

**CITY OF SURPRISE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 28, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Oasis Swim Center- Community Room
12361 N Perryville Rd. SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85388

CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Members: Chair Brent Bailey, Matthew Ives, Michael Wallace, Wayne Turner, Ron Jensen

City Staff: Director Holly Osborn, Assistant Director Paul Frie, Assistant Director Shannon Gaul, Recreation Coordinator Shelby Fenwick

Absent: Vice Chair Patricia Blaisdell, David Samaniego

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Current Events

Recreation Commissioner Matthew Ives shared his experience attending the Eggstravaganza event, providing insight into the festivities.

Recreation Commission Chair Brent inquired about attendance, prompting Director Holly Osborn to give a brief overview of the event, including the rationale behind the change in location and the resulting attendance figures. Brent also offered feedback on the event.

Recreation Commissioner Michael Wallace presented a report on the T-ball program for the 4–5 age group that his son is participating in.

E. Staff Reports

N/A

F. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

CALL TO THE PUBLIC / PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Rhonda Siwak – Presented a petition with 250 signatures, requesting the removal of the height requirement sign due to its vague and often-missed wording.

Ro Pernelli – Spoke as a therapy dog handler, emphasizing that size does not determine behavior and advocating for reconsideration of park regulations.

Connie Cunningham – Discussed concerns about environmental changes, suggesting education on dog park etiquette and behavior instead of height-based restrictions.

Casey Siwak – Compared current park ranger restrictions to traffic rules, expressing concerns about enforcement and available tools.

CONSENT AGENDA (N/A)

Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON-PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action approving the October 28, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting – motioned by Wayne Turner, 2nd Matthew Ives. 5 yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – INTERNAL – Update on current and upcoming parks projects, including Rescue Oasis and Oasis Swim Center.

Director Holly Osborn provided a brief overview of the Rescue Oasis facility and shared her excitement about the park's upcoming opening. She highlighted the ribbon-cutting event scheduled for May 8th, followed by the Surprise Safety Splash on May 9th. She also gave an update on registration numbers, which currently stand at 1,200, and described the event's theme and logistics.

Holly also mentioned the renovation of the Marley Park splash pad and plans for a fall renovation of the military-themed splash pad at Veramonte Park. She also noted a potential budget addition for further park improvements, aiming to enhance programming opportunities