



**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2024 6:00 P.M.**

Southeast Regional Library
775 N Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85234

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Kalkman, Chair
Brian Cannon, Vice Chair
Councilmember Bongiovanni
Michael Clark
Holly Pritulsky
Florence Daniels
Desa Rae Hoffman
John Dale
Rick Kettner

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director
Rocky Brown, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kylie Sorensen, Parks Manager
Tyler Smith, Recreation Supervisor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bob Ferron

PUBLIC PRESENT:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kalkman called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.
2. OATH OF OFFICE: Councilmember Bongiovanni conducted the Oath of Office for two returning members and two new members.
3. ROLL CALL: Roll call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present.
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. 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.
6. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION: Kylie Sorensen, Parks Manager, introduced the new Maintenance Coordinator, Heath Jackson to the board. Heath spoke about his role and his previous work experience. Members of the board also gave brief introductions of who they are and how long they have served on the board.
7. MASTER PLAN: Robert Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director, shared how the Master Plan will be implemented moving forward to build the future of Gilbert. He also provided a draft document for members to see. Director Carmona spoke about staffing and the specific needs and special diverse skillsets we need to provide a variety of services for the residents. He stated that the department wants to remain transparent with the community and this document will help us do that. Chair Kalkman said he is happy to be a part of this process. Member Pritulski said this document is perfect to "show our work" to explain what the department needs.
8. SERL/RIPARIAN PROGRAMMING: Riparian Naturalist; Kellie Elliot gave an update on things happening at the Southeast Regional Library and Riparian. Kellie gave an overview of different programs and events held at the Riparian. Numerous field trips are held at the Riparian each year with groups of up to 120

kids. There are recreation classes and family events each year, for example, parent-tot, camps, and Riparian exploration. Kellie said looking ahead they would like to have more adult programming and more events at the Riparian. The library has preschool-aged recreation classes that are run internally. Many other programs are put together through independent contractors.

9. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Robert Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director, no updates. Rocky Brown, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, gave an update on upcoming events. This Saturday there is a community bike ride at 8 am from downtown to Freestone Recreation Center. Thursday, June 6th is H2O Fest at Freestone Park. Facilities will be replacing the carpet at Muni 2 without shutting the building down for public services. Kylie Sorensen, Parks Manager, gave an update on the Water Tower Plaza construction. Most of the work taking place right now is still underground but there should be some vertical work beginning in July. Kylie informed the board that some shade projects should be beginning soon. Tyler Smith, Recreation Supervisor, provided an update on recreation. The park rangers had the badges and bobbers event which had 100 kids in attendance. Rangers will be having their trucks wrapped with a new design. Freestone Recreation Center is getting new strength equipment this week. Cactus Yards is having some work done on the parking lot. Mother's Day tea event sold out both days at the community center. Wiggles and Worms at the McQueen Activity Center has expanded.
10. MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Vice Chair Cannon to approve the April 9, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Kettner. Motion carried 6-0. Member Dale and Member Hoffman abstained.
11. REPORT FROM CHAIR & BOARD MEMBERS: No updates or reports were provided by the Chair.
12. REPORT FROM COUNCIL LIASION: Councilmember Bongiovanni informed the group that the Parks and Recreation board had some high-quality candidates.
13. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:08PM.

ATTEST:

Ben Kalkman, Chair

Kylie Sorensen, Staff Liaison