

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**, and to the general public, that the **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD** will hold a meeting open to the public on **Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

### **OPTIONS TO ACCESS THIS MEETING**

**Watch** meeting in-person at City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003

**Call-in to listen** to the live meeting. Dial 602-666-0783. Enter the meeting access code 2632 846 6337 then enter in the Webinar password PksMtg! when prompted (7576841 from phones).

**Observe**

[September 26, 2024 - Webex Link](#)

### **REQUEST TO SPEAK**

#### **In-Person Requests to speak at a meeting:**

Register in person at the front desk located at the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003. Individuals should arrive early, 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting to submit an in-person request to speak before the item is called. After the item is called, requests to speak for that item will not be accepted.

#### **Virtual Requests to speak at a meeting:**

To register to speak virtually via Webex, please use this link:

[September 26, 2024 - Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Requests to Speak](#)

- Virtual speakers must register by: **September 25, 2024**

If you have any issues with the form or if you wish to submit a comment to the board, contact: **Robin Kelley** At: [robin.kelley@phoenix.gov](mailto:robin.kelley@phoenix.gov) or 602-495-5215

A complete packet of meeting materials will be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting at <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks>.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1.	CALL TO ORDER	Kelly Dalton, Chair
2.	CONSENT ITEM(S): Consent items will be <b>provided to the Board in writing and are not intended for formal presentation.</b> Consent items may be voted on collectively, unless a Board member requests that any item be voted on separately. The chairperson may direct staff to formally present any consent item. These items are for possible action.	
	a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes - August 29, 2024	Robin Kelley
	b. Multi Year Event License Agreement with McDowell Mountain Music Festival, Inc. at Steele Indian School Park	Alonso Avitia
	c. Requests to Vend at Steele Indian School Park	Alonso Avitia
3.	INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S): Information and discussion items will be presented verbally to the Parks Board and are for discussion only. No action will take place on these items at this meeting.	
	a. Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program Update	Todd Shackelford
	b. Parks and Recreation Department American Rescue Plan Act Update	Matin Whitfield/ Tannia Ruiz
	c. Parks and Recreation Department General Obligation (GO) Bond Update	Cynthia Aguilar
4.	CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Citizens are provided time to make statements to the Board. <i>(Those desiring to make a statement should have informed staff in advance of the meeting by following the instructions on this notice.)</i> We welcome citizen input; however, items brought to the Board’s attention cannot be discussed unless they are listed as an agenda item. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to requesting staff to study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and/or decision at a later date.	Kelly Dalton, Chair
5.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – The Chairperson will verbally present comments or requests to the Board <b>without Board discussion.</b>	Kelly Dalton, Chair
6.	BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS – The Chairperson will entertain Board member comments or requests <b>without Board discussion.</b>	Kelly Dalton, Chair
7.	DIRECTOR’S BRIEFING – Briefing items will be verbally presented to the Board by the Director or designee <b>without Board discussion.</b>	Cynthia Aguilar, Director
8.	ADJOURNMENT	Kelly Dalton, Chair

For further information or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact:

**Robin Kelley** At: [robin.kelley@phoenix.gov](mailto:robin.kelley@phoenix.gov) or 602-495-5215 or TTY: 7-1-1.

September 20, 2024

**CITY OF PHOENIX  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
August 29, 2024**

Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<p><b><u>Board Members Present</u></b>          Tony Moya- Acting Chair          Kelly Dalton (Virtual)          Sarah Porter          Emma Viera          Ed Zuercher          Dorina Bustamante</p> <p><b><u>Board Members Absent</u></b>          Aubrey Barnwell</p>	<p><b><u>Staff Present</u></b>          Jon Chan          Cynthia Aguilar          Martin Whitfield          Jarod Rogers          Felicita Mendoza          Tannia Ruiz</p>	<p><b><u>Community Members</u></b>          Julia Taggart          Jerry Van Gasse          Michael Norton          Timothy Sierakowski          Judith Arias          A.J. Imperial          Johnny Bultsma          Terry Bultsma          Jace Bultsma          Phil Hertel          John Furniss          Elma Bolic          Derek Wallin          Jessica Dobbs          John Furniss          Judith Arias          Kelly Cholieu          Meeka Vigue          Pam Selthun          Phil Hertel          Randy Woods</p>
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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chairperson Moya called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with Board Members Dalton, Viera, Bustamante, Zuercher, and Porter in attendance.

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2a. Code of Conduct Update**

Board Member Viera asked if there have been any changes made to park hours in any parks.

Parks and Recreation Department Director Aguilar replied, the department has not made any changes to park hours.

**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

No formal presentation on these items. Consent and request for approval only.

