

Town of Payson  
*Parks & Recreation Commission Advisory Board*  
ACTION MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING

June 15, 2022

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Ben McDowell called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32p.m. at the Town of Payson Town Council Chambers.

**Present:** Vice-Chair Ben McDowell, Commission Member Lori Thompson, Commission Member Dave Golembewski, Commission Member Nancy Gartner, Commission Member Joe Miller, Commission member Stacy Foote-Blaine

**Staff Present:** Christine Smith – Parks Director, Scott VanOmmeran – Parks Supervisor, Lisa Lipinski –Recreation and Tourism Program Manager, Phoenix Youngcourt – Customer Service Representative

**Others Present:** Jennifer Smith with MHA

**A. Purpose of meeting**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve minutes from May 11, 2022, meeting.

Moved by Member Golembewski, seconded by Member Gartner. Motion passed by group consensus.

**2. Call for Public or Board Comments**

Member of the Public, Jeff Robbins, stated he feels the Parks Department is doing a lot of great work that is not being shared with the public. He feels all meeting recording for the commission should be shared on the Town Website and social media.

**3. Department Updates**

The Arizona Open Meeting Law specified that these items may not be discussed or have action taken on any matter mentioned during this presentation or on the attached materials unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

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a. Department Updates – Round Table/T.O.P

Director Smith shared that the Town is wrapping up the budget process and that Parks has received some additional funding and highlighted a few areas where the funding will be going.

Director Smith also shared that the grant for the Splash Pad has been fully executed and approved.

Lisa Lipinski, Recreation and Tourism Program Manager, shared the feedback from the community during the Mustang Park design review meeting and stated that they are hoping to receive \$400,000 in funding for this project.

Smith stated that Friends of Payson Parks and Recreation is also seeking donations to help with extra funding for the project.

Scott VanOmmeran, Parks Operation manager, shared that since they are moving to a bigger firework show this year for 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the launch site has been moved from its original location and there will be additional road closures to accommodate.

#### 4. New Business

##### All items listed for Discussion and/or Possible Recommendation

- a. Introductions and meet and greet for new Commission Members  
Commission Members engaged in conversation while introducing themselves and provided the reasons they wanted to be involved in the group.
- b. Selection of future meeting dates (August 2022-August 2023)  
Dates were selected to occur quarterly on Wednesday's at 5:30p.m. and can be added, as needed.
- ~~c. Potential Brush Pit at Event Center (Postponed until next meeting)~~
- d. Taylor Pool  
Member Golembewski stated that he was concerned about the budget for the demolition of the pool and feels that the Commission should be able to review the bids and would like to be informed on what happens next for that area.

Smith responded there are no funds for demolition in the Town budget and all next steps are put on hold for right now.

- e. Field Use Priorities  
Director Smith stated that the Town is experiencing a large amount of growth in registrations for the town youth programs.

Smith explains that our facilities are seeing a large demand and conflicts for parking and field usage and that is making it hard to maintain sufficiently.

Smith opened the conversation to the Commission for feedback on

whether the parks programs are priority, or if they should continue to accommodate these other user groups like Pop Warner, Little League and Tournaments.

Conversation ensued between the members and town staff. Vice-Chair McDowell stated he feels that softball tournaments bring visitors to town and helps local businesses.

Conversation continued regarding partnering with the schools to have more access to spaces.

f. **Swimming Lessons** (Added 6/13/2022 at 9:18a.m.)

Director Smith shared that with the loss of Taylor pool, there is still a need for swim lessons in our community. Smith shared that there have been a lot of discussions behind the scenes trying to find a way of what we can provide during the interim.

Smith explained that Member Thompson and her group have been working extensively and have coordinated with Chaparral Pines to bring swim lessons to the community. The Town has \$6,000.00 in the budget that will be available July 1, 2022, to help reimburse a portion of the costs for families, who are responsible for paying the full cost up-front.

Director Smith introduced Jennifer Smith with MHA.

Jennifer shared MHA has approved funding of \$9,000 to use towards swim lessons for Rim Country residents and the funding is available retroactively from May all the way through October.

Jennifer shared that the Tonto Apache Tribe may be able to provide a recreation swim option and elaborated on the delicate nature of these negotiations between Chaparral Pines and the Tonto Apache, as they do have their own stake holders to take in account and do not want an adverse reaction.

**B. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair McDowell adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:01p.m.

NOTE: THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT A QUORUM OF THE PAYSON COMMON COUNCIL WILL BE PRESENT DURING THIS MEETING. NO COUNCIL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN, NO COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS WILL BE HELD, AND NO COUNCIL BUSINESS WILL BE CONDUCTED.

The Town of Payson endeavors to make all Public Meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance can also be provided for sight and/or hearing impaired persons at public meetings. Please call 474-5242(voice) or 472-6449 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participation at this meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

The undersigned hereby certified that a copy of the attached Agenda for the Commission was duly posted at the following location: Payson Town Hall bulletin board, 303 N. Beeline Highway, Payson, Arizona, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 at \_\_\_\_\_.

By: \_\_\_\_\_