

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**  
**PHOENIX PARKS AND PRESERVE INITIATIVE (PPPI) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**January 25, 2022**  
**Virtual**

**Committee Members:**

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

**Absent:**

**COP Staff:**

Cynthia Aguilar  
Martin Whitfield  
Tracee Hall  
Michael Blea  
Patricia Boland  
Theresa Faull  
Jeanne Delaney  
Karen Nyhus

**Others Present**

Rachel Ormsby

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Tom Chapman called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Chairperson Chapman introduced himself, followed by introductions from members of the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative (PPPI) Oversight Committee, City legal representative Patricia Boland, and Parks and Recreation Department staff present in the conference room.

**2. Approval of February 10, 2021 Minutes**

Motion made by Committee Member Furniss and seconded by Committee Member Duarte to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

**3. Approval of the BKD 2021 Independent Certified Accountant's Report on Management's Assertion Regarding Compliance**

Rachel Ormsby with BKD stated the draft Independent Certified Accountant's Report was issued and she was pleased to let the committee know that they did not find any issues with the usage requirements. She explained there were no issues with control efficiencies, nor any other findings that would need to be reported.

Committee Member Feldman inquired about the three columns on the report and the negative figures on Margaret T. Hance Park.

Ms. Ormsby stated Margaret T. Hance Park had a large negative balance this year for this particular project because the City had already incurred expenditures and

then a donor contributed \$2 million to the project. The negative number was an expense recovery.

Committee Member Feldman thanked Ms. Ormsby.

Committee Member Duarte inquired if the donation was reallocated among the rest of the projects.

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar explained that the donation was specifically for the construction of the garden at Margaret T. Hance Park; therefore, the funds and related sponsorship will remain for the park.

Committee Member Duarte requested affirmation that the savings would stay at Margaret T. Hance Park.

Director Aguilar replied in the affirmative.

Chairperson Chapman asked for a motion for approval of Item 3.

Motion made by Committee Member Duarte and seconded by Committee Member Feldman to approve the Independent Certified Accountant's Report. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

#### **4. Review of FY 2021-2022 PPPI projects and overview of planned projects for FY 2022-2023**

Director Aguilar introduced Parks and Recreation Interim Assistant Director Martin Whitfield.

Interim Assistant Director Whitfield began the presentation by reviewing the Parks and Recreation Department's inventory, which included flatland parks, preserve acreage, trails, facilities, pools, play structures, athletic fields and lighting data. He explained that 52 parks were built in the 60s and 70s and the oldest park, Verde Park, was built in 1907. He also stated the Stevens House was 120 years old and that of the City's 29 pools, the oldest was 92 years old and the average age was 53 years. He highlighted that South Mountain will be experiencing its 100th anniversary in 2024. Interim Assistant Director Whitfield then introduced Landscape Architect Karen Nyhus to continue the presentation.

Landscape Architect Nyhus presented the list of PPPI projects both completed and underway. Completed projects in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 included the following:

- John W. Teets Park Renovations Design,
- Eototo Park Renovation
- Lenang Park Renovation
- Jackrabbbit Park Playground Replacement

- Washington Park Playground Replacement
- South Mountain Park – Dobbins Lookout Renovation
- South Mountain Park – New Ranger Station

Landscape Architect Nyhus highlighted some of the current projects underway in FY 2021-22, which included the following:

- New Code of Conduct Signage being installed throughout the park system
- New Cesar Chavez Community Center
- Phoenix Mountains Preserve Cholla Trail Improvements
- Encanto Park Sports Courts Resurfacing
- Nuestro Park Renovation
- Papago Park ADA Ramp/ Fishing Dock Installation
- Phoenix Mountains Preserve – Piestewa Peak Dreamy Draw Improvements
- Phoenix Mountains Preserve – Piestewa Peak Hopi/Saguaro Improvements
- Phoenix Mountains Preserve – Piestewa Peak Ocotillo Improvements
- South Mountain Park – Intersection Improvements
- Splash Pads at El Oso Park and Mariposa Park
- Phoenix Zoo Parking Lots – New and Repairs to Existing

Chairman Chapman inquired about the location of the new ranger station.

Director Aguilar stated it was close to the South Mountain Environmental Education Center.

Chairman Chapman expressed the projects were incredible and asked what the public relations process was for sharing these with the public.

Director Aguilar explained that many of the projects go through a community engagement process with community meetings. She stated often social media is used for the planning stages and then for the celebrations upon completion of the projects. She explained that some projects such as the new Cesar Chavez Community Center and Cholla Trail also have a website presence to keep the community informed of progress on those projects. She further stated that effort is made to share these wonderful stories on various media outlets.

Chairperson Chapman stated that Phoenix is growing and it is important to share with the community that Phoenix has the finest parks in the country.

Committee Member Furniss stated that Joe Diaz in past years had presented the overview of the projects and he thanked him for those past presentations and congratulated him on his promotion. Committee Member Furniss stated he noticed a discrepancy in the reported park acreage this year, as compared to prior years and asked staff to reconcile the difference going forward.

## **5. Chairperson's report**

Chairperson Chapman commented on the recent Ocotillo Trailhead renovation and the celebration that occurred. He requested that the committee take a tour again in the spring, as they did in prior years. He also thanked his fellow committee members.

## **6. Comments from the Committee**

No Comments.

## **7. Call to the Public**

Speaker Jeremy Thacker inquired about the Independent Certified Accountant's Report on Management's Assertion Regarding Compliance, and why it was referred to as Management's Assertion.

Chairman Chapman indicated that Mr. Thacker was speaking at Call to the Public; therefore, no discussion could occur on the item.

Speaker Thacker stated he submitted a request to speak on the item while it was being presented but he was not given the opportunity to speak at that time.

Chairman Chapman deferred to legal representative Patricia Boland.

Ms. Boland stated that the item was on the agenda; therefore, Mr. Thacker's question could be responded to.

Director Aguilar stated that Ms. Ormsby would be the appropriate person to respond to Mr. Thacker's question; however, Ms. Ormsby had already left the meeting. Director Aguilar stated staff could contact Ms. Ormsby at a later time and then follow-up with Mr. Thacker regarding his question.

Mr. Thacker expressed his displeasure of not having an immediate response.

Chairman Chapman stated no further discussion would occur.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chairman Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.