



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Virtual Meeting

8/16/2021 4:00 PM

Draft Minutes



**Members Present**

**Members**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Richard Conway | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Mark Cox (Chair) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Austin Kerr    | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ryan Martin (Co-Chair)      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ezekiel Ogden  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Stephen Parsons  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Aurelia Yazzie |   |

**Councilmember / Liaison to the City Council**

- Councilmember Salas

**Staff Present**

Lalena Guider - Administrative Specialist  
 Amy Hagin – Parks Manager  
 Rebecca Sayers – Parks, Recreation, Open Space Director  
 Jon Wilson - Recreation Manager

**Guests**

Jennifer Kottra -Flagstaff Pickleball Association  
 Pickleball Guest speakers

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chair Cox.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Chair Cox, Commissioners Conway, Cox, Kerr, Ogden, Parsons, and Yazzie were present for roll call.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 19, 2021 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Parsons to approve the July 19, 2021 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yazzie. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) yea votes.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No Public Participation.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Update Buffalo Park Accessibility Grant – Universal exercise equipment – Amy Hagin  
 Parks Manager Hagin updated the Commission on the status of the Grant as well as improvements and additions to the FUTS trails, and Buffalo Park to include parking amenities, repairs, and universal access stations. Parks is applying to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for half of the funding and a possible match from the Heritage fund or from the Parks budget.
- B. Follow up on pickleball discussion – Commission discussion and possible direction – Rebecca Sayers  
 Parks Recreation and Open Space Director, Rebecca Sayers requested direction around short term and long-term priority placement for funding of pickleball courts. Two permanent Pickleball courts are under construction at Ponderosa Park with completion scheduled in September. Temporary courts exist at Bushmaster on the tennis and basketball courts, and the Pickleball Association has volunteers that set up and take down the temporary nets for scheduled play. These courts are reserved for pickleball use from 8:00 a.m. to noon seven days a week. BBB funds were adversely affected by the pandemic, but The American Rescue Plan may be an option to replace lost funding. The Commission discussed priorities as well as an assessment of locations for short term with room for long term additions.

Members from the Pickleball Association and Pickleball enthusiasts spoke to the Commission on the need for additional Pickleball courts and a Pickleball Center and the benefits that would be provided to the community. A request was made to convert the tennis courts at Bushmaster into permanent Pickleball courts.

Councilmember Salas recommended that the Commission invite all groups to participate in the conversation and that the Commission not pit one type of user against another. She also suggested public – private partnerships to help fund and create additional permanent courts and reminded the Commission that the city needs not only funding for the capital project to construct but also funding for operations and maintenance.

C. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Goals/Policies/Accomplishments – Rebecca Sayers

Sayers reviewed the Master Plan policies, action accomplishments, and the plans priorities. The summarized Master Plan Goals and achievements focused around:

1. Establishing community parks
2. Establishing neighborhood parks
3. Establishing facilities at community parks
4. Development and acquisition of land

Accomplishments noted were additional play structures and resurfaced courts and the language change around pocket parks. The Commission requested a copy of the revised document to review for the next meeting.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS, CITY COUNCILMEMBER REGINA SALAS

Councilmember Salas reported that the Council has approved the rezone request from the Aura Flagstaff development, which includes four permanent, public pickleball courts at the site. Salas also noted that future council meetings may be in person or hybrid. Partnership meetings are being held to discuss ongoing flood mitigation. Discussions are also being conducted around the American Rescue Plan funding.

6. REPORTS - Monthly highlights of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

The Commission reviewed reports with a question on Covid-19 variants emerging and how Recreation is looking at those possibilities. Recreation Manager Jon Wilson reported that recreation is following CDC guidelines and are not currently moving forward with openings of additional facilities or amenities.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Sayers updated the Commission on the Ponderosa Park flooding and the work with stormwater partners around changes to the park to mitigate future flooding issues.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan Accomplishments review
- Pickleball Priorities, Costs and Funding possibilities, and further discussion
- McPherson disc golf course expansion request – cost estimate

8. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM