

Minutes
City of Yuma Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission Meeting
One City Plaza, Conference Room #141, Yuma, Arizona
Thursday, May 16, 2024
4:00 pm

Call to order: The City of Yuma's Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

PARC Members present: Judy Phillips, Raul Canal, Jaime McGalliard, Stephanie Cabrales and Brannick Harris.

PARC Members Absent: Sara Bowerman.

Staff Present: Eric Urfer, Kami Ellsworth, Espy Matlock, Ann-Jeanette Mosqueda, Andrew Smith, Joel Radatz, and Claudia Urias.

Call to the Public: None.

Approval of minutes:

- a. Raul Canal, seconded by Judy Phillips, made a motion to approve the April 18, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following votes:
Aye: 5 Judy Phillips, Raul Canal, Jaime McGalliard, Stephanie Cabrales and Brannick Harris.
Nay: None.

Schedule Items:

a. Master Plan – Update

Eric Urfer reported the following on the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Trails (P.A.R.T.) Master Plan:

- We are on the final stages of the process.
- The P.A.R.T. Master Plan is tentatively scheduled to be presented to City Council on June 25, 2024.
- With hopes of adoption on June 26, 2024.

b. Director's Update

i. Vacancies

- Recruitment is underway to fill several vacancies in the department.
- The job posting for the recruitment of the Parks Manager position is open.
- Christopher Hardy will be covering the Desert Hills Golf Course Operations Manager position while we work on filling the position after Drew leaves.
- Lillian Jacobs resigned from her position as Technical Production Supervisor, her last day will be Friday, May 24, 2024. We will be working on filling that position soon.

ii. Grants

- The department did not move forward the application process for the \$2 million Water Smart grant. We will meet with grantors soon to get feedback on the application.
- Shaw Industries donated Shaw Fields property to the City of Yuma. By acquiring this property, the City will be able to development the land and put in infrastructure. The Cal-Ripken Senior Foundation is looking to do youth development fields, including soccer, flag football, and more. They are looking to approach Major League Baseball (MLB), and National Football League (NFL) foundations for funding.

Branick Harris asked, what type of turf would be used for the proposed fields. Eric responded, that the concept of Astro turf concept, also looking into installing lights.

Stephanie Cabrales asked, if additional parking will be added. Eric responded, we are talking with Shaw Industries to if dirt lot is included in the donation, this area could serve as additional parking spaces.

c. Staff Update

i. Project Updates

Eric Urfer reported:

- Lights for Ray Kroc fields 2 and 3 will be installed in June and July. We are not booking anything until August. We will need to shut down the water during installation, we are looking for alternative methods to water fields during this time.
- Last night council approved the replacing the playground at Barkley Ranch Park and the small playground at Kennedy Memorial Park.
- The proposed changes for the Park Code Ordinance and Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission will go to council for introduction on June 5, 2024.

ii. Program and Event Updates

Espy Matlock reported:

- Tree fencing was built and installed at the Law Enforcement Memorial; it was unveiled last night.
- The new inclusive play pieces at West Wetlands Park will be installed in June. It will be the first park in the nation to have all three inclusive pieces in one location.
- We are finalizing the project timeline for the Joe Henry Memorial Park grant; the grant includes turf upgrade and pump irrigation.
- Two new scoreboards will be installed at Joe Henry Fields next year.
- We did the first initial pruning for the Downtown date palms.

Ann-Jeannette Mosqueda reported:

- Swim lesson registrations started Monday, May 13, 2024.
 - The City partnered with Yuma County Public Health Services District, Prison Hill/Liquid Foundation, and Olsen Industries to offer 125 swim lesson scholarships for ages 1–5 years old.
 - All scholarships have been secured.
- This year the Junior Lifeguard program was launched. The program is designed for ages 11-14 years old. The training is similar as our lifeguard's certification.
- In partnership with the Yuma Police Department and Yuma Fire Department this year will be hosting a Water Safety Yuma Alliance program on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Yuma Valley Aquatic Center. It is a free event, we will count with water safety related vendors, as well as food vendors. There will be demos from different vendors, demonstrations inside the pool, life jacket/vest exchange.
- Yuma Boys Baseball League is finishing their season, Yuma Fastpitch and T-ball League and Yuma Catch and Go league are currently in playoffs.
- Dennis Donnelly Tournament will be on May 24-26, we have 33 teams registered, 5 from Chicago, some from California and the rest from Yuma.
- Archery range is almost completed, ribbon cutting is scheduled for this fall.

Kami Ellsworth reported:

- Yuma Art Center sign is in the approval process.
- Fire Station #7 project has been completed.

Judy Phillips added, moving forward art should be seen by public, maybe do mural or sculpture instead.

- New art gallery reception is on May 31, 2024.
- Joe Henry Optimist Center candy land mural will be replaced due to water damage. Facilities Maintenance will be painting the building in the next weeks.
- Youth Theater program, "Mean Girls Jr", is almost full, the performances will be on July 19-20.

Judy Phillips added, for 270 Black Box Theatre the City may want to consider adding a ceramic studio on the back part of building.

Joel Radatz reported:

- Summer is a good time to do maintenance because reservations slowdown a little.

Andrew Smith reported:

- We are hosting the 40th Wilbur-Ellis Grower Appreciation Tournament.
- Junior camp starts June 3, 2024, with a second session starting on June 17, 2024.
- We are talking with consultants to replace irrigation at Desert Hills Golf Course next year, window will be May-September with overseeding in October. We will replace 9 holes at a time.

Action Item: None.

Summary of Current Events: None.

Commission Forum for Advocacy, Feedback, or Questions:

- Report on programs or events attended
 - None.

Adjournment

Raul Canal, second by Jaime McGalliard, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 pm. The Motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 5 Judy Phillips, Brannick Harris, Raul Canal, Stephanie Cabrales, and Jaime McGalliard.

Nay: None

Minutes approved this 20 day of June, 2024.



Raul Canal, Chairperson