

**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES
June 26, 2025**

Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<u>Board Members Present</u> Kelly Dalton, Chair Aubrey Barnwell (virtual) Dorina Bustamante (virtual) Emma Viera <u>Board Members Absent</u> Tony Moya Sarah Porter Ed Zuercher	<u>Staff Present</u> John Chan Dustin Cammack Martin Whitfield Brandie Barrett Jarod Rogers Todd Shackelford Maki Lloyd Tannia Ruiz Cynthia Peiz Jana Benson	<u>Community Members</u> Julia Taggart Michael Norton Jerry Van Gasse Pete Lumianski Jes Dobbs Donna Reiner Ernest Martinez Tim Sierakowski
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dalton called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. with Board members Barnwell, Bustamante, and Viera in attendance.

2. INFORMATION ONLY

No formal presentation on these items. Information only.

2a. Parks Master Plan Update

Julia Taggart discussed the Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan interactive map and the North Mountain Visitor Center. She asked how individuals without computers can provide feedback on the Master Plan.

Assistant Director Whitfield explained that the Parks Master Plan focuses on urban parks and that there is a separate North Mountain Park Master Plan which includes community feedback on the visitor center. He stated that in the upcoming months there will be a series of town hall meetings where individuals can share feedback on the Parks Master Plan in person.

Michael Norton spoke on behalf of the Roger's Ranch community about the importance of protecting the land surrounding the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel to preserve the burrowing owls that live there.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

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

3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes – May 22, 2025

3b. Event and Vending Requests at Civic Space Park

3c. Authorization to Enter a Golf Instruction Services Contract

3d. Request to Approve an Agreement for the Maintenance of Property on Seventh and Montecito Avenues known as "The Lyceum"

3e. South Mountain Communication Towers – Approval of X Network LLC Sub-License on Pinnacle Towers LLC License DBA Crown Castle

3f. Approval for Arizona State University/KAET Tower Project

Board member Barnwell made the motion to approve consent items 3a through 3f. Board member Viera seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Board member Bustamante left the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4a. Interdepartmental Trails Heat Safety Program Update

Deputy Director Rogers described the coordinated efforts of the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, the Phoenix Parks and Fire Departments, the Community Emergency Response Team, and volunteers to provide heat relief and education at popular trailheads. In June 2025, ice machines were installed at the Echo Canyon and Piastewa Peak trailheads to support heat relief outreach efforts and provide rescue teams with resources for heat related emergencies. The team is planning to expand these efforts to other trailheads in the future, including South Mountain Park. Funding from the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation was used to purchase the machines. The cost of stocking the machines in the first month was approximately \$400, which is considered low compared to their potential impact. While the ice machines are not intended for public use, chilled drinking water fountains are available at these trailheads.

Deputy Fire Chief Maki Lloyd provided an overview of the Fire Department's use of ice and cold-water immersion treatment for heat-related illnesses. This method was introduced in 2024 and has improved heat stroke outcomes, including reductions in mortality, neurological damage, hospital stays, and post-care needs. Having ice available at trailheads allows for immediate treatment of both patients and firefighters. He also shared a recent example of a successful application of this method during a rescue at Camelback Mountain.

Chairperson Dalton expressed gratitude for the adoption of new initiatives to improve heat safety and asked what criteria are used to select the current and future sites for the ice machines.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that placement is based on data showing where the most rescues occur and which trails have the highest volume of hikers. He noted that ice

machines require electricity to operate, which creates challenges at solar powered locations such as the Pima Canyon trailhead.

Chairperson Dalton asked about the temperature during the June rescue when the treatment was applied.

Deputy Chief Lloyd responded that it was not an excessive heat day, but the individual had been hiking since 5 a.m.

4b. Parks Department Capital Improvement Program Update

Assistant Director Whitfield and Parks Development Deputy Director Shackelford presented an update on the Capital Improvement Program to the Board. The program is funded through the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative, impact fees, and General Obligation Bond funds. They explained that project selection is guided by a three-tiered rating system for park amenities, which is reviewed annually. Staff use a holistic approach to prioritize improvements that enhance efficiency and minimize community disruption.

The presentation included updates on projects currently in design, such as Lone Mountain Park, North Mountain Park, Highline Park, Santa Maria Park, and the proposed U.S.S. Phoenix Cold War Monument. Projects under construction include Piestewa Peak Improvements, the South Mountain Activity Complex, Laveen Heritage Park, Surrey Park, and Sun Ray Park. Completed projects include the South Mountain Visitor Center, Farmland Park, and La Pradera Park.

The update also highlighted the completion of projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, which focused on improving accessibility, safety, and fitness opportunities. The presentation concluded with updates on upcoming projects and General Obligation Bond initiatives.

Chairperson Dalton thanked the Department for completing these projects and asked how the public is kept informed about projects currently under development.

Assistant Director Whitfield explained that staff work closely with neighborhood groups to provide updates on ongoing projects. He also noted that the Department is working on creating an online resource to share this information in the future.

Board Member Viera thanked the team for their hard work and stated that she is looking forward to future projects.

Board Member Barnwell shared that he recently visited the South Mountain Visitor Center and praised the renovations. He thanked the team for their continued efforts.

Jerry Van Gasse spoke about the renovations at Piestewa Peak and the accessibility of the Ocotillo Ramada. He also asked about the approval process for the pedestrian footbridge.

Jes Dobbs discussed Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative funding and the five-year preliminary Capital Improvement Program plan. She asked questions about timelines and

contractor deliverables.

Pete Lumianski, a military veteran, spoke about the history of the U.S.S. Phoenix, his involvement in the project, fundraising efforts, and design plans. He thanked the City of Phoenix for supporting the project.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Tim Sierakowski asked about the approvals for the pedestrian bridge at Piestewa Peak and how public input is being considered for the project.

Jerry Van Gasse commented on an investigation into the process for the improvements at Piestewa Peak.

Ernest Martinez discussed the pedestrian bridge at Piestewa Peak and inquired about public input, approvals, cost, and the overall purpose of the bridge.

Donna Reiner, speaking as a representative of Preserve Phoenix, requested the opportunity for the group to provide a formal presentation to the Board.

Julia Taggart spoke about the renovation of the North Mountain Visitor Center and the loss of historical markers in the preserve system. She also suggested creating a website to share information on the historical significance of City parks and preserves.

6. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report.

7. BOARD COMMENTS/REQUEST

No comments.

8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Assistant Director Barrett provided an update on the PHX Plays Summer Camp program, launched in May 2025, and highlighted innovative programs at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, including a pollinator garden and a stargazer program. She shared details on maintenance and improvement projects underway throughout the City and thanked the Maintenance and Special Operations teams. She also recognized two park rangers for their quick response to a fire incident, during which they contacted the Fire Department and assisted the Police Department in identifying the responsible individual. In addition, she announced that City pools would be closed on Thursday, July 3, to allow them to remain open on the Fourth of July holiday and concluded with a review of upcoming pool openings and closures.

Assistant Director Whitfield described an outreach event where elementary school students learned about the process of selecting and building parks. He also recapped the City's first Fourth of July drone show, After Dark in the Park, held at Deer Valley Park, and thanked the Northwest Division for their hard work. In addition, he highlighted two

upcoming Fourth of July celebrations that will take place in City parks.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Dalton adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.