



**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
November 8, 2022 6:00 PM**

**Cactus Yards | Sliders North
4536 E. Elliott Road Gilbert, AZ 85234**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Ferron, Chair
Brian Cannon
Florence Daniels
Paul Gonzales
Holly Pitrusky
Whitney Pitt
Scott Williams

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
Heidy Comish, Strategist
Dan Wilson, Recreation Supervisor
George Tole, Recreation Coordinator
Trevor Henry, Recreation Coordinator
Denise Merdon, Recreation Supervisor
Brent Taysom, Recreation Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ben Kalkman, Vice Chair
Cody Zeimer

PUBLIC PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ferron called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

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: No citizens were present.

5. CACTUS YARDS ANNUAL REPORT: George Tole, Recreation Coordinator, provided an overview of the youth sports programming offered at Cactus Yards. Youth indoor soccer is offered 7 seasons per year for 4 age groups per season, totaling 250+ participants per season. Youth Spring ball includes t-ball, coach pitch and kid pitch. This includes about 22 teams per season totaling 420+ participants per season. Youth camps are offered 3 times per year for soccer, flag football and multi-sports. Intro to lacrosse was introduced as the newest youth program at Cactus Yards. Trevor Henry, Recreation Coordinator, provided an overview of the adult sports programming offered at the facility. Adult programming includes softball, soccer and kickball. The 8-week seasons are offered 5 times per year. Adult tournaments and programs are also offered, including Spooky Slugfest, Gilbert Days, Toys for Tots, All-City Softball, flag football league and a dodgeball tournament.

The facility has completed multiple projects in fiscal year 2023. These include new shade sails, stucco repairs, window tint, new evaporative coolers, new air conditioner units and a new irrigation pond pump. Dan Wilson, Recreation Supervisor, provided a financial overview of the facility's revenue and comparison of the first three years in operation. In FY22, Cactus Yards hosted 55 tournaments and 5 corporate events. The revenue generated from tournaments total a 53% increase from FY20. In FY22, there were 717 teams in the leagues, representing a 27% increase since FY20. Overall, the facility's cost recovery is at 82% with \$1,731,357 in total revenue and \$2,113,814 total expenses.

6. CHAPTER 15 – SPECIAL EVENT CODE: Denise Merdon, Recreation Supervisor, presented the proposed changes to Chapter 15 – the special event code. The proposed changes are partially due to the increase in events in recent years. Chair Ferron requested clarification on the definition of a special event. Ms. Merdon informed the board members that a special event is more than 500 attendees or an event that creates a public impact. Ms. Merdon also noted the increase in large-scale private promoter events that have come to Gilbert that have also affected the need for code updates.

7. MAKE AN IMPACT FOUNDATION PLAYGROUND OPPORTUNITY: Jennika Horta, Management Analyst informed the board members of an opportunity through the Make an Impact Foundation. Their collaboration with OfferPad has presented an opportunity for a donation of a playground at a Gilbert location. After review of the areas of need, staff has identified the Riparian Preserve and Cactus Yards as potential locations.

A motion was made by Member Pitt to move forward with exploring options with the Make an Impact Foundation, seconded by Member Williams. Member Pritulsky requested information regarding the demographics of need at both locations and if there were other locations with replacement needs.

Motion carried 7-0.

8. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS: Chair Ferron announced that this would be his last eligible term to serve as Chair and that elections were needed for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board to begin January 2023.

Chair Ferron nominated current Vice Chair Kalkman to serve as Chair after receiving approval from him during a conversation anticipating his absence at the meeting.

The nomination was seconded by Member Pitt and carried 7-0.

Chair Ferron informed the board that Members Cannon and Gonzales had expressed interest in the Vice Chair seat.

Chair Ferron nominated Member Cannon to serve as Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Member Williams and carried 6-0-1 with Member Cannon abstaining.

9. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Robert Carmona, Director, provided the board an update on a recent request to aid HD South's efforts to fund capital improvements. Town Council has provided guidance to move forward with discussions and any deal points developed will be presented to the board. Rocky Brown, Business Manager, provided a calendar of upcoming special events. Amy Nugent, Interim Facilities Manager, provided an update on Municipal Center I Renovation project. Ms. Gram announced that the Park Ranger team now has 9 rangers and that the department has reached 91% towards the certified autism center goal. Kylie Clore, Parks Manager, provided updates regarding the on-going projects at Gilbert Regional Park. Ms. Horta informed the board that the department master plan project team will be hosting a kickoff on November 29th which will include an all-staff meeting and a tour of the park system. She also provided a status of the Water Tower Plaza project, which is in the process of developing a preferred concept.

10. MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Member Pritulsky, seconded by Member Gonzales to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

11. REPORT FROM CHAIR & BOARD MEMBERS: There were no updates provided by the Chair nor board members.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM.

ATTEST:

Bob Ferron, Chair

Jennika Horta, Staff Liaison

