



**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
February 15, 2022 6:00 P.M.**

**Southeast Regional Library – Shakespeare Room  
and Microsoft Teams**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Ferron, Chair  
Holly Pritulsky  
Scott Williams  
Ben Kalkman  
Paul Gonzales  
Cody Zeimer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Robert Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director  
Marshall MacFarlane, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Jennika Horta, Interim Recreation Manager  
Denise Merdon, Recreation Supervisor  
Alexander Jones, PKID Administrative Assistant  
Ryan Blair, CIP Project Manager

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jason Geroux  
Rebecca Hill

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Kimley-Horn Representatives

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ferron called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS PRESENT:** Members of the audience may address the Board on any item not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Board. The Board's response is limited to responding to criticism, asking staff to review a matter commented upon, or asking that a matter be put on a future agenda.

No members of the public requested to speak.

5. **OCOTILLO BRIDGE:** Four well-designed concepts for the Ocotillo bridge project were presented at the meeting by Kimley-Horn, which featured a variety of Gilbert and Arizona-based design themes. An emphasis was placed with the future in mind, leaving space and room for future building projects around the bridge throughout the Park. The Board Members had a number of questions, which included such observations as whether or not the middle section of the bridge would connect to the park below for pedestrian traffic.

Despite the increase in prices and wait-times for construction, it is anticipated that the design will be finished in the Spring of 2023, with the bridge's construction planned to be finished two years later.

6. **GILBERT PARKS & REC FOUNDATION:** Jennika gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Foundation, established in 2015, which included the Foundation's current Director and Board Member. Jennika also unveiled the Backyard Bash, the Foundation's annual fundraising event is to be held in April, sponsored by Haydon Building Corp.

7. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

- a. **Administration** – Director Carmona gave a synopsis on current recruitment within the department, citing that several positions have not yet been filled.
- b. **Parks & Facilities Division** – Marshall MacFarlane gave an update on the new work order system, which is close to completion.

- c. **Recreation Division** – The tragic passing of Jenn Myers and subsequent impact on the Parks & Rec Department was appropriately discussed. The ground-breaking for the new North Water Treatment Plant -- set for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – was also mentioned.
- d. **Business Division** – Denise Merdon discussed recent special events and the exorbitant increase in ticket sales over recent years.
- e. **CAPRA** – Jennika Horta acknowledged that the annual report is due by the end of May.

**8. PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**

Chair Ferron motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 18, 2022 as written. Motion seconded by Member Kalkman and carried unanimously.

**9. REPORT FROM CHAIR & BOARD MEMBERS:**

No reports were provided from the Board Members.

**10. REPORT FROM COUNCIL LIASION:**

No updates were provided from Vice-Mayor Yentes, who was unable to attend.

**11. REPORT FROM STAFF LIASON:**

No updates or reports were mentioned from the liaison.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

ATTEST:

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Bob Ferron, Chair

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Denise Merdon, Staff Liaison