**3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes- June 27, 2024**

**3b. Request for Vista Canyon Park Drone and R/C Aircraft Pilot Program to Become a Permanent Park Amenity**

### **3c. Proposed Renaming of the South Mountain Environmental Education Center**

Julia Taggart expressed support for renaming South Mountain Environmental Education Center to South Mountain Visitor Center. She noted that the current name is confusing and suggests a research facility, whereas the new name would align better with the North Mountain Visitor Center, offering clarity to the community.

Jerry Van Gasse stated that the South Mountain Environmental Education Center should have already been renamed the South Mountain Visitor Center. He also raised concerns about the department's response to public records requests and transparency regarding funding.

Timothy Sierakowski expressed concerns about activities at South Mountain and supported renaming SMEEC to South Mountain Visitor Center. He suggested outreach to local schools to invite children to the center.

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve consent items 3a through 3c. Board Member Porter, seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 6-0.

## **4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**

### **4a. South Mountain Speedway**

Deputy Director Jarod Rogers presented an update on the South Mountain Speedway, a 2.15-acre site used for children's quarter midget racing since the 1960s. He highlighted electrical and plumbing issues, with assessments identifying hazards and nonfunctional restrooms, prompting a reevaluation of the speedway's future. The site, now under Preserve status with increasing conservation concerns, has seen minimal renovations. Mr. Rogers outlined two potential next steps: issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to find an operator capable of funding repairs and ensuring public access or following the South Mountain Master Plan's recommendation to remove the facility and restore the land. The recent operator, Valley of the Sun Quarter Midget Association (VSQMA), has expressed interest in renewing the lease.

Judith Arias provided a historical overview of the speedway and spoke on behalf of generations of families who have used the track over the past 75 years. She expressed her opinion that demolishing the track is unnecessary and urged the City to allow for repairs instead.

A.J. Imperial, President of VSQMA and a 15-year member of the nonprofit, has served as a liaison between the organization and the City. He expressed willingness to collaborate with the City of Phoenix on necessary repairs to the speedway. He proposed forming a committee with stakeholders to discuss repairs and work towards resuming racing for the benefit of the children.

Johnny Bultsma, a VSQMA racer, stated that racing is his only sport.

Terry Bultsma commented children use the track to learn about racing and would like to continue giving the opportunity to race at the speedway.

Jace Bultsma commented he is a racer and VSQMA had an agreement that the speedway will not be taken down as long as kids still use it.

John Furniss commented on his submitted letter. He stated he never questioned the value of the racetrack for young kids. He questioned if it needs to be done in the preserve. Mr. Furniss shared his support in restoring the property to the natural grounds.

Phil Hertel commented he is an active member of the Laveen Village Planning Committee. He suggested the creation of a citizen's advisory committee to help determine the outcome of the speedway. Mr. Hertel also questioned the cost to the City for the demolition of the speedway.

Board Member Dalton stated she read through the provided letters and does not think a speedway is an appropriate use and shared the importance of restoring to the natural environment.

Board Member Viera emphasized the importance of considering the environmental benefits and agreed that the speedway is not an appropriate use of the preserve.

Board Member Porter inquired about efforts to identify alternative locations for the speedway and asked if there is a group within the City or an organization that could assist with this process.

Board Member Bustamante, who comes from a racing family, agreed that the preserve is no longer an appropriate location for a racetrack. She expressed a desire for the racing community to collaborate with the City on finding an alternative solution.

Board Member Zuercher emphasized the importance of discussing the issue and noted that if the speedway were a new request, it would not be approved. He agreed that restoring the site to its natural habitat is the appropriate solution and suggested Phoenix International Raceway as a potential alternative to address noise concerns.

Board Member Bustamante asked Director Aguilar if any partnerships could help bridge the gap and provide alternative options for the speedway.

Director Aguilar responded that they could explore opportunities outside City of Phoenix Parks and Preserves, seeking a location that makes sense. She noted the need for a unique site, away from residential areas, where sound and noise levels wouldn't pose a challenge.

Chairman Moya clarified that the presentation was for discussion, not for making a decision. He noted that enough information was provided to support future discussions and emphasized that, while no action would be taken today, the Board would be prepared to make a decision when the item returns for consideration.

Board Member Porter thanked the young men for speaking and commended them for their outstanding participation. However, she expressed concern that they were told the raceway would always be available for them to use. She emphasized that whoever made that promise did not have the authority to commit the land on behalf of the City of Phoenix.

#### **4b. Parks Master Plan Update**

Assistant Director Marty Whitfield provided history on the Parks Master Plan and introduced Special Project Administrator Felicity Mendoza and Michael Svetz from PROS Consulting.

