



City of Apache Junction, Arizona

Meeting Minutes Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Location:

City Council Chambers
at City Hall
300 E Superstition Blvd
Apache Junction, AZ
85119

apachejunctionaz.gov
P: (480) 983-2181

Doors are open to the public at least 15 minutes prior to the posted meeting start time.

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chair Heather Moeller called the regular meeting of the City of Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Moeller led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chairperson Moeller, Vice Chair Bigelow, Commissioner Schoenbeck, Commissioner Kyhn, and Commissioner Madrid

Excused 2 - Commissioner Borey, and Commissioner Moore

Staff Present:

Liz Langenbach, Parks and Recreation Director
Jamie Sullivan, Recreation Superintendent
Dave Butler, Parks Superintendent
Riley King, Management Analyst
Elliott Anuta, Aquatics & Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
Christi Hamm, Senior Administrative Assistant

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Frank Schoenbeck moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission accept the agenda as presented and approve the minutes from the June 5, 2024 regular meeting. Vice Chair Sheryl Bigelow seconded the motion. This was approved.

Yes: 5 - Chairperson Moeller, Vice Chair Bigelow, Commissioner Schoenbeck, Commissioner Kyhn and Commissioner Madrid

No: 0

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Borey and Commissioner Moore

[24-605](#) Consideration of approval of agenda.

[24-606](#) Consideration of approval of regular meeting minutes of June 5, 2024.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes 6.5.24](#)

5. Information and Reports

Commissioners shared activities and events they attended and volunteered for such as the Prehistoric Day, July 4th event, senior meals, and others. Many commissioners mentioned how pleased they were with staff at the Multi-Generational Center, pool, and at events.

6. Staff Report

[24-607](#) Presentation and update on projects and opportunities in the parks and other service areas.

Parks Superintendent Dave Butler presented updates on recently completed projects at the Multi-Generational Center including the flooring and new kitchen equipment. He shared upcoming projects that include the Dutchman Dog Park improvements and designing the Prospector Park pickleball courts. He mentioned that the installation of the restroom and drainage improvements at Superstition Shadows will be completed towards the end of the year. He also shared several upcoming maintenance projects, presented updates on the Superstition Basin project, and concluded with the upcoming Painted Sky Park ribbon cutting. All questions and comments from the commissioners were answered and noted.

[24-608](#) Presentation, discussion and update on upcoming events and activities.

Recreation Superintendent Jamie Sullivan updated the commission on recent events and activities. She shared that July was Parks and Recreation celebration month. She encouraged the commission to watch July's marketing videos on social media commemorating the slogan Where You Belong. She reported that the Gila River Indian Community provided extra funding for the Senior Services transportation program. She thanked Aaron McDermid for sponsoring the free swim day and Little League for supplying watermelons for the event on July 4th. She concluded with letting the commission know that event season is near and is welcoming volunteers for the many upcoming events and activities.

7. Old Business

[24-612](#) Presentation and update on the current Aquatics Season.

Outdoor Recreation & Aquatics Coordinator Elliott Anuta updated the commission on the current aquatics season patron counts for open swim and swim lessons. He presented all of the special interest programs offered at the pool such as water aerobics, Read and Rec and more. He also shared special events held at the pool as well as announced this year's return of Apache Junction's swim team.

8. New Business

[24-455](#) Discussion and update on budget for fiscal year 2024/2025.

Director Langenbach provided the commission with a breakdown of funds for the new Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget. She shared the list of new positions that will soon be filled within the department which will provide opportunities for staff growth. She discussed the development fee fund and mentioned that pickleball court time is in high demand and that with the new court expansion at Prospector Park, will help fulfill the community's requests for more courts. She also shared the department has applied for a shade grant and updates will come at a later date. She concluded with a list of major new improvement projects, some of which are already underway.

[24-610](#)

Presentation and discussion on the next steps to update the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.

Attachments: [Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan 2023](#)

Management Analyst Riley King presented the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan and showed which sections will be addressed in the new update. She asked the commissioners to come prepared with questions and suggestions at the next meeting. She mentioned the strategic plan will also include input from the public and staff. All questions from the commissioners were answered.

[24-611](#)

Presentation, discussion, and update on invasive plants projects.

Director Langenbach and Aquatics & Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Elliott Anuta presented updates on the current status of the Invasive Plants Grant and the Arizona State University's Invasive Species Campaign report. They showed pictures and information about the most common invasive plants as well as a geographic information system map showing where most of the infestation is located at Silly Mountain. The new Invading Apache Junction campaign was introduced along with community outreach plans such as the partnership with Kabat's Ace Hardware and volunteer outreach. All questions from the commissioners were answered.

9. Call to Public

Kelly McDonald representing the Apache Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 3701 E Thames Circle San Tan Valley, AZ 85140, requested that the City of Apache Junction Parks and Recreation include the America 250 celebration in a future agenda.

10. Call for Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Schoenbeck requested a discussion on how to influence commercial properties to get involved in the Tree City USA program. Commissioner Khyn requested that the America 250 celebration be added to the next agenda.

11. Selection of Meeting Dates, Times, Location and Purpose

[24-609](#)

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 4, 2024 in the city council chambers located at 300 E. Superstition Boulevard.

Commissioner Diele Khyn moved, seconded by Vice Chair Sheryl Bigelow that the regular session of the Parks and Recreation Commission be held September 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the city council chambers located at 300 E Superstition Boulevard, Apache Junction. This was approved.

- Yes:** 5 - Chairperson Moeller, Vice Chair Bigelow, Commissioner Schoenbeck, Commissioner Kyhn and Commissioner Madrid
- No:** 0
- Excused:** 2 - Commissioner Borey and Commissioner Moore

12. Adjournment

Chair Moeller adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.