

**City of Phoenix
General Obligation Bond Committee
Parks & Recreation Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Monday, September 19, 2022**

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

Subcommittee Members Present

Ms. 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

Subcommittee Members Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilcox called the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee to order at 1:03 p.m. with committee members John Bullock, Dana Burns, Adrian Garcia, Brett Hunt, Gary Kaasa, Elizabeth Perez, and Jeff Spellman present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 29, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Committee member Hunt made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2022, Park & Recreation GO Bond Subcommittee meeting. Chair Wilcox seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 8-0.

3. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chair Wilcox opened the meeting by thanking staff and all in attendance, announced that the subcommittee would need to define today the universe of projects that it would be ranking and evaluating, and turned the meeting over to Parks and Research Director Cynthia Aguilar.

4. CAPITAL NEEDS & PRIORITIZATION & EVALUATION PROCESS

Ms. Aguilar summarized the prioritized projects proposal.

Ms. Aguilar presented the three additional subcommittee requested projects, Esteban Recreation Center, Grant Park Historic Bathhouse Renovation, and funding for minor Capital projects for an estimated cost of \$7.1 million.

Ms. Aguilar presented information on possible scope reductions of approximately \$7.4 million on the South Mountain Roadway safety enhancements, South Mountain Community Center renovations, Washington Activity Center renovations and Telephone Pioneers of America Park Recreation Center improvements.

Ms. Aguilar noted the \$4.9 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-28 on the South Mountain Roadway Safety Enhancements scope reduction would leave 8.6 miles of lower park roadway incomplete, out of 15 miles of total roadway work originally proposed.

Member Spellman asked that if there was a fifty percent reduction to the South Mountain Roadway Project if other funding sources could be identified like Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative Program (PPPI).

Ms. Aguilar responded they could look at other funding sources including PPPI.

Ms. Aguilar presented the \$2 million reduction for the South Mountain Community Center and Washington Activity Center, reduction of \$1 million for each project, would delay bathroom remodels for both facilities. Ms. Aguilar also stated they could try to look at other funding sources to complete these projects.

Ms. Aguilar presented that the \$500,000 reduction to Telephone Pioneers of America Park would eliminate the city's ability to remove a large mound of dirt that has existed for many years and facilitates vandalism.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if the city made sure that the cuts that are being presented were equitable to other parts of the city.

Ms. Aguilar responded that they looked at the distribution map that was sent to the subcommittee and the cuts presented are spread out according to the map. Ms. Aguilar noted that the proposed cuts from the four projects cover several council districts.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski expressed the importance of equity to voters.

Member Kaasa also urged the city to offer a more geographically balanced program.

Chair Wilcox asked if the dirt mound at Telephone Pioneers of America Park could be removed by members of the public like unions with apprentices as an option to get it done at no cost.

Ms. Aguilar responded that they could look into that option.

Chair Wilcox suggested that the minor capital fund proposal could be increased from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million to help provide equity.

Member Kaasa voiced support for all projects and agreed increasing the minor capital funding would allow more flexibility.

Streets & Transportation Director Kini Knudson presented on the three bikeway related bond items being considered by the Street & Storm Drainage GO bond Subcommittee, which include:

- Equity-Based Mobility
- Pavement Maintenance
- Vision Zero

Chair Wilcox complimented the Third Avenue bike lane project.

Mr. Knudson stated the project from Roosevelt to McDowell has been completed and it is the city's first two-way protected bike lanes. Mr. Knudson also noted that later this fiscal year construction will begin on the extension from McDowell to Thomas Road.

Mr. Knudson discussed additional bikeway safety programs that are currently underway or in the predesign phase.

Chair Wilcox asked about future Third Avenue work.

Mr. Knudson discussed projects in progress and noted that the city has received a \$25 million grant to build a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the river along the Third Street alignment along with improvements to the pathway along the south banks of the river.

Member Spellman remarked on the poor condition of Phoenix bikeways compared to those of other cities and noted that improvements would be consistent with Council priorities for climate and cooling.

Mr. Knudson reviewed bicycle facility enhancements associated with the Transportation 2050 Program, the Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program, the Active Transportation Program, and canalscape projects.