Ms. Mendoza provided an update on Parks Master Plan, which is a long-term strategic initiative to guide future park development and improvements. The plan aims to enhance recreational facilities, address water conservation, crime prevention, and promote equity across the city's parks. A robust community engagement process, including events, focus groups, and online tools, has begun to gather input from various stakeholders. Outreach efforts and data collection will inform decisions on park improvements and sustainability. Ms. Mendoza let the Board know that Phase II is officially launching in September 2024, with further updates expected in November.

Michael Svetz from PROS Consulting also presented on the Parks Master Plan and he shared insights on his company's experience assisting agencies in various states and countries with master planning. He outlined PROS Consulting's approach, emphasizing the importance of community engagement to ensure geographic and demographic representation.

Ms. Mendoza concluded the presentation by demonstrating the launch of the Social Pinpoint Interactive Feedback Map which showed how the public can use the platform to provide feedback about their local parks.

Board Member Viera inquired about community engagement efforts, specifically asking if the City has utilized data from the Office of Heat Mitigation's existing heat response initiatives, which have already involved significant community engagement. She expressed hope that this data is being incorporated, given its recent data.

Director Aguilar agreed that this is an excellent point and noted that internal stakeholder meetings, including discussions with the groups involved in developing the heat and shade plan, are scheduled between now and November. She emphasized the department's intent to avoid redundant community outreach and instead build upon the data and feedback already gathered.

Board Member Viera asked if the website is available in other languages.

Mr. Svetz responded that yes, the website is available in multiple languages, and it is a setting feature the user can adjust on the website.

Board Member Viera asked what strategies for heat mitigation are being considered.

Director Aguilar explained that the department will align with the goals established in the Tree and Shade Master Plan. While the plan does not set a specific canopy target, shade needs will vary between parks depending on various factors. The focus will be on organic outcomes from community feedback, particularly related to connectivity, walking paths, and tree placement.

Board Member Viera emphasized the importance of prioritizing heat mitigation and advised against the use of artificial turf. She also encouraged incorporating environmentally friendly features, including in park designs and parking lots.

Board Member Bustamante commended the park staff for their work on this significant task, noting the importance of the Master Plan as a valuable guide for the department's operations. She expressed excitement about the extensive community engagement efforts and hopes the community actively participates and provides feedback.

Board Chair Moya asked Mr. Svetz how his approach differs when planning for a desert community like this one.

Mr. Svetz mentioned that his team is currently working on a Master Plan in Clark County, Nevada, which has a similar climate. They have gained valuable insights from that project and plan to apply those lessons to their work in Phoenix.

Board Member Porter recommended continuing the use of the Pinpoint application.

Board Member Dalton inquired about how the 24/7 hotline and emails are being monitored and expressed appreciation for the Pinpoint tool, asking if there is a video demonstration available for the public.

Ms. Mendoza explained that the consulting firm monitors the website and hotline, generating data and providing feedback to the City.

Mr. Svetz added that the application is user-friendly, with simple instructions available on the website.

Board Member Porter expressed satisfaction with the Master Plan's progress and asked how guidance would be provided and components prioritized.

Mr. Svetz emphasized the importance of addressing community needs and explained that the website offers a platform to explore how those needs can be expanded.

Chairman Moya inquired about how the department ensures successful representation through completed surveys and what the plan is if the target is not met.

Mr. Svetz explained that they are collaborating with the ETC Institute, which employs strong methodology, and will use council districts as sub-geographic areas to ensure demographic representation. He assured that they will keep working until the target is met, noting that achieving 1,000 surveys is easily attainable.

Chairman Moya stated that the collected data from community engagement is the most important. He asked about the frequency of updates to the board.

Director Aguilar stated it will be quarterly at a minimum.

Chairman Moya asked if Council or the Board will vote to approve the plan.

Director Aguilar stated the Board has authority over the plan.

Michael Norton questioned how funding will be identified and stated that funding should be the forefront of the plan.

Julia Taggart expressed her support for the Master Plan and emphasized the need for improved park maintenance. She voiced concern about individuals experiencing homelessness in the parks and noted that signs at the North Mountain Visitor Center require repair. She also highlighted the importance of budget considerations for ongoing maintenance.

## 5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Pam Selthun requested that the board reconsider extending the hiking hours for Piestewa Peak.

Derrick Wallin, a resident near Piestewa Peak, requested reopening discussions on hiking hours.

Julia Taggart shared news of the passing of a long-time parks patron who worked with the Phoenix Historic Preservation Society and announced an upcoming memorial. She also noted the need for updates at the North Mountain Visitor Center, including new drinking fountains.

Meeka Vigue expressed disagreement with the current hiking hours at Piestewa Peak, emphasizing the issue of access and the need for clearer and more reasonable trail hours.

