



**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
September 13, 2022 6:00 PM**

**Freestone Recreation Center | Assembly Room
1141 E. Guadalupe Road Gilbert, Arizona 85234**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Ferron, Chair
Ben Kalkman, Vice Chair
Brian Cannon
Florence Daniels
Paul Gonzales
Holly Pitrusky
Whitney Pitt
Cody Zeimer

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director
Lane Gram, Recreation Manager
Rocky Brown, Business Manager
Amy Nugent, Interim Facilities Manager
Kylie Clore, Parks Manager
Jennika Horta, Management Analyst
Sean Carlin, Parks Supervisor
Dan Wilson, Recreation Superintendent
JP LaCroix, Recreation Coordinator
Bryan Bouk, Recreation Coordinator
Rick Hooker, Sr. Project Manager
Sydney Bethel-Price, Redevelopment Specialist

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Scott Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Doralise Machado-Liddell

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ferron called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.
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:** Chair Ferron recognized Doralise Macado-Liddell's request to speak. Ms. Macado-Liddell expressed her concerns regarding the implementation of the Redevelopment Plan stating it had not been fully implemented, continuously done in pieces and changes daily even though the law states substantial changes must be reviewed. Her comments closed with a statement noting that there is no reason to add a park and have it not be what is really needed. Her opinion is that this approach would be a waste of taxpayer funding.
5. **WATER TOWER PLAZA:** Aaron Allan of J2 Designs presented the progress of the Water Tower Plaza project. He reviewed the project timeline and provided a summary of the community outreach efforts. To gather feedback to guide the development of the conceptual designs, an open house for downtown merchants was held in-person and virtually, meetings were held with Town Management, Directors and the Parks Board, and a survey went out to the community via social media. The community survey was the third best performing survey conducted by the Town with over 3,000 responses. The results illustrated the below as the top 5 amenities requested:
 - o Shaded picnic area
 - o Restrooms
 - o Grassy area for events
 - o Food truck connection
 - o Shaded splash pad.

Along with the two draft concepts, Mr. Allan and the project team presented information regarding the potential water usage and conservation efforts included in each concept. The designs both require less

water than the average residential swimming pool, water that is recirculated and sanitized, and less turf than the existing design. Concepts A and B were reviewed via images and fly-through videos with the board members. Prior to opening the floor for feedback, a summary of the feedback on the concepts from the open house was provided. These results illustrate Concept A with the higher average score of 7.75 vs Concept B at 6.25. Attendees were asked to provide input on what would make them rate each concept higher. For Concept A, historical aspects, shorter water walls, more trees and sitting space, elimination of parking along Page, better access to turf areas and smaller shade structures were noted as improvements. For Concept B, more shade, bigger event lawn, shaded splash pad and addition of trees instead of a shade structure on the east side was preferred.

Chair Ferron opened the floor for Parks Board Member feedback and questions. Member Gonzales requested information regarding the mechanics of the granite ball. Vice Chair Kalkman inquired which concept provided more programming options. Mr. Allan recommended Concept B for program flexibility. Member Zeimer voiced his preference of the smaller group setting options in Concept A. Member Daniels noted her preference for Concept B over Concept A due to the splash pad awning style. Mr. Allan reiterated that these concepts were only concepts and not full designs. The concepts provide guidance on spatial layout rather than design specifics, materials or colors of the individual amenities. Member Pitt commented that the additional sprayers outside of the splash pad would interfere with the pathway and requested more open shade over the splash pad. Mr. Allan informed the Board Members that due to code requirements any shade structure over a splash pad must be solid.

Chair Ferron recognized Doralise Macado-Liddell's request to speak on the Water Tower Plaza agenda item. Ms. Macado-Liddell questioned the relationship between Water Tower Plaza and the Living Room Plaza. She informed the Board Members of her attendance at the community open house and her disinterest in hosting large events at Water Tower Plaza, along with the placement of a splash pad near a road and her preference of an easement to be utilized for pedestrian access to Gilbert Road. Of the two concepts Ms. Macado-Liddell prefers Concept B but did not complete the feedback card at the Open House and requested that the Parks Board Members ask questions regarding the big picture of the Paseo, Living Room Plaza, Water Tower Plaza, and the Redevelopment Plan.

Chair Ferron reminded the Board Members that they are to provide input and feedback regarding only the Parks and Recreation portions of the materials presented and/or discussed at the meeting.

