

**Minutes**  
**City of Yuma Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**One City Plaza, Conference Room #141, Yuma, Arizona**  
**Thursday, September 19, 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:** Sara Bowerman, Brannick Harris, Jaime McGalliard, Judy Phillips (left at 5:14 pm), Keith (Kwadwo) Stevenson, and Stephanie Cabrales.

**PARC Members Absent:** Raul Canal.

**Staff Present:** Ann-Jeanette Mosqueda, Christopher Hardy, Kami Ellsworth, Joel Radatz, Ana Padilla, Jasmin Rodriguez, Ron Ramirez, and Eric Urfer.

**Call to the Public:** Kelly Smith, Adam Flermoen, Diana Flermoen, and Josh Bootzin.

**Approval of minutes:**

- a. Jaime McGalliard, seconded by Keith (Kwadwo) Stevenson, made a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 6 Sara Bowerman, Brannick Harris, Jaime McGalliard, Judy Phillips, Keith (Kwadwo) Stevenson, and Stephanie Cabrales.

Nay: None.

**Schedule Items:**

**a. Special Olympics Presentation**

Kelly Smith presented:

- Special Olympics has been able to use Parks and Recreation facilities for Special Olympic sports.
- Special Olympics is looking to add pickleball and volleyball this upcoming year.
- As a result, Special Olympics has been able to compete at the State level.
  - Yuma Special Olympics has tripled in size with 75 participants competing at the State Level this year.
- Programming currently takes place at: Cibola Athletic Complex, Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex, Joe Henry Optimist Center, North End Community Center, and Valley Aquatic Center.
- Several pictures of Special Olympic programming was displayed for the commission. Stephanie Cabrales asked, if Special Olympics has an event page available. Kelly Smith responded that a Facebook page is available, Yuma Special Olympics.

**b. Circle of Friends Presentation**

Diana Flermoen presented:

- Circle of Friends started with a play group that met every Wednesday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
  - Activities included exercise and arts and crafts.
- Currently there are 40 participants.
- With the support from Parks and Recreation Circle of Friends has grown.
- Circle of friends helps emotional well-being.
- The next event is a Talent Show on October 9, 2024, at the Historic Theatre at 4:00 pm.

**c. Director's Update**

**i. Endowment**

Eric Urfer announced that the City of Yuma (City) received a \$1 million endowment that was established 20 years ago. The City is able use about 4.7% annual which is approximately \$45,000-\$47,000. The City's plan is to bank the annual disbursement for 2-3 years to accumulate enough to purchase a park amenity. The City will try to use these funds as match for grant applications.

**ii. Next Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant**

Eric Urfer informed the commission that Parks and Recreation will begin to present new Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (LWCF Grant) project for review and consideration. For the next LWCF Grant the City is looking to apply for the park revitalization of Smucker Park and Kennedy Memorial Park. This is a \$1.5 million grant that requires a 50/50 match.

**iii. January Parks and Recreation Forum**

Eric Urfer shared with the commission that Parks and Recreation will be starting a Parks and Recreation forum in January. This will help the City keep the community engage with the Master Plan and update the community on with Parks and Recreation is doing.

**d. Holiday Meeting Schedule**

No changes were requested for upcoming meetings.

**e. Staff Update**

**i. Project Updates**

Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission website updates:

- Request to add service projects.
- Commissioners pictures to be added with bios.

Eric Urfer reported:

- Kennedy Memorial Skate Park construction is under schedule, annual preventative maintenance will be needed.
- Hockey Rink floor tiles are going out for bid and lights are being replaced with LED lights.
- Recreation staff is looking to have a skating event at the Hockey Rink.
- Kennedy Memorial Park sand volleyball court renovation is completed.
- Parks and Recreation will be scheduling an unveiling for all the projects that were completed in the summer once the weather cools down.
- Desert Hills Golf Course irrigation project is out for bid. This is \$4 million project that is scheduled to start in March 2025. The project will be completed in phases only closing 9 holes at a time.
- East Mesa Community Park bid is out, bids are due in October 3, 2024.
- The installation of the shade structures at Desert Ridge Park and Winsor Park will be starting soon.
- New playgrounds at Kennedy Memorial Park and Barkley Ranch Park will be installed in November.
- Park revitalization at Joe Henry Memorial Park will begin this year. The project will include irrigation at Shaw Fields, replacement of amenities, and new playground.
- The new air conditioner project for the Yuma Readiness and Community Center continues to move forward.

**ii. Program and Events Updates**

Ann-Jeanette Mosqueda reported:

- Pools are still being used, the Valley Aquatic Center and Marcus Pool are in full use, Carver Pool will close for the season soon.
- Staff is preparing for senior programming.
- Outdoor archery is in full swing.
- New Archery range will open in October.

Ron Ramirez reported:

- Overseeding for park facilities will begin at the end of September.
- The gates for the batting cages at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex have been installed.
- Trees at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex damaged by the weather are being replaced.
- Staff is working on rolling fields at Kiwanis to level the playing area.

Eric Urfer reported:

- The County's stormwater project at Smucker Memorial Park continues. The project has interrupted water causing damage to the park. A stormwater trench will be created.

Christopher Hardy reported:

- Desert Hills Golf Course will be closed for 3 weeks starting September 30, 2024, for overseeding.
- Upcoming tournaments are Kids at Hope and Yuma Youth Hockey League.

Joel Radatz reported:

- The Yuma Civic Center is booked until May 2025.
- New concession area will be completed by the end of September.
- The Yuma Civic Center is scheduled to close for approximately 4 – 5 weeks in the summer of 2025 to complete improvement project throughout the facility.

Ana Padilla reported:

- YumaCon is taking place in October with over 50 vendors.
- Nominations for Tribute of the Muse are open. Nominations will be presented to the commission for consideration in October.
- Upcoming events Rocky Horror Picture Show and Shadow Cast and Tribute of the Muses.

**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:**

- Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex art.
- Youth intern discussion presentation.

**Adjournment**

Jaime McGalliard, second by Sara Bowerman, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 pm. The Motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 5 Sara Bowerman, Brannick Harris, Jaime McGalliard, Keith (Kwadwo) Stevenson, and Stephanie Cabrales.

Nay: None

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Minutes approved this 17 day of October, 2024.



Raul Canal, Chairperson