Jessica Dobbs also opposed the current trail hours at Piestewa Peak and Camelback Mountain, stating that "sunrise to sunset" is too vague and advocating for clearly defined park hours.

Jerry Van Gasse highlighted his efforts to address park issues, noting a water shortage at Echo Canyon and recalling that park hours used to start as early as 4:30 a.m.

Randy Woods supported extending the opening and closing hours for Piestewa Peak and Camelback Mountain, emphasizing that encouraging hiking is in the City's best interest.

Timothy Sierakowski raised concerns about illegal dumping at South Mountain Preserve and voiced his belief that the public is not adequately represented by the board.

Kelly Cholieu stressed the importance of hiking for mental health and urged the board not to limit trail access, advocating for extended hours.

## **6. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairman Moya highlighted upcoming events; Rattlesnake Garage, Downtown Phoenix Street Eats Food Fest, Rising Families youth sports program, and joining the Valley of the Sun YMCA for free family fitness classes.

## **7. BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

Board Member Porter expressed interest in discussing future funding for undeveloped parkland.

Board Member Zuercher inquired whether the board has the authority to set trail hours.

Director Aguilar confirmed they do.

Board Member Bustamante asked about the hiking and heat safety policy.

Director Aguilar explained that when the board implemented the pilot hiking and heat safety program, later formalized as policy, the Parks Department committed to providing updates every October. This year's report will present data and allow for further discussion on potential modifications to the policy. She emphasized that the Parks Board has the authority to set park hours and has done so in the past.

## **8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING**

Assistant Director Whitfield shared information regarding the 2024 Fabulous Phoenix 4<sup>th</sup> event and about the community building event Chase Bank hosted at Washington Activity Center.

Director Aguilar shared information on the upcoming ribbon cutting events, the APRA conference, summer programming and the 2024 aquatics season.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Moya expressed his appreciation to park staff and adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.





**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** September 26, 2024

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** MULTI YEAR EVENT LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL, INC. AT STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to enter into a three-year License Agreement with McDowell Music Festival, Inc. to produce an annual music and art festival at Steele Indian School Park and allow the Director or her designee to negotiate and sign all associated agreements. Additionally, as part of the event approval process, we request to allow vending and extend the park's hours of operation from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on festival dates.

### **BACKGROUND**

City of Phoenix parks are reserved throughout the year for various events. Event coordinators and or community partners work with the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) to produce diverse community events of varying sizes and types. Some events are free to the public, while others require an entry fee. Producers who rent City parks and facilities are required to follow all City guidelines, including obtaining all applicable permits and licenses.

Vending, a typical component of events in parks, can consist of selling admission, food and beverages, t-shirts, or other concessions for fundraising purposes. Per Phoenix City Charter and Phoenix City Code 24-40, the board must approve commercial sales/vending in public parks and approve any temporary adjustments to park hours of operation.

### **DISCUSSION**

The McDowell Music Festival (M3F) would be a two-day ticketed event from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily, on the following three-year series of dates and further defined in the attached agreement (Attachment A):

- March 7 – 8, 2025
- March 6 – 7, 2026
- March 5 – 6, 2027

M3F is an annual non-profit music festival that started in 2004. It was held initially in Scottsdale and various private venues in Phoenix until 2014, when the event was first held at Margaret T. Hance Park. After a pause during the pandemic, the festival returned to Hance before moving to Steele Indian School Park in March 2024 due to a scheduling conflict with the NCAA Men's Final Four March Madness Music Festival. Following a successful experience at Steele, the event organizer plans to continue hosting the festival there annually with the support of the City.

The festival is expected to draw an estimated 20,000 people over two days, with approximately 10,000 attendees daily. Produced by Phoenix-based Westpac Construction, M3F celebrates music and art with the goal of bringing the community together. This 100 percent non-profit festival is driven by society, culture, and charity values, aiming to support the community, the arts, and underprivileged individuals while giving back. In 2022, M3F donated over \$1.2 million to local charities, bringing its total contributions to \$5.2 million since its inception. The event will showcase a lineup of national and regional musical acts performing on multiple stages alongside various local food trucks and vendors, creating an opportunity for the community to enjoy diverse entertainment, support local businesses, and foster a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere.

If approved, the Department will enter into a multi-year agreement with M3F to host the music festival at Steele Indian School Park for the next three consecutive years. The agreement outlines responsibilities of the event producer to include but not limited to maintaining the acceptable amplified sound regulations, acquiring the associated event permits, providing event security, maintaining the park's integrity, and providing a temporary dog park opportunity to the public during event load in and load out access impacts. As with all requests to vend, event organizers for this event will be required to follow city guidelines and use requirements for sales, including any required insurance, permits and licenses.