6. RECREATION DIVISION RECAP AND UPCOMING: Lane Gram, Recreation Manager, introduced JP LaCroix, Recreation Coordinator, and Bryan Bouk, Recreation Coordinator, to present a recap of recent and upcoming activity at Freestone Recreation Center. The presentation included information regarding facility:

- History: Freestone Recreation Center opened in 2002 and continues to be the only public full-service recreation and fitness facility in Gilbert.
- Improvement Projects:
 - Gymnasium Floor: Refinished with new lines painted for basketball, pickleball, and volleyball. Project started in November of 2021 and completed in early December 2021.
 - Office Flooring: The original facility flooring was removed and replaced in Summer 2022.
 - Gymnasium Shades & Blinds: During particular times of the day, the sun's brightness shines through the facility's upper windows. The light reflects off the gym floor and can cause poor visibility for basketball, pickleball, and volleyball players. This will be scheduled and completed by the end of October.
 - Functional Fitness Room/New Cardio Equipment: First phase of the renovation will be completed by December.

- LED Light installation in our gymnasium and parking lot: The estimated start date is late 2022/early 2023.
- Kidz Kamp Programs: 20 sessions were held from summer 2021 – summer 2022 with 85% capacity serving 591 participants.
- Facility Memberships: The facility currently has 2,965 members and served 49,784 people via memberships or day pass scans throughout June, July and August alone.
- Future Endeavors:
 - Fall Break Kidz Kamp October 3 – 7 and 10 – 14, 2022
 - Trick or Treat Bash October 28, 2022
 - Glow in the Dark Yoga and Pilates November 3, 2022
 - 20th Anniversary Bash December 10, 2022
 - Winter Break Kidz Kamp December 21 – 23 and 26 – 30th, 2022
 - Membership Drive Early 2023

Chair Ferron requested information on membership pricing and a comparison of the past three years of data to understand our return to pre-pandemic metrics. Robert Carmona, Director, noted that during the pandemic the guidelines for a recreation facility limited the capacity of the 50,000 square foot building to only 20 people per hour with 30-minute cleaning closures in between.

7. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Rocky Brown, Business Manager, provided a recap of Cactus Surf Park’s first public outreach meeting with the project neighbors. The feedback gathered will continue to guide the project team through the Design Review Board process. Mr. Brown also provided information regarding the many upcoming fall special events hosted by the department. Kylie Clore, Parks Manager, provided an update on the recent storm damage repairs as well as the process to continue Gilbert’s Tree City USA designation, and upcoming shade project for Cosmo Dog Park. Ms. Clore also informed the board of upcoming closures at Gilbert Regional Park and Desert Sky Park to replace the play area wood fiber surfacing material. Amy Nugent, Interim Facilities Manager, introduced herself to the board and provided updates on ongoing projects including the 4th Floor Renovation at the University Building, the Municipal Center I Renovation and celebrations. Director Carmona recognized Ms. Nugent for her incredible work on the project that will open in December 2022. Lane Gram, Recreation Manager, announced the addition of 1 new Park Ranger to provide weekend coverage within 5 minutes of Gilbert Regional Park. Cactus Yards recently added adult dodgeball to their programming and have begun to attract corporate events within the fieldhouse during available daytime hours. Ms. Gram also announced that Denise and Larry Horn of the Gilbert Community Center were recently named Gilbert MVPs for the pillar of Kind. Chair Ferron requested the Park Ranger number be provided to all board members. Jennika Horta, Management Analyst provided an overview of the many updates to our CAPRA standards that will occur due to the updated master plan. Standards that are expected to see major updates include:

- 2.4 Parks & Recreation System Master Plan
- 2.5 Strategic Plan
- 2.9 Community Involvement
- 3.4.3 Marketing Plan
- 6.1 Recreation Programming Plan
- 7.5 Maintenance & Operations Management Standards
- 9.1 Risk Management Policy
- 10.1 Systematic Evaluation Processes
- 10.3.1 Level of Service Standards
- 10.5 Program & Service Statistics
- 10.5.2 Community Inventory

The review of the potential updates will be presented along with the information gathered for the updated master plan.

9. MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Member Pitrusky, seconded by Member Gonzales to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2022 Regular Meeting. Motion carried 8-0.

10. REPORT FROM CHAIR & BOARD MEMBERS: Member Cannon provided an update on his participation at the Gilbert Youth Sports Coalition meeting. He was very impressed with the program and the participants. He noted they would be a great resource for the master plan development in regards to programming and field needs. Member Gonzales announced that he would be participating in the interviews for the Project Management/Construction Management team for the Water Tower Plaza project tomorrow.

11. REPORT FROM COUNCIL LIASION: No update was provided by the Council Liaison.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM.

ATTEST:

Bob Ferron, Chair

Jennika Horta, Staff Liaison