

**City of Phoenix  
General Obligation Bond Committee  
Parks & Recreation Subcommittee  
Summary Minutes  
Monday, August 29, 2022**

City Council Chambers  
200 W. Jefferson St.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Subcommittee Members Present

Hon. Mary Rose Wilcox, Chair  
Ms. Elizabeth Perez-Pawloski, Vice Chair  
Mr. John Bullock  
Ms. Dana Burns  
Mr. Adrian Garcia  
Mr. Brett Hunt  
Mr. Gary Kaasa  
Mr. Jeff Spellman - virtual

Subcommittee Members Absent

Mr. Tim Madrid

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilcox called the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee to order at 1:01 p.m. with Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski, committee members Dana Burns, Gary Kaasa, Brett Hunt, John Bullock, and Jeff Spellman present.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 15, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2022 meeting. Committee member Hunt seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 7-0.

**3. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Chair Wilcox thanked staff and all in attendance and briefed on the overview of GO Bond meeting and goals.

Chair Wilcox announced the Executive Committee would hold a public hearing on September 14 at 6 p.m.

**4. CAPITAL NEEDS & PRIORITIZATION & EVALUATION PROCESS**

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar presented on the Parks & Recreation Prioritized Capital Needs, funding sources, user statistics. Ms. Aguilar identified the needs and updates on current projects and impacts to the community through five categories: undeveloped parks, aquatics improvements, park improvements, facilities improvements, and South Mountain Park and Preserve.

Committee member Garcia joined the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Chair Wilcox asked if the splash pads would be built on top of the pools at Grant, Alkire, University, Marivue, and Holiday Parks.

Ms. Aguilar explained that the pools that will be a renovation of the existing footprint space of where the pool is.

Chair Wilcox verified the pool space will be utilized to complete this and no more space will be needed.

Committee member Kaasa asked if Phoenix has other splash pads or if other cities in Maricopa County have splash pads, how they are used, and the popularity.

Ms. Aguilar stated Phoenix does have 10 to 12 splash pads in the park system and are heavily used amenities. Parks is looking into extending splash pad season due to the popularity.

Committee member Hunt asked what the projection would be with the regional pools of lifeguards necessary in this concept versus the current concept and will this make it more reasonable to make more pools open.

Aquatics Supervisor Becky Kirk stated the overall need for lifeguards would be approximately the same.

Member Hunt asked whether the subcommittee could assist with the recruiting pipeline of lifeguards.

Ms. Aguilar stated that this would be a separate item from the GO Bond Committee but welcomes members to spread the word about these opportunities.

Chair Wilcox suggested a possible partnership with Phoenix Union for lifeguard training at Harmon Pool.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview of the Rio Salado Embankment Erosion Control Project including the protection of the bikeway paths. Ms. Aguilar indicated that Flood Control District funding would most likely not be available.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview of the Sunnyslope Area Capital Investments and provided some examples of what has been accomplished with other funding sources such as Parks and Preserve Initiative Funding and CDBG Funds.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if the new playground was installed at the Sunnyslope Park or the Mountain View Park.

Ms. Aguilar stated that playgrounds were installed at Mountain View Park, Norton Park, and Winifred Green Park.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview of a proposed new recreation center at Esteban Park along with the projected costs and the annual impacts to the budget.

Chair Wilcox asked if a smaller center was looked at to start in Phase 1.

Ms. Aguilar stated that the 4,000 square-foot center that was proposed would be a small neighborhood recreation center.

Chair Wilcox asked if this is similar to the 19<sup>th</sup> and Roeser location.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview of the proposed Grant Park Historic Bathhouse Renovation along with the projected costs and staffing and the annual impacts to the budget. Ms. Aguilar indicated that there could be opportunities for operating partnerships as an option to save on annual impacts.

Chair Wilcox stated that this is a historic building, and it cannot be taken down.

Ms. Aguilar stated she has confirmed with the Budget and Research Department that funding for Minor Capital Projects is an allowable use of GO bond funds. If a line were included in bond program, applications could be submitted by neighborhoods to request amenities to neighborhood parks, and that the Parks & Recreation Department would establish a process.

Ms. Aguilar gave an overview on Bikeway Capital Needs and noted that projects under review by the Street Transportation & Drainage Subcommittee also include bicycle-related improvements.

Member Hunt asked if the South Mountain roadway improvements could be included under the Streets Transportation & Drainage Committee.

Ms. Aguilar stated that the roadways within the South Mountain Park and Preserves are the responsibility of the Parks Department.

