

**City of Phoenix
General Obligation Bond Committee
Parks & Recreation Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Monday, October 3, 2022**

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

Subcommittee Members Present

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

Subcommittee Members Absent

Mr. Jeff Spellman
Mr. John Bullock
Mr. Gus LaZear

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilcox called the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee to order at 1:02 p.m. with committee members Dana Burns, Adrian Garcia, Brett Hunt, Gary Kaasa, and Elizabeth Perez-Pawloski present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19th Park & Recreation GO Bond Subcommittee meeting. Member Burns seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 6-0.

3. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chair Wilcox opened the meeting explained the subcommittee will need to discuss, prioritize, and evaluate the projects that they ranked and decide what will be forwarded to the Executive Subcommittee.

Chair Wilcox turned the meeting over to Deputy City Manager Inger Erickson and Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar.

4. CAPITAL NEEDS & PRIORITIZATION & EVALUATION PROCESS

Ms. Erickson explained the next steps to the subcommittee, which include moving forward the highest priority projects, deciding the funding levels for projects, and moving projects forward that can't be deferred.

Ms. Erickson explained that staff identified \$647 million in prioritized capital needs, and the GO Bond going to voters would be capped at \$500 million.

Ms. Erickson turned the meeting over to Deputy Budget & Research Director Chris Fazio.

Mr. Fazio reviewed the results of the ranking survey with subcommittee members.

Chair Wilcox moved the meeting to public comment and noted ranking would be discussed following public comment.

Assistant Chief Counsel Patricia Boland explained the rules for public comment.

David Howell inquired about the status of the Arizona Science Center.

Chair Wilcox responded that the project was not on the list of projects evaluated by the subcommittee, but that further discussion could occur during Executive Committee meetings.

Lisa Perez spoke in support of Estrella Civic Space Phase 1.

Jeff Sikes spoke in concern for tennis courts being transitioned into pickleball courts and would like to see tennis courts remain as is and that future pickleball courts not be built on current tennis courts.

Sarah Day spoke in support of tennis courts remaining at Roadrunner Park and against pickleball replacing tennis courts.

Jason Coochwyte spoke in support of Arizona Science Center.

Vania Guevara spoke in support of Estrella Civic Space Phase 1 and in equity access to city facilities.

Chair Wilcox opened the floor back up for discussion.

Member Kaasa asked for clarification on tennis courts and pickleball courts within the Mountain View Community Center Sports Complex project.

Ms. Aguilar explained the project would add sixteen new pickleball courts and renovate the six existing tennis courts, and that tennis courts would not be converted for pickleball under the proposed project.

Chair Wilcox explained that the committee can now work to stay within the current ranked framework, re-rank the projects, add or remove projects, and adjust project amounts.

Member Kaasa expressed concern that the current proposed prioritized Parks projects are not a representation of a balanced program to City of Phoenix residents,

noted a gap in projects between Glendale Road and Bell Road, and advocated moving Desert View Civic Space Phase 1 up in rank.

Chair Wilcox noted that some of the high-ranked projects are used by residents citywide.

Chair Wilcox inquired about including upgrades to Sweetwater Park by reducing the scope of Pueblo Grande Museum improvements.

Ms. Aguilar stated that Sweetwater Park is in need of improvements and would fall in the area that is lacking proposed bond projects. Ms. Aguilar advised that the scope of work is approximately \$1.5 million dollars to add a playground, furniture and lighting to Sweetwater Park and it would be at the direction of the subcommittee to add it to the priority list and scale down the scope of the Pueblo Grande Museum.

Member Kaasa remarked that the Executive Committee was unlikely to fund more than \$84 million.

Ms. Aguilar stated that it would be at the subcommittee's discretion if Sweetwater Park is added with or without a balancing reduction.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski clarified that if Sweetwater Park is added and moved up in the ranking that they would balance at \$109 million by taking from another project.

Member Hunt asked if there were other funding sources for Pueblo Grande Museum. If the direction is to reduce the scope at Pueblo Grande Museum to fund the improvements at Sweetwater Park.

Ms. Aguilar stated there are other funding sources that could be explored in the Parks Department to fund either Sweetwater Park or the Pueblo Grande Museum.

Chair Wilcox noted that Member Spellman was unable to attend the meeting but had relayed his support for the survey rankings.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski advocated for adding Sweetwater Park, and moving Telephone Pioneers of America Park and Desert View Civic Space higher in rank.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if there was alternate funding for South Phoenix Youth Center.

Ms. Aguilar stated that the project would be eligible for use of Phoenix Parks and Initiative Funding (PPPI) but was not included in the current five-year funding plan.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski remarked regarding the concentration of highly ranked projects in districts 7 and 8 and advocated for more representation for other districts.

Chair Wilcox noted the regional nature of the Margaret T Hance Park Project.

Member Burns noted that South Phoenix has historically lacked equitable investment and supported the current ranking.

Member Kaasa stated the GO bond program should reflect the needs of the total community of voters.

