 13,000 people learn to swim. She also outlined the season schedule, including daily open swim hours, Saturday swim in August, twelve splashpads across the city, and registration dates in April and June, with space available throughout the summer.

Chair Moya shared his positive anticipation for the report, reflecting on his past as part of the water safety team with the City of Phoenix. He recounted a memorable experience from 15 to 20 years ago when he participated in a water safety video with the Phoenix Fire Department. He concluded by acknowledging that his legacy in water safety continues, and thanked Ms. Kirk Becky for presentation. .

4c. NCAA Legacy Award Winners

Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Bob Adams presented the 2026 Women's NCAA Final Four Legacy Project at the Washington Activity Center. He highlighted the facility's long-standing role in serving residents of all ages and the significant upgrades completed through the project. Improvements included a refurbished gym, new computer and teen rooms, interior updates, and outdoor

enhancements such as a resurfaced basketball court, along with a community mural created by local artist Martin Moreno. Adams noted strong support from community partners and elected officials, including Governor Katie Hobbs and Mayor Kate Gallego, who attended the April 1 dedication ceremony alongside NCAA and ASU representatives. The mural unveiling, hosted by the Washington Park Neighborhood Association and Councilwoman Guardado, also drew community leaders and residents, underscoring the center's importance and the project's positive impact.

No questions or comments from the Board.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jerry Van Gasse asked the board to consider renaming Cesar Chavez Park in honor of Jesse Owens. He emphasized the importance of preserving Owens's legacy. Drawing on his eighteen years attending track meets and observing that many who knew Owens are now aging, he stressed the value of keeping Owens's memory alive for future generations.

Michael Norton mentioned that he raised concerns about the funding for Rogers Ranch Park that was discussed earlier in the year and questioned why the commitment outlined in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan no longer appears to be in place. He also noted that staff and board members spoke about the need for patience due to ongoing delays, which added to his frustration about the project's uncertain timeline.

6. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Moya announced a community ribbon cutting for the new splash pad at Nuestro Park on May 2 from 10 to 11 A.M., and invited residents to enjoy snacks, giveaways, and a first look at park upgrades, including a new shade cover. He also shared information about the upcoming Ride with the Ranger mountain bike activity. Chair Moya reported that the Apache Wash Trailhead is now open, reminding participants to bring a bike, water, and a helmet, with adults required to accompany riders under 18 and no e-bikes allowed.

7. BOARD COMMENTS/REQUEST

No comments.

8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Assistant Director Todd Shackelford presented on two items, noting that the Department hosted the Arizona Soccer Association Presidents Cup and State Cup Tournament at the Reach 11 Sports Complex. This event brought in professional and college scouts and featured roughly 530 local teams competing

over four weekends. He reported that the Department led volunteer efforts for Earth Day, Arbor Day, and National Volunteer Week, during which 326 volunteers completed park cleanups, removed invasive weeds and planted 118 new trees to expand shade across city parks.

Assistant Director Brandie I. Barrett presented on the 5th Annual Pecos Park Kids Triathlon that was held on March 29, 2026, where families gathered to support young athletes competing on age-appropriate swim, bike, and run courses. She also highlighted the grand reopening of Sun Ray Park following major renovations including upgraded restrooms, new lighting, improved courts, enhanced ballpark seating and a new playground.

Director Martin Whitfield presented a tree planting at University Park that took place on April 21, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m. Volunteers from First Citizens' Bank planted 20 trees. also noted that the South Mountain Activity Complex reopened on April 2, 2026, featuring a 37,000-square-foot pavilion, more than 250 new trees, 50 salvaged mature trees, and 700 shrubs across three acres of the preserve. There is also the addition of new interpretive signage highlighting the cultural significance of nearby peaks. Mayor Kate Gallego and Vice Mayor Keisha Hodge-Washington attended the reopening. ceremony.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Moya adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.