Ms. Erickson stated Street Transportation helps manage the roadway up to the entry of the park but pass the entrance point, Parks is responsible for servicing the park and its roads.

Chair Wilcox asked if this includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bike path that comes from Rio Salado.

Ms. Erickson clarified that the Rio Salado bicycle and pedestrian bridge would utilize federal funds.

Member Spellman thanked staff for the bike path information and asked if there is an opportunity for someone in the Streets Department speak on details on the bikeway program included in their section of the bond program.

Chair Wilcox noted that members could attend Street Transportation & Drainage subcommittee meetings.

Member Spellman stated he believes there is a lot of connectivity between park facilities and bikeways, and it would be beneficial to understand how they connect.

Chair Wilcox stated Ms. Aguilar will look into an abbreviated presentation.

Member Burns asked what process would be to elevate the proposed Esteban Park and Recreation Center improvements from future capital needs to prioritized capital needs.

Chair Wilcox indicated that would be an item for the committee to consider.

Ms. Erickson confirmed that these projects could be considered in place of or in addition to the proposed prioritized projects, but that overall needs exceed available resources.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked for clarification on the Sunnyslope Capital Improvement projects, whether they were previous or future programs.

Ms. Aguilar stated that they were previous, except the Sunnyslope Youth Center improvements were ongoing this fiscal year.

Chair Wilcox opened the floor to public comment.

City Attorney Patricia Boland explained the rules for public comment.

Karina Dominguez spoke in support of Estrella Civic Space and Marivue splash pad.

Christian Sanich spoke in support of tennis and pickle ball courts in the Mountain View Park.

Chris Murphy spoke in support of fire stations, staffing, and firetrucks.

Dan Penton spoke in support of the Estrella Civic Space and the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel conveyance area.

Roy Dawson spoke in support of the Esteban Park Recreation Center Project.

Sandra Bassett, Phoenix Center of the Arts, spoke in support of repairs to the interior of the Phoenix Center of Arts facility.

Peter Lumianski spoke in support of building a Cold War monument at Steele Indian Steele Park.

Anita Theisen, Arizona Science Center, spoke in support of the proposal for the Arizona Science Center.

Suhani Patel spoke in support of the proposal for the Arizona Science Center.

Claudine Wessel spoke in support of the proposal for the Arizona Science Center.

Guy Labine, CEO of the Arizona Science Center, spoke in support of the proposal for the Arizona Science Center.

Charles Dar spoke in support of the addition of more skate park facilities.

Trent Martin spoke in support of the addition of more skate park facilities in central Phoenix.

Cyndy Gaughan, Phoenix Community Alliance, spoke in support of renovations for Margaret T Hance Park.

Channel Powe spoke in support of technology upgrades and accessibility to the South Phoenix Community Center.

Thomas Claiborn spoke in support of Esteban Park Recreation Center Project.

Budget and Research Deputy Director Chris Fazio gave an overview of the GO Bond project prioritization process.

Chair Wilcox noted that the new projects that the subcommittee reviewed totaled about \$6 million and asked what if any of the prioritized projects proposed by staff could be cut back to fit these projects in.

Ms. Aguilar stated that staff would review opportunities to reduce funding levels for the prioritized projects.

Chair Wilcox suggested staff consider a smaller recreation center at Esteban Park and will inquire regarding Maricopa County's ability to partner on Rio Salado improvements.

Member Kaasa requested clarification on the three new capital projects.

Chair Wilcox responded that the new projects considered were renovations to the historic bathhouse for \$1.6 million, minor capital improvements for \$500,000, and Esteban Park Recreation Center construction for \$4 million. Ms. Aguilar reviewed the requests.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if the initial request was for \$109 million, not including the future projects and if the additional three projects totaling to \$6 million would increase that total.

Chair Wilcox stated that staff would review whether project costs could be reduced to avoid increasing the total.

Chair Wilcox requested a report covering new projects presented, prior to the next meeting, and would like to avoid increasing the \$109 million prioritized for the subcommittee

Ms. Erickson encouraged the subcommittee to view the Arts & Culture Subcommittee on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., where the Phoenix Center for the Arts project would be presented.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski suggested the subcommittee evaluate and rank each item by priority.

Chair Wilcox stated the survey would be disseminated after the next meeting with all information required.

Chair Wilcox announced the next meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski inquired about the evening Executive Committee meeting.

Staff responded that the meeting would be for public comment only and would receive comments related to all subcommittees.

Member Hunt asked if further requests outside of these meeting arise, what is the proper and legal way to request those.

Mr. Fazio stated requests should be shared with department staff or the subcommittee's staffing assistant.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.