The Department recognizes the importance of community outreach to keep the community and surrounding neighborhoods informed of any large-scale event. A neighborhood notification process would be required since the size and scope of this event has an expected attendance of over 3,000 attendees. M3F will be required to notify residents, businesses, places of worship, and schools that may be affected by parking issues and or noise related to the event via written notifications and scheduled community outreach meetings. The notification must be delivered within a minimum one-mile radius of the park and defines as:

- Camelback to the North
- Osborn to the South
- 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the West
- 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the East

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Board approval to enter into a three-year License Agreement with McDowell Music Festival, Inc. to produce an annual music and art festival at Steele Indian School Park. Additionally, as part of the event approval process, we are requesting to allow vending and extending the park's hours of operation from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on festival dates as defined above.

Prepared by: Alonso Avitia, Deputy Director

Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** September 26, 2024

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** REQUEST TO VEND AT STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK

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This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to allow vending at three separate events and their associated activities, including the Desert Harbor Doberman Rescue Celebration on November 30, 2024; the AGUILA Beyond Boundaries 5K on December 14, 2024, and the 2025 AIDS Walk Arizona & 5K on March 22, 2025, all taking place at Steele Indian School Park (SISP).

### BACKGROUND

Phoenix parks are reserved throughout the year for various events. Event coordinators or community partners produce many events, with the Parks and Recreation Department sponsoring a few public events. Some events are free to the public, while others require a registration fee. Entry fees are occasionally imposed on vendors who sell food and/or products. Producers who rent city parks and facilities are required to follow all city guidelines, including obtaining all applicable permits and licenses.

Vending, a typical component of events in parks, can also consist of selling admission, food and beverages, t-shirts, or other concessions for fundraising purposes. Per Phoenix City Charter and Phoenix City Code 24-40, the board must approve commercial sales/vending in public parks. Each year, the Parks and Recreation Department brings the board an annual report requesting approval of all known requests for vending in parks; however, staff also receives requests for vending throughout the year, such as the requests below and brings them to the board for approval.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Desert Harbor Doberman Rescue Celebration**

The Desert Harbor Doberman Rescue Celebration will occur on November 30, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an expected attendance of 100 to 200 people. This will be the first-time event for Desert Harbor Doberman Rescue at SISP, and they are requesting vending approval as the event will feature food and merchandise vendors for their guests. A private appreciation event for their adopters, volunteers, veterinarians, and

sponsors who help them find homes for rescue Dobermans. Desert Harbor Doberman Rescue of Arizona (DHDR) is Arizona's first and oldest 501(c)(3) nonprofit Doberman rescue organization. Founded on January 6, 2009, their mission is to rescue placeable purebred Dobermans in Arizona, evaluate and treat them, and place them in suitable and loving forever homes; to act as an educational resource to the community regarding Dobermans, Doberman health, and raising Dobermans; and to network Dobermans in need, supporting other organizations that are also looking to find homes for Dobermans.

### **AGUILA Beyond Boundaries 5K**

AGUILA Beyond Boundaries 5K on December 14, 2024, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., with an expected attendance of 500 participants of all ages. This first-time-ticketed fundraiser community fun run and walk will feature food and craft vendors will take place at SISP. The AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute presents the event, whose mission is to empower and prepare youth for college admission and graduation through a unique approach based on greater cultural understanding as a guide to personal, academic, and professional excellence as future leaders. Thomas Valles, Danny, and David Diaz (all from the *Disney movie McFarland USA*) will be present, co-chairing, and participating in the event as big supporters of AGUILA and its staff.

### **2025 AIDS Walk Arizona & 5K**

A fundraiser walk and 5K for the nonprofit Aunt Rita's Foundation will elevate awareness and raise funds through an educational and fun community-wide event at SISP. The inaugural AIDS Walk Arizona & 5K on March 22, 2025, is expected to draw 1,500 to 2,500 attendees. Aunt Rita's Foundation's mission is to end HIV in Arizona, and it quietly began in 1988 with its first fundraising bake sale. Since then, Aunt Rita's Foundation has provided millions of dollars to HIV programs. It prides itself as the "Connector of the HIV Community" with gap-filling programs that include testing and collaborative initiatives. AIDS Walk Arizona & 5K is the flagship event of the central Arizona HIV/AIDS community, catalyzing awareness, education, and support. All proceeds are returned to Aunt Rita's member agencies to support the vital services they provide.

As with all requests to vend, event organizers for these events will be required to follow all city guidelines and use requirements for sales, including any required insurance, permits and licenses.