Chair Wilcox states that we need a motion to add Sweetwater Park to the ranked list of programs.

Member Kaasa made a motion to place Sweetwater Park in the list of projects and rank it at number ten at \$1.5 million. Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski seconded.

Chair Wilcox stated she does not agree with putting Sweetwater Park above Maryvale Pool.

Ms. Erickson advised that if the committee is not ready to vote on motions, they should withdraw the current motion and second.

Member Kaasa withdrew his motion.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski withdrew her second.

Member Kaasa advocated moving Desert View Civic Space up in rank, under Estrella Civic Space.

Chair Wilcox asked for consensus. Members indicated support.

Chair Wilcox asked staff to reflect Maryvale Regional Pool higher, under Harmon Regional Pool.

Ms. Erickson confirmed Maryvale under Harmon.

Member Hunt asked for a reminder of the scope of work at the Grant Park Bathhouse.

Ms. Aguilar stated the existing historic bathhouse would be converted into a flexible recreation space at Grant Park. The pool would be converted to a splash pad so the bathhouse would no longer be needed.

Chair Wilcox stated that the bathhouse can not be torn down because it is historic.

Member Hunt asked if Historic Preservation funds could be used to convert the bathhouse to a flexible recreation space. Ms. Aguilar stated all projects could use other funding sources if available.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked to see Telephone Pioneer swapped in rank with Grant Park Bathhouse renovation. Chair Wilcox opposed the change and polled the committee. Members did not have consensus on the proposed change.

Member Hunt advocated for Telephone Pioneers of America Park due to its ADA accessibility and geographic balance.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski proposed swapping the ranks of Telephone Pioneers of America Park with the South Phoenix Youth Center since South Phoenix Youth Center could compete for other funding sources.

Chair Wilcox asked for consensus. Members indicated support.

Member Kaasa proposed moving the Mountain View and Telephone Pioneer projects higher in rank.

Chair Wilcox noted the challenge of reducing funding.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if Mountain View Sports Complex and South Phoenix Youth Center could be swapped.

Chair Wilcox asked for consensus. Members indicated support.

Member Hunt asked if funding could be taken from the \$17 million dollar Hance Park project to make more funding available for other projects. Member Kaasa indicated support for the proposal.

Ms. Aguilar reported that the Hance Park was not scalable, but the committee could choose to move it lower in the ranking or remove it from the list.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski advocated increasing the rank of Sweetwater Park.

Member Kaasa inquired how many projects in the top nine are north of Camelback Road.

Ms. Erickson responded that two projects would be north of Camelback Road: Desert View Civic Space and citywide park improvements.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if any of the top ten projects could be scaled down further.

Ms. Aguilar indicated that all projects that could be scaled back had already been scaled back.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski advocated moving Sweetwater Park to a rank of twelve.

Member Kaasa asked Ms. Aguilar if the Harmon and Maryvale pool projects could be scaled back.

Ms. Aguilar responded that was not possible.

Member Hunt asked if phases of the Hance Park revitalization could be scaled down to include parts of the project that the subcommittee would deem a higher priority.

Ms. Aguilar responds that scaling of Hance Park was not possible due to engineering sequencing required related to the park's location over the Interstate 10 freeway. If the subcommittee decided to reduce the amount of GO bond funding, supplemental funding sources would be needed to construct the project.

Member Burns advocated for projects in South Phoenix due to historic lack of funding in the area.

Chair Wilcox asked to move Sweetwater Park between Mountain View and South Phoenix Youth Center. Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski indicated support.

Member Hunt noted an adjustment was needed to Pueblo Grande to reallocate to the Sweetwater Park project.

Chair Wilcox indicated that the top 14 projects would be highlighted in the report to the Executive Committee.

Member Burns made the motion to recommend items 1 through 17 to the Executive Committee, with a note that items 15 through 17 should not replace projects in the top 14. Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 6-0.

- 1. Citywide Funding for Minor Capital - \$1.5 million
- 2. Esteban Recreation Center - \$5.0 million
- 3. South Mountain Roadway Safety - \$10.7 million
- 4. Margaret T. Hance Park Improvements - \$17.8 million
- 5. Harmon Park Regional Pool & 3 Splash Pads - \$12.8 million
- 6. Maryvale Regional Pool & 3 Splash Pads - \$14.4 million
- 7. Grant Park Bathhouse Renovation - \$1.6 million
- 8. Estrella Civic Space Phase I - \$12.3 million
- 9. Desert View Civic Space Phase I - \$8.4 million
- 10. Telephone Pioneers of America Recreation Center - \$2.2 million

- 11. Mountain View Sports Complex - \$1.2 million
- 12. Sweetwater Park Improvements - \$1.5 million
- 13. South Phoenix Youth Center Improvements - \$3.2 million
- 14. South Mountain Community Center - \$4.6 million
- 15. Rio Salado Embankment Erosion Control - \$4.6 million
- 16. Pueblo Grande Museum/Archaeological Park - \$5.3 million
- 17. Washington Activity Center - \$2.6 million

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.