Chair Wilcox asked if Maricopa County was helping with funding for that project.

Mr. Knudson responded he wasn't aware of funding coming from the county, but he could check with staff.

Ms. Aguilar continued her presentation on the organizations that spoke and presented at the August 29th Parks subcommittee meeting: the Phoenix Center for the Arts, Arizona Science Center, and the USS Phoenix Cold War Memorial.

Ms. Aguilar reviewed information on the Phoenix Center for the Arts proposal, noting that the proposal included some items that are the city's responsibility under its operating agreement, items that are the tenant's responsibility, and a proposal to construct a theater in the north building; the north building is not part of the current operating agreement and has been allocated for another purpose. The city is in initiating work to address approximately \$200,000 of immediate facility needs and would develop a plan to address the future capital needs that are the city's responsibility.

Chair Wilcox asked if those immediate needs were health and safety items.

Ms. Aguilar stated they need to be addressed but there isn't a current report that shows health and safety issues, but any health or safety items that are detected during work would be remediated.

Chair Wilcox and Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski inquired about funding for immediate needs.

Ms. Aguilar responds that PPPI funding has been identified.

Ms. Aguilar reviewed the city's operating agreement with the Arizona Science Center, and the Arizona Science Center's project proposal. The proposal would be outside the scope of the current operating agreement, with the exception of certain lighting work.

Chair Wilcox inquired about maintenance work.

Ms. Aguilar responded that the city completes work orders on maintenance items that are the city's responsibility.

Chair Wilcox verified that the request to staff and the subcommittee for the Arizona Science Center was primarily for expansion.

Ms. Aguilar responded that the request includes expansions, enhancements, or improvements.

Ms. Aguilar reviewed the project proposal from the USS Phoenix Cold War Memorial for Steele Indian School Park, which was conceptually approved as a site by the Parks Board, allowing fundraising efforts by the organization to proceed.

Chair Wilcox asked how much was raised.

Ms. Aguilar believed it was approximately \$100,000.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski confirmed that the projects would not be included in what the subcommittee is moving forward.

Ms. Aguilar responded that would be at the subcommittee's discretion.

Chair Wilcox opened the floor to public comment.

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

Sandra Bassett from Phoenix Center from the Arts spoke in support of the Phoenix Center for the Arts Proposal, provided a handout to the subcommittee, and expressed concern about ongoing deferred maintenance issues.

Chair Wilcox asked Ms. Aguilar to meet with Ms. Bassett and report back to the subcommittee.

Billy Shields spoke in support of the Hance Park project.

Dr. Carol Poore spoke in support of the Hance Park project.

Dan Penton spoke in support of the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel project and urban lake improvements at Cesar Chavez Park.

James Teeple spoke in support of Hance Park improvements.

Lizbeth Bueno spoke in support of the Estrella Civic Space.

Robert Miller spoke in support of the Arizona Science Center project.

Lisa Perez spoke in support of Estrella Civic Space.

Linda Abegg spoke in support of the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel.

Leezah Sun spoke in support of the Estrella Civic Space

Larry Lazarus spoke in support of the Hance Park project.

Rebecca Perrera spoke in support of the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel.

Jason Douvikas spoke in support of the Arizona Science Center.

Cyndy Gaughan spoke in support of the Hance Park project.

Catrina Kahler spoke in support of the Hance Park project.

Tim Sprague spoke in support of the Hance Park project.

Leah Fregulia spoke in support of the Hance Park Project.

Monet Lewis spoke in support of Solano Skatepark Project.

Chari Wilcox asked staff to confirm that phase 1 of skate park improvements were in progress.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed.

Chair Wilcox asked subcommittee members for comments regarding proposed scope reductions.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski emphasized the importance of equity and in presenting proposals clearly to the public.

Chair Wilcox asked for clarification regarding the project funding amounts to be considered by the subcommittee.

Deputy Budget & Research Director Chris Fazio responded that would be up to the discretion of the subcommittee; subcommittee members would need to understand what scope is being evaluated when completing their survey, but the subcommittee could deliberate on the scope of work at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski clarified that staff would need direction from the subcommittee if the survey would include the thirteen original prioritized projects and the three new projects and if it would include the revised scope with the project cuts.