A formal neighborhood notification plan is not required for the three events outlined above. The size and scope of the events do not meet the expected attendee threshold and required when an event has an expected attendance of 3,000 plus.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Board approval for the events listed above to include vending at Steele Indian School Park.

Prepared by: Alonso Avitia, Deputy Director

Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** September 26, 2024

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

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This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with an update of the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

### BACKGROUND

The Phoenix parks system includes 187 flatland parks, ranging from pocket and neighborhood parks to community and regional parks. It also features more than 200 miles of trails, approximately 500 buildings, 33 community centers, 29 pools, 12 dog parks, eight golf courses, nearly 300 play structures, and hundreds of athletic fields and sports courts. Spanning over 40,000 acres, Phoenix boasts one of the largest municipally managed park systems in the country, according to the 2023 City Park Facts Report by the Center for City Park Excellence at the Trust for Public Land.

The Parks and Recreation Department's (Parks) preliminary Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) submission for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-29 totals \$340,041,985, which is comprised of \$262,175,000 in voter-approved Phoenix Parks and Preserves Initiative (PPPI) funds; \$6,855,300 Impact Fees; and includes \$64M in 2023 General Obligation Bond.

The FY 2024-29 CIP focuses on the design and construction of new park facilities, redevelopment of existing parks, and critical upgrades to essential infrastructure, with an emphasis on life-safety issues. Key projects include the development of new community parks, replacement of aging playgrounds, upgrading irrigation systems, installing LED lighting, repairing parking lots, and renovating park amenities such as restrooms. Additionally, the plan prioritizes compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) throughout the City's park system.

### DISCUSSION

Parks CIP projects are prioritized within the five-year planning window based primarily on park needs and priority criteria. This process includes a three-tiered rating system that takes into account the life span of amenities. The rating identifies amenities that are new, at half-life or ready for replacement. Further, when a need is identified at a park

facility, a holistic look is used to evaluate if other needs can also be addressed at the same time. This approach results in cost effectiveness, efficiencies and reduces redundancy of services to the same site and minimizes impact to the community.

The 2024 CIP includes several key projects aimed at enhancing our parks system. A major highlight is the installation of a new ADA-accessible playground at Encanto Park, designed to accommodate children with diverse physical, sensory, and cognitive abilities. This playground was made possible in part from a donation from Kiwanis Club of Phoenix.

Playgrounds typically have a lifespan of 15-20 years, and recent installations at Cave Creek Sweetwater, Hoshoni, Cave Creek Larkspur, Werner's Field, and Surrey Parks were completed to replace aging structures. Each replacement followed a community engagement process to ensure the designs met the community's needs. During the replacement process, existing natural shade is assessed, and a decision is made whether to incorporate shade components or install a custom-designed shade structure over the entire playground. Additionally, shade structures protect against sunlight, extend outdoor playtime, and prolong the lifespan of the equipment. A new playground was recently installed at Maryvale Park and is awaiting the future installation of a shade canopy. In the meantime, the Department is exploring temporary solutions to provide additional shade until the permanent structure can be installed.

Partnerships with the Neighborhood Services Department have allowed for further renovations using Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) across the park system. This funding supported upgrades at Momo Park, including a new basketball court, ramada, and updated landscaping and irrigation. Cricket pitches were installed at Coyote Basin and Grovers Basin after the community advocated for funding during budget hearings, resulting in the first permanent cricket pitches in the Parks system.

Significant renovations were completed at several community centers, including Sunnyslope Youth Center, Deer Valley Community Center, and Paradise Valley Community Center. These improvements included resurfaced gym floors, restroom remodels, new flooring, upgraded LED lighting, and both interior and exterior painting.

The CIP projects also includes critical maintenance needs. Work has been completed on 30 parking lots to address cracking, separation, and heaving, focusing on eliminating trip hazards and extending the life of the asphalt. Additionally, sidewalk panels in 47 parks have been replaced to ensure ADA compliance. Lighting systems in 36 flatland parks have been retrofitted with LED lighting, enhancing safety and visibility throughout walkways, sport courts, playgrounds, and parking lots. This initiative is ongoing, with a goal to achieve 100 percent LED lighting by the 2025/26 fiscal year. To ensure access to drinking water in all our parks the Department has been evaluating our inventory of drinking fountains to ensure they are all in working conditions. Over 30 fountains have been repaired and more than a dozen replaced.

The FY 2024-29 CIP reflects the department's commitment to enhancing and maintaining its extensive park system. With critical infrastructure upgrades, new park developments, and a focus on ADA compliance, the plan ensures that City parks continue to meet the diverse needs of the community, promoting safety, accessibility, and enjoyment for all.

### RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: Todd Shackelford, Parks Development Deputy Director

Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director





**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** September 26, 2024

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT UPDATE

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This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with an update of the Parks American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program.

