

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
PHOENIX PARKS AND PRESERVE INITIATIVE (PPPI) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
February 10, 2021
Virtual

Committee Members:

Tom Chapman, Chair
Patricia Duarte
Ira Feldman
John Furniss
Sarah Porter

Absent:

COP Staff:

Cynthia Aguilar
Gregg Bach
Jona Banks
Michael Blea
Patricia Boland
Aaron Cook
Jeanne Delaney
Joe Diaz
Theresa Faull
Rick Freas
Tracee Hall
James Orloski
Albert Santana
Ross Tate

Others Present

Rachel Ormsby

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Tom Chapman called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

New Management Services Deputy Director James Orloski introduced himself.

2. Approval of February 7, 2020, Minutes

Chairperson Tom Chapman made a motion to approve the February 7, 2020, minutes. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. Approval of the BKD 2020 Independent Certified Accountant's Report on Management's Assertion Regarding Compliance

Rachel Ormsby with BKD stated that the Independent Certified Accountant's Report was issued in early December 2020. Rachel Ormsby confirmed finding the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) in compliance with the usage requirements of the PPPI funds as established in Proposition 101 amended by Proposition A on July 1, 2008. BKD's examination was done in accordance with attestation standards required by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Rachel added that BKD tested a sample of expenditures and encumbrances. The sample was found to be in accordance with usage requirements, and no issues or findings arose in the report. Rachel reminded the PPPI Oversight Committee that encumbrances may not have been expended but rather committed as of year-end.

Chairperson Tom Chapman asked committee members if they had any questions. There were none.

Chairperson Tom Chapman and committee approved 5-0

4. Review of FY 2020-2021 PPPI projects and overview of planned projects for FY 2021-2022

Principal Landscape Architect Joe Diaz showed the committee PRD's inventory and data:

- 186 flatland parks, over 9,000 acres
- 10 preserves, over 36.0 acres
- over 240 linear trail miles
- 495 facilities
- 29 pools
- 279 play structures
- 86 athletic fields
- light poles
- 790 athletic field lights
- 6,815 area lights

Joe Diaz presented the list of PPPI projects both completed and yet underway. Joe explained that his team works with the City's Historic Preservation Office on the renovation of older structures to maintain the integrity and history of facilities.

Completed Parks

- Pinnacle Park, completed in August 2020
- Margaret T. Hance Park Phase I, completed December 2020, in partnership with Fiesta Bowl
- Deem Hills Park Phase III, completed in February 2021

Completed Playgrounds

- Roesley Park, completed in January 2020
- Indian Bend Park, completed in February 2020
- Washington Park, completed in November 2020
- Longview Park, completed in November 2020
- Sunburst Paradise Park, completed in 2020
- Yunya Mini Park, completed in February 2021

Completed Preserve Areas

- Piestewa Peak Cholla Picnic Area, completed in October 2020
- South Mountain Park Trail improvements, completed in fall 2020
 - Ma-Ha-Tauk Trail

- Bursera Loop Trail
- Guadalupe Perimeter Trail
- Pima Canyon
- Piedmont Canyon Trail
- South Mountain Dobbins Lookout Improvements, completed in December 2020
 - ADA improvements
 - updated ramada
 - parking lot replacement
 - historic structure roof renovation

Parks, Preserves and Facilities in Progress

- New South Mountain Ranger Station, estimated completion in March 2021
- Piestewa Peak Hopi Picnic Area, estimated completion in April 2021
- South Mountain Preserve Gila Valley Lookout, estimated completion in fall 2021
- South Mountain Preserve Bike Hub at San Juan, estimated completion in fall 2021
- Cesar Chavez Community Center, estimated completion in fall 2021
- Nuestro Park, estimated completion in fall 2021
- Little Canyon Park, estimated completion in winter 2021
- West Plaza Park, in conjunction with the Neighborhood Services Department, estimated completion in winter 2021
- Momo Park, estimated completion in winter 2021

Joe Diaz brought up the partnerships PRD has with other City departments: Neighborhood Services contributed 7 million dollars toward projects, and Water Services and Arts and Culture will be involved in future projects.

Chairperson Tom Chapman expressed his excitement and thanked Joe Diaz and his team for their work.

Committee Member Patricia Duarte asked whether the expenditures for proposed projects meet the approval criteria.

Joe Diaz answered yes, and added it is important to PRD that proposed projects are evaluated to ensure compliance.

Committee Member Patricia Duarte thanked him.

Committee Member Patricia Duarte asked if there are plans to assist with parks around the South Phoenix Light Rail Extension commercial corridor revitalization project.

Joe Diaz stated there are a few areas being discussed for future projects. El Reposo Park, for example, is located along the South Phoenix Light Rail corridor.

Committee Member Ira Feldman asked how PRD determines the structure of projects.

Joe Diaz responded that the approved 2008 ballot applies annual sales tax to parks specific projects. Approximately \$30 million is received each year. These funds are allocated by the ballot requirement with 60 percent going to flatland parks and 40 percent to preserve areas. PRD uses a parks-needs process which scores the condition of parks and determines the hierarchy of repairs.

Committee Member Ira Feldman asked whether there is new money coming in every year.

Joe Diaz stated yes.

Committee Member Ira Feldman asked if a crosswalk near Arizona Horse Lovers Park can be added as a future project.

Joe Diaz responded that this area is overseen by the Street Transportation Department.

Committee Member Sarah Porter asked if Parks staff can develop a flowchart on how Parks projects are approved. Sarah also asked how the new master plan integrates with PPPI and whether the master plan guides the schedule of improvements.

Joe Diaz answered that staff can provide a flowchart, but it is fluid due to emergency situations that arise. Master plans do assist in guiding parks projects and allocating funds to those projects.

Committee Member Ira Feldman asked when the PPPI sales tax revenue expires.

Joe Diaz responded that the PPPI sales tax revenue expires in 2038.

Committee Member Sarah Porter asked how PRD prioritizes projects and whether the master plan includes priority areas.

PRD Acting Director Cynthia Aguilar responded that staff will send the committee information staff uses to prioritize projects. She added that the master plan has priorities identified using PRD's parks needs process, community input and the Parks Board.

Committee Member Sarah Porter thanked her.

5. Chairperson's report

Chairperson Tom Chapman thanked retired Management Services Deputy Director Judy Weiss for all her work with PPPI and her years of service in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Tom Chapman requested a tour after COVID-19 conditions improve.

6. Comments from the Committee

No Comments.

7. Call to the Public

Deputy James Orloski stated no speaker cards were submitted.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Chapman adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.