Mr. Fazio confirmed.

Mr. Fazio reviewed the Executive Committee's charge to the subcommittees and presented an optional survey tool to facilitate subcommittee deliberations.

Chari Wilcox asked if the tool would include the funding levels.

Mr. Fazio responded that funding would be part of the discussion at the following meeting and if the committee decided to evaluate a project at the reduced scope it would be noted in the survey.

Chair Wilcox asked if the additional projects discussed during this meeting could be considered during the subcommittee's fourth meeting.

Deputy City Manager Alan Stephenson responded that they should be included in the survey tool if the subcommittee wishes to evaluate them.

Chair Wilcox asked if staff could assist if members have questions regarding the survey tool.

Mr. Fazio confirmed.

Chair Wilcox asked for subcommittee comments regarding the scope reductions that were presented.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked for confirmation that alternate funding could be provided to fund the scope removed from the South Mountain Roadway project.

Ms. Aguilar responded that staff would have a goal of using PPPI funding for remaining scope, but this would be dependent on other priorities.

Chair Wilcox remarked about the potential for alternate funding sources on all projects where cuts were proposed.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed that each project would qualify for potential PPPI funding.

Mr. Stephenson stated the first question for the committee to decide is if the committee wishes to use the survey tool.

Chair Wilcox asked for committee member comments regarding use of the survey tool. Committee members indicated agreement.

Chair Wilcox asked if all the committee members are okay with incorporating staff's reduced project amounts in the survey tool.

Member Spellman noted that the reductions exceeded the additions.

Chair Wilcox proposed increasing funding for minor CIP projects from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million.

Chair Wilcox noted that additional projects were presented by Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Center for the Arts and Skate Town. Chair Wilcox noted that the Arizona Science Center and the Phoenix Center for the Arts have operating agreements with the city and that the scope proposed was outside the maintenance

contracts. Chair Wilcox suggested that this scope could be considered by the Executive Committee or City Council. with the city and the city has maintained both buildings according to contract. Chair Wilcox noted that Phase I of skate park improvements is in progress, and Phase 2 could be included in the next bond program.

Ms. Aguilar commented that skate park improvements are being designed in phases, and Phase 2 would be considered in the future.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked if impact fee funds are available for the Estrella Civic Space and Laveen Area Conveyance Channel projects.

Ms. Aguilar responded impact fees continue to accrue, and impact fees could help fund future phases of the Estrella Civic Space project.

Chair Wilcox asked if that was the same for the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel.

Mr. Stephenson clarified that impact fees can be used for new capital facilities but not for maintenance for Parks and Recreation, and there are legal restrictions regarding the use of impact fees for large regional facilities.

Chair Wilcox suggested that Maricopa County may be able to assist with repairs.

Committee member Hunt made a motion that the subcommittee use the survey tool. Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 8-0.

Chair Wilcox asked for committee discussion regarding the project list.

Ms. Aguilar requested confirmation that the committee was discussing considering the original thirteen prioritized capital needs, plus Esteban Park, renovations to the historic Grant Park Bathhouse and the minor capital improvements fund at \$1.5 million.

Chair Wilcox confirmed that was correct.

Committee member Hunt made a motion that the subcommittee retain the original thirteen projects with the reductions proposed by city staff, and add the Esteban Recreation Center, Grant Park Historic Bathhouse Renovation, and Funding for Minor Capital Projects at \$1.5 million. Committee Member Burns seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 8-0.

Ms. Aguilar noted that the committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 3.

Chair Wilcox asked if there was time limit for surveys to be completed.

Mr. Fazio responded the response date would ensure the survey results could be included in the agenda packet.

Vice Chair Perez-Pawloski asked for staff to provide the projects with updated costs.

Ms. Aguilar responded that the information could be provided by email but would also be included in the survey.

Ms. Wilcox confirmed the survey would note the funding amounts.

Mr. Stephenson stated that the survey will create a starting point for deliberations, but project order and funding amounts would be discussed during the next meeting.

Chair Wilcox advocated for the City Council increasing the total bond program value.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.