

**DRAFT**  
**Minutes**  
**City of Yuma Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**One City Plaza, Conference Room #141, Yuma, Arizona**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2024**  
**4:00 pm**

**Call to order:** The City of Yuma's Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

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

**PARC Members Absent:** Sara Bowerman, and Stephanie Cabrales.

**Staff Present:** Christopher Hardy, Kami Ellsworth, Joel Radatz, Ana Padilla, Jasmin Rodriguez, Ron Ramirez, Eric Urfer, and Councilmember Arturo Morales.

**Call to the Public:** Dennis Franklin commented, Riverfront development in Yuma is not growing the way it's supposed to grow. 12,000 high schoolers, get at least 20% engaged. Look at your assets, look at drones and drone racing and get people involved.

**Approval of minutes:**

- a. Brannick Harris, seconded by Jaime McGalliard, made a motion to approve the June 20, 2024, and July 11, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following votes:  
Aye: 4 Brannick Harris, Raul Canal, Judy Phillips, and Jaime McGalliard.  
Nay: None.

**Schedule Items:**

**a. Director's Update**

**i. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Highlights**

- Fiscal Year 2024 99% spent.

**ii. Park Ordinance – Update**

- The changes to the Park Ordinance were approved and will be effective August 16, 2024. Staff will go around updating signs with stickers to reflect the changes. Parks and Recreation has an open-door policy to discuss different options and answer residents' questions. Brannick Harris asked, what is the formal process to request park hour changes. Eric Urfer answered, the first step is to talk to the director to initiate the process.

**iii. Parks, Art, Recreation, and Trail (PART) Master Plan – Update**

- The department has started to use the PART Master Plan during project planning stages. Next step is to divide portions by processes, projects, and administrative regulations. The department would like to review and make changes to pricing first. During this review the pricing structure for Inter-governmental Agreements will also be evaluated.
- City's strategic plan that include Parks and Recreation
  - Active & Appealing
    - Build East Mesa Community Park
    - Revitalize Kennedy Skate Park
    - Park Revitalization Program
    - Complete Parks Master Plan and determine priorities
    - Develop partnerships for trail connections
- Feasibility studies will be needed for big projects. The feasibility study will help define the features of each facility, cost, and location.
- Formalizing maintenance of the Pioneer Cemetery is a part of the strategic plan.

- Judy Phillips commented, some grave sites have shifted, and record keeping is not the best.

**b. Intern Presentation**

- Work-Based Learning Alliance (WBLA) Interns presented the following:
  - Yuma Parks and Recreation was highly affected by the covid pandemic, leading to low or no interest from teens to participate in Parks and Recreations' programs.
  - This plan's goal is to increase youth engagement in Parks and Recreation programs.
  - The performed research includes responses from students' part of Work-Based Learning Alliance, from recreation centers in Gilbert, Sierra Vista, Nogales, and Lake Havasu City.
  - Some factors in teen's low interest in Parks and Recreations' programs are lack of new programs at centers, teens prefer activities that help build their resumes instead of leisure activities, teens want programs where they can learn a skill that can introduce them to a work field or help them in life.
  - Some recommendations that we have are implement a college readiness program, commence a book club, begin a robotics club, develop a video editing class, start a volunteer program. These would prepare students for college and would give them something resourceful to do.
  - The plan overview key steps are to track current enrollment numbers, launch new programs and track engagement, gather feedback from participants, adjust programs based on feedback.
- Brannick Harris suggested to look into local interest.
- Eric Urfer commented that Parks and Recreation will explore the possibility of having a youth advisor group in the near future.

**c. Staff Update**

**i. Project Updates**

- East mesa Community Park, 100% of the design is complete. The budget has been submitted by does not include the bottom-line, hopefully it comes under budget. The bid is scheduled to be released next month and hopefully have a recommendation for City Council approval for the first meeting in November. Tentatively break ground in December.
- Kennedy Memorial Park Skate Park construction is under schedule and should be completed no later than December.
- Kennedy Hockey Rink lights will be installed in conjunction with the light at the Skate Park.
- Kennedy Sand Volleyball courts are being renovated.
- New playground ribbon cutting in December. Brannick Harris volunteered to help with advertising.
- Archery Range at Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex will be open when the weather gets cooler.
- Lighting of Ray Kroc Fields 2 and 3 is complete. Staff continues to work on field maintenance to repair damage from installation of lights.
- Desert Hills Golf Course irrigation project final design is complete, will go out for bid soon. The work will be completed 9 holes at a time from March 2025 through October 2025.

**ii. Program and Event Updates**

- None

**Action Item:** None.

**Summary of Current Events:** None.

**Commission Forum for Advocacy, Feedback, or Questions:** None.

- a. Report on programs or events attended

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

- Recommendations for the Commission Page on City Website
- Presentation from Special Olympics

**Adjournment**

Brannick Harris, second by Jaime McGalliard, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm. The Motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 4 Brannick Harris, Raul Canal, Judy Phillips, and Jaime McGalliard.

Nay: None

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Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Raul Canal, Chairperson