



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: January 24, 2019

From: Inger Erickson, Director

Subject: CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board with an update on efforts to develop a code of conduct for the Parks and Recreation Department’s parks, facilities and programs.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department established a multifaceted, multidepartment committee to assist the community in developing a code of conduct. The intent of the code of conduct is to promote conduct and behaviors that allow everyone to enjoy clean, safe and accessible parks, facilities and programs. Although state laws, City ordinances and existing park rules address certain illegal or prohibited activities, the code of conduct will provide clear expectations of acceptable behavior in the following areas: flatland parks; desert and mountain parks and preserves; and park facilities, including community centers.

DISCUSSION

The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes that a key component to the success of the code of conduct is listening to the community’s input and coming up with a code of conduct that addresses challenging behaviors that neighborhoods, park visitors and City staff experience in our parks, while respecting the rights of the community. The intent of the code of conduct is to promote conduct and behaviors that allow everyone in the community to enjoy clean, safe and accessible parks, facilities and programs.

Public Outreach

Community Meetings

A series of four community meetings have been held so far, at locations across the city:

Date	Time	Location
January 15	6 to 8 p.m.	South Mountain Community Center
January 16	6 to 8 p.m.	Deer Valley Community Center
January 17	6 to 8 p.m.	Steele Indian School Park Memorial Hall
January 22	6 to 8 p.m.	Maryvale Community Center

In addition to the series of community meetings, staff also held a meeting with neighborhood and community leaders on January 8 at the Encanto Clubhouse.

At the community meetings, staff met with residents, listened to their concerns and collected their feedback for consideration as the code of conduct is developed. The community meetings consisted of a short PowerPoint presentation with remarks from the Parks and Recreation Director. The Human Services Director, Neighborhood Services Department, Police Department, Maricopa County Environmental Services, Healthy Giving Council and various other agencies and stakeholders were present.

After the presentation, the community was able to provide feedback directly to city staff. The community also had the ability to fill out a comment card with any information they wished to share with staff. The dialogue at the community meetings was focused around challenging behaviors that community members witness in parks and their proposed solutions. Interpreters were available at each of the meetings, to assist Spanish-speaking community members of the community.

Flyers

Staff worked with the department's public information team to develop a flyer, in English and Spanish, informing the public about the community meetings (Attachment A). The flyer was shared the following ways:

- Posted and distributed at community and recreation centers citywide;
- Shared through the department's social media channels (Facebook and Twitter);
- Distributed to the Mayor and City Council for sharing, including in their newsletters;
- Sent via email to a broad list of community members, including neighborhood and community leaders and others who have shown an interest in the code of conduct; people identified by the Mayor and City Council; and all of the neighborhood associations, block watches and other community groups registered with the Neighborhood Services Department (approximately 1450 emails).

Web Site

Staff also created a web page for the code of conduct, which is linked to on the Parks and Recreation Department's main web page (www.phoenix.gov/parks). Staff's intent is to continue to add information to the web site as the code of conduct process moves forward, so the community can see the most up-to-date information. In addition to attending the community meetings, residents can also direct questions or comments about the code of conduct via email at receptionist.pks@phoenix.gov, by contacting the department by phone at 602-262-6862 or by mailing a letter.

Media Outreach

The department's Public Information team also distributed a press release to media outlets, generating media coverage of the code of conduct and the community meetings (Attachment B).

Summary of Preliminary Community Feedback

The community meetings in January, including the meeting with the neighborhood and community leaders, were attended by a total of approximately 86 residents. The following is a summary of the behaviors and proposed solutions that have been expressed through the community meetings:

