



**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
January 16, 2024 6:00 P.M.**

Municipal Building 2, Conference Room 100  
90 E Civic Center Drive Gilbert, Arizona 85296

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ben Kalkman, Chair  
Brian Cannon, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Bongiovanni  
Michael Clark  
Cody Zeimer  
Florence Daniels  
Rick Kettner

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Robert Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director  
Milan Perisic, Facilities Manager  
Lane Gram, Recreation Manager  
Rocky Brown, Business Manager  
Kylie Sorensen, Parks Manager

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Scott Williams  
Holly Pitruski  
Bob Ferron

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

None

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kalkman called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
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. MARKETING PRESENTATION: Eva Kirschbaum from Gilbert Digital Government discussed the parks and recreation department marketing strategies including email, social media, and the website. She mentioned Gilbert Parks and Recreation had an email marketing campaign with 32,000 subscribers. Eva presented the different social media outreach examples with top posts and outreach efforts for the year. Website priorities include; mobile-friendly, alt text, accurate information, and adding video.
6. PARKS BOND UPDATE: Robert Carmona, Parks Director, reviewed the presentation that was prepared for the Executive Team, Council, and Mayor which highlighted the master plan outreach results & potential parks bond projects to be considered. Feedback/Questions from the board included- potential locations for the SE Gilbert Rec Center, where do other AZ cities land in the top 100 list, potential for a dog park in a retention basin, and walkability improvement opportunities.
7. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS: A motion was made by Member Daniels to have Ben Kalkman continue as Chair of the Parks Board and Brian Cannon resume his role as Vice Chair for the Parks Board, seconded by Member Kettner. Motion carried 6-0.
8. MEETING DATES AND LOCATION: The board discussed future meeting dates and potentially having meetings at different locations such as; Gilbert Regional Park, Cactus Yards, Freestone Recreation

Center, etc.

9. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Rocky Brown, Business Manager gave an update on events past and future. There were 124 players in the Pickleball Tournament at GRP, and there will be a maximum of one tournament per month. Aquatics hiring is underway with a great return rate for managers and coaches. January 27 is Truck a Palooza at Gilbert Regional Park - 9am-1pm (low sensory from 9am-10am). Milan Perisic, Facilities Manager discussed the Master Plan & Space Needs Master Plan for facilities under contract and going to council. Muni 2, McQueen Activity Center, and the Library have flooring projects. Kylie Sorensen, Parks Manager discussed ongoing restroom renovations at Freestone and McQueen. She also mentioned that the Circle G Parking Lot was recently redone to add accessible parking spots. There is also a playground replacement project upcoming for Freestone Recreation Center, Cactus Yards, and Sonora Town. Water Tower Plaza is closed and fenced off for the renovation. Lane Gram, Recreation Manager discussed the upcoming Father Daughter Dance on Feb 2-3 at GCC. There are facility upgrades for flooring at SERL & Kitchen at GCC. Master plan document reviews are currently underway.

10. MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Member Kettner to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Clark. Motion carried 6-0.

11. REPORT FROM CHAIR & BOARD MEMBERS: Vice Chair Cannon and Member Clark requested an overview of Parks Security and cameras at a future meeting. Member Clark mentioned he received an email from a resident regarding the GRP pickleball courts sign to make a reservation - the phone number does not work.

12. REPORT FROM COUNCIL LIASION: Councilmember Bongiovanni mentioned that reports for council meetings from the team are helpful. There is also a Dementia-friendly initiative and he would like to integrate it into Parks & Recreation.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

ATTEST:

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Ben Kalkman, Chair

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Kylie Sorensen, Staff Liaison