### BACKGROUND

In June 2022, the Phoenix City Council approved the allocation of \$2.9 million from the second tranche of ARPA funding for Phoenix Parks Improvements. These funds were designated for the incorporation of adaptive playground elements to new and existing playgrounds, resurfacing, or renovating athletic courts, converting underutilized courts, and installing additional WalkPHX paths and fitness stations to enhance accessibility to free fitness opportunities.

Additionally in April 2023, the Phoenix City Council approved an additional \$500,000 in ARPA funding to launch the department's first Park Activation Neighborhood Grant Program. The program's primary goal is to support park activation events and programming in communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to enhance community engagement by offering grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to neighborhood groups and local nonprofits, facilitating events and programs in parks serving populations within qualified census tracts.

### DISCUSSION

The ARPA-funded improvements to Phoenix parks are steadily advancing throughout the system, with a focus on inclusivity and safety. Adaptive playground equipment, designed to meet the needs of children with diverse physical, sensory, and cognitive abilities, ensures that every child can play, explore, and thrive in a supportive environment. Unlike traditional playgrounds, adaptive equipment includes features that allow children with disabilities to fully engage in play activities. To date, adaptive playground upgrades have been completed at Cortez, Mountain View, and Mariposa Parks, with future enhancements planned for Mountain View Community Center, Sueno, El Reposo, and Harmon Park.

Sports court resurfacing is another key improvement aimed at enhancing safety and playability by fixing cracks, uneven surfaces, and other issues that could lead to trips or

falls. Renovations have been completed on the basketball and volleyball courts at Marivue, Mariposa, and El Reposo Parks, with upcoming improvements scheduled for the courts at Deer Valley and Norton Parks. Additionally, basketball courts at Sueno and Buffalo Ridge Parks are slated for renovation, while one tennis court at Pierce Park will be resurfaced and another converted into a pickleball court.

The WalkPHX program continues to promote community health by encouraging walking as a way to stay active. Since its launch in spring 2014, the program has grown to include 54 WalkPHX paths across the parks system, with clear signage showing starting points and distances. Fitness stations are an amenity in 44 park locations, offering free access to equipment that targets different muscle groups and provides cardio exercise. New WalkPHX paths and fitness stations are planned for Cactus, Palomino, Sweetwater, Old Cross Cut, Hayden, and Barrios Unidos Parks, with additional fitness stations to be installed at Cielito and Maryvale Parks. All ARPA-funded improvements are on track for completion by December 31, 2024.

Active parks play a vital role in fostering healthy communities by meeting recreational needs and reducing negative activity, making the City a better place to live, visit, and play. The Park Activation Neighborhood Grant Program supports this mission by empowering neighborhood groups and nonprofits to activate their local parks through community-centered events. After its launch on July 31, 2023, the program accepted applications until October 6, 2023, receiving 161 submissions requesting over \$1.3 million in funding. With limited funds, an internal committee selected 46 organizations to receive grants, ensuring equitable distribution across the city. The Parks and Recreation Board approved these selections on November 16, 2024. As a result, more than 200 park activation events have taken place or are scheduled across 37 parks between February and October 2024.

These events have ranged from health and fitness to arts and cultural celebrations, reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of the community. The Si Se Puede Organization at Sunridge Park, for example, held weekly workshops where families came together to learn new sports and participate in exercise classes. The Perry Park Neighborhood Association at Perry Park also hosted similar fitness-focused activities. Many groups opted for monthly movie nights under the stars, creating a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. The Camelback Community held a spring resource neighborhood celebration and has plans for a GAIN event in the fall. At Civic Space Park, the Onyx Art Gallery hosted monthly "Art in the Park" events, while the Estrella Super Moms filled El Oso Park with carnival-style festivities at their neighborhood resource fair. The Roots for Life Unity in the Community organization hosted a neighborhood farmer's market at Hermoso Park in the spring and plans to have a community celebration at Esteban Park in the fall. The Cox Meadows community plans to offer Tai Chi classes at Cave Creek Park, and WayneFest brought multiple movie screenings to Coronado Park. Unlimited Potential also contributed by hosting a "Let's Get Active" health fair at Ho-E Park. These are just a few of the exciting events that have come from the program, demonstrating the positive impact on the community and the Parks and Recreation Department.

These improvements and activations reflect the City's commitment to enhancing park accessibility, safety, and community engagement, ensuring that Phoenix's parks remain vibrant and inclusive spaces for all residents.

### RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director

Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** September 26, 2024

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BOND UPDATE

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This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with an update of the Parks and Recreation Department's General Obligation (GO) Bond Program.

### BACKGROUND

In June 2022, the City Council appointed a citizen's GO Bond Committee to gather community feedback, prioritize proposed projects, and recommend a GO Bond Program. Their recommendations were approved by the City Council in December 2022. On November 7, 2023, Phoenix voters passed \$500M General Obligation Bond (GOPHX 2023 GO Bond Program) to help fund critical infrastructure and rehabilitation projects in parks, libraries, fire, police and stations, housing, streets, and storm drains.

The Parks and Recreation Department received approval for 10 projects/programs totaling \$64 million, representing 13 percent of the total bond. Each of the projects will have unique project completion timelines based on when funding is available throughout the 5-year GO Bond period.

### DISCUSSION

Below is information on each of the 10 approved Parks and Recreation GO Bond Projects

#### ***Projects with funding allocated during Fiscal Year 2024-2025***

##### **Parks Minor Capital Projects Program - \$1,501,777**

This funding will establish the Neighborhood Park Enhancement Program, allowing neighborhoods listed with the Neighborhood Services Department to apply for minor capital amenities in Phoenix parks. After deducting administrative costs to facilitate this program, a total of \$182,000 per City Council District will be available. Neighborhoods will be able to request minor amenities and improvements such as a new park bench, picnic table, grill, drinking fountain, outdoor ping pong, corn-hole and four square and resurfaced athletic courts and more. The application process will begin on September

27 and close on November 8. Project selections will be announced in January 2025. All projects will be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department utilizing city contracted vendors. Funding will not be allocated directly to neighborhood associations.

**Esteban Park Recreation Center - \$4,505,333**

Design and construct a new 4,000 square feet neighborhood recreation center at Esteban Park. Funding in FY 24/25 will be utilized to begin the design process. Community engagement for this project has already been initiated with two neighborhood open-house events and a community survey that went live on August 16, 2024, and will close on September 30, 2024.

**Estrella Civic Space – Phase I - \$8,352,263**

Design and construct 1/3 of the undeveloped park located at 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Lower Buckeye Road. When fully constructed, this site will serve as a 93-acre regional park. Funding in FY 24/25 will go towards completion of a project study, followed by design and construction. Community engagement for this project has been initiated with two neighborhood open-house events and a community survey that went live on August 16, 2024, and will close on September 30, 2024.

**Maryvale Park Regional Pool and Two Splash Pads - \$14,367,712**

Renovate the existing Maryvale Pool to include enhanced aquatics amenities and repurpose pools at Marivue and Holiday Parks into neighborhood splash pads. The upgraded regional pool will include a 25-meter lap pool with dive boards, zero depth entry, interactive water play area, swimming lesson area, water slide, shade structures, pool heater and water playground. Funding in FY 24/25 will be utilized to begin the design process, followed by construction. Community engagement will take place during FY 24/25.

**Mountain View Community Center Sports Complex Improvements - \$1,193,412**

Renovate existing athletic courts and construct new pickleball courts. Funding in FY 24/25 will be utilized for design followed by construction. Community engagement will take place during FY 24/25.

**Telephone Pioneers of America Recreation Center Improvements - \$2,204,642**

Renovate the recreation center to comply with current ADA standards, replace fire suppression and intrusion alarm systems and other interior improvements. Funding in FY 24/25 will be utilized to begin the design process followed by construction. Community engagement will take place during FY 24/25.

**South Mountain Roadway Safety Enhancements - \$7,695,631**

Design and construct improvements to approximately 3-miles of roadways within South Mountain Park. Funding in FY 24/25 will be used to begin the design process.

**Margaret T. Hance Park Improvements - \$3,003,555**

Funding will be utilized to leverage additional sponsorships to implement continued improvements that align with the approved Master Plan for Margaret T. Hance Park.

***Projects with funding allocated during Fiscal Year 2026-2027***

**Harmon Park Regional Pool and Three Splash Pads - \$12,789,840**

Renovate the existing Harmon Park Pool to include enhanced aquatics amenities and repurpose pools at Alkire, Grant and University Parks to neighborhood splash pads. The upgraded regional pool will include a 25-meter lap pool with dive boards, zero depth entry, interactive water play area, swimming lesson area, water slide, shade structures, pool heater and water playground. Funding in FY 26/27 will be utilized to complete a project study, followed by design and construction. Community engagement will take place during FY 26/27.

**Desert View Civic Space – Phase I - \$8,385,263**

Design and construct one half of the Desert View Civic Space Park. At full completion this site is expected to serve as a 40-acre community park. Funding in FY 26/27 will go towards the completion of a project study, followed by design and construction. Community engagement will take place in FY 26/27.

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to provide GO Bond project updates to the Parks and Recreation Board.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information and discussion.

Prepared and approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director