Behavior	Solution
Picking up dog waste	Dispensers/bags
Motorized bikes on trails	Signage/rules
Water fountains/restroom access	Add facilities/add access
After hours hiking on Camelback Mtn.	Raise awareness/periodic enforcement
Creating spider trails	Phone number to call after hours
Monopolizing and/or improper use of ramadas (e.g., sleeping on)	Place time limits on ramada use and/or require reservations
Smoking and vaping	Not allow smoking/vaping; create smoking area; establish a City ordinance
Vehicles driven on sports fields	Ensure gated areas are properly locked when closed
Drug use and/or lewd behavior in the dark or hidden areas	Put lights (solar) under ramada; install surveillance cameras; signage that drug activity is illegal; create a hotline/web link where violations can be reported
Needles left in the parks	Needle exchange and/or disposal cases
Bathing in restrooms	Reduce access
Dogs off leash is a safety issue	More dog parks
Bicycles not yielding to pedestrians	Trail etiquette education
Trash/litter, including after sports events	More trash cans, including specifically located at park entrances; create incentives for sports teams that leave the park clean
Dumping (e.g., mattresses)	Allow volunteers who clean up to have vouchers for free trips to solid waste facilities
Shopping carts brought into the park	Do not allow any items to be brought into the park if they are not used for their intended purpose
General improper behavior	Increase Park Ranger patrols and have trail guides

Additionally, staff received the following feedback:

- Respect the cultural history of parks
- Caution to not criminalize people based on their circumstances;
- Activating Parks: City to partner with non-profit groups and community members (PNP) and engage schools, to activate parks; and/or create a competition with prizes for communities involved in activating parks; movie nights;
- Have QR codes on signs and website;
- Create focus groups to talk with individuals experiencing homelessness; and/or engage former homeless individuals to serve on outreach team;
- Look at public space that is available for those with no other option/choice;
- Introduce a mascot whose message is to keep our parks clean; and/or a marketing slogan (e.g., you bring it in, bring it out).

Next Steps

Staff is reviewing all community feedback and will be working with the City's Law Department to identify options to legally address the behaviors and proposed solutions brought forward by the community. Staff will be giving a presentation to the City Council Parks, Arts, Libraries and Education Subcommittee and receiving feedback from the City Council at that time.

Once the code of conduct is drafted, and the community has had an opportunity to review and provide comments, it will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board for approval.

Following approval of the code of conduct, a campaign will be developed, to include signage, marketing materials, a web presence and social media outreach, to educate the public about the new code of conduct.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: James Orloski, Acting Deputy Director/Tim Merritt, Deputy Director

Approved by: Tracee Crockett, Assistant Director/Inger Erickson, Director



Clean. Safe. Accessible.

City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

Public Meetings Notice - Code of Conduct Policy

The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of creating a Code of Conduct Policy to govern city parks and facilities. A series of public meetings will be held in order to gather feedback that will be used when developing the final policy. Representatives from the city's Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Services, Human Services, Law and Police departments will be present at the public meetings

Additional information about the Code of Conduct Policy is available at Phoenix.gov/Parks

JANUARY
15

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.
South Mountain Community Center, 212 E. Alta Vista Rd.

JANUARY
16

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.
Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Ln.

JANUARY
17

Thursday, January 17, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.
Steele Indian School Park, Memorial Hall, 300 E. Indian School Rd.

JANUARY
22

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.
Maryvale Community Center, 4420 N. 51st Ave.

HELP MAINTAIN CLEAN, SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES!



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City of Phoenix

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Parks and Recreation Department Asking for Input on Code of Conduct Policy



Jan. 10, 2019

The city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of creating a Code of Conduct Policy to govern city parks and facilities. The policy will address behaviors that violate park rules, and city and state regulations. It also will ensure that parks and facilities are safe and accessible to the public.

During the month of January, the Parks and Recreation Department will host a series of three public meetings to have dialogue with the community and gather feedback that will be used when developing the Code of Conduct Policy. At these meetings, residents will be able to interact with representatives from the city's Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Services, Human Services, Law and Police departments.

Public Meeting Schedule:

January 15, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.

South Mountain Community Center, 212 E. Alta Vista Rd.

January 16, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Ln.

January 17, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Steele Indian School Park, Memorial Hall, 300 E. Indian School Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Maryvale Community Center, 4420 N. 51st Ave.

Updates and information about this process will be available on the Parks and Recreation Department's [Code of Conduct page](#). Questions about the process and upcoming public meetings can be answered by contacting the department by phone at 602-262-6862 or [e-mail](#).

Media Contact:

Gregg Bach, 602-262-4994

General Contact:

Parks and Recreation Department

Phone Number:

602-262-6862

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