



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Hybrid Meeting – [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Community Room, Aquaplex 1702 N Fourth St.
May 16, 2022 4:00 p.m.



DRAFT MINUTES

Members

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Richard Conway (Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Austin Kerr |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Brenda Linskey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ryan Martin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Stephen Parsons (Co-Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Dana Rowden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Josh Stackhouse | |

Councilmember / Liaison to the City Council

- Councilmember Regina Salas

Staff and Others Present

Beck Thomas – PROSE Administrative Specialist
Amy Hagin – Parks and Recreation Manager
Jana Perpich – Guest

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Parsons at 4:03 pm.

1. **Roll Call**

Commissioners Parsons, Stackhouse, Kerr, Martin, and Rowden were present for roll call. Commissioner Rowden joined at 4:12 pm.

2. **Approval of the March 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the April 18, 2022 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Linskey. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Participation**

No public participation was given.

4. **Discussion Items**

A. Grant Opportunities

A presentation was given by PROSE Administrative Specialist Beck Thomas on the available and applicable grant opportunities provided by Arizona State Parks. The presentation detailed what types of grant funding is available such as pedestrian use, playground construction or maintenance, bicycling, etc. There were 3 funds mentioned that would be applicable for unfunded projects for PROSE: The Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Heritage Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program. Some unfunded projects totaling less than \$1 million for Fiscal Year 2023 that were mentioned include:

- Field lighting upgrade to LED
- Wheeler Park Electrical Repairs
- Tennis Courts Development
- Aquaplex Kids Club Outdoor Play Area

- Thorpe Park, Indigenous Community Center
- Play Structures – Replacement
- Splash Pad Development

The Commission asked questions regarding prioritizing these unfunded capital projects, which will be addressed in the June Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Parks and Interim Recreation Manager Hagin mentioned that public communication to prioritize projects is important when deciding on which grants to apply for, as the Commission’s and PROSE Division’s priorities may differ from the public. The Commission also asked how many grants could be possibly applied for given staff availability, to which Amy responded that the proposed PROSE reorganization would delegate grant writing duties largely to a staff member, increasing the number of grants that can be applied for.

Details regarding these funds and their regulations can be found on: www.azstateparks.com/grants.

B. Thorpe Park Annex Outreach Recap

Hagin gave an update on the Thorpe Park Annex Outreach Event that took place on April 30, 2022. Hagin detailed the 4 sections of the parcel, and the exercises that took place at the event to engage the community and gather public sentiment regarding the future of this parcel. Exercises included a Build-A-Park hands-on activity and a compatibility exercise to experience and input opinions on what each individual would enjoy for this parcel. The public was invited to walk around the entire parcel to envision what would work well in each space. Hagin mentioned that the goal of the Engagement Outreach was to compile data from the public to present to council for future development.

The Commission asked about existing facilities at the Thorpe Park Annex and the possibilities of moving them or repurposing them. Hagin responded that there is strong support for the structure at the Annex to become an Indigenous Community Center.

The Commission also wanted to clarify the use of the term “Indigenous Community Center” and if there is a definition of “indigenous.” Councilmember Salas answered that the Indigenous Community Center would become a gathering place for local indigenous community members to share their history. She also mentioned that it would involve the help of the Indigenous Commission to create the space.

The next meeting for Thorpe Park Annex will take place on June 11, 2022 pending further planning. PROSE Staff will supply an update at the July Commission meeting.

C. Flood Mitigation – Community Involvement

Hagin led the conversation about the command team and volunteer group leading efforts for flood mitigation. There will be multiple events for the community to help on June 4 and June 18 to remove and refresh sandbags in partnership with the County. Information on these events will be released by the city providing location and time.

5. City Council Liaison Reports – Councilmember Regina Salas

Salas mentioned the budget retreat and it has approved the budget request for PROSE including the reorganization including the addition of 2.5 positions. In regard to Infrastructure, the council committed to fund \$9.3 million in projects in various departments.

6. Reports – Monthly highlights of Parks and Recreation, Open Space

The Commission asked about the cost of certain items like hand dryers, and Hagin clarified that the total

cost of improvement items includes the cost of the item and the labor hours it takes to complete that item.

The Commission also asked for Aquaplex membership numbers to be provided to see how they have improved after the re-opening. Hagin responded that a snapshot can be provided to the Commission.

The Commission asked about the return of athletics like Softball teams to which Hagin responded that Softball has about 90 teams signed up, along with strong sign ups for Hockey. Basketball and other sports were mentioned to show that athletics are returning to pre-pandemic levels. Permits were also mentioned with numbers returning to a historical amount. Staffing was mentioned as a limiter in terms of certain programming in Recreation such as the Kids' Corner, and Free Swim.

7. Informational items to and from Commissioners and Staff

There were no informational items to and from Commissioners and Staff.

8. Agenda Items for June 20, 2022 meeting

- A. Unfunded Project Priorities and Grant Relationships
- B. Creating a Friends of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Related Group – Commissioner Stackhouse
- C. BBB Recreation 5-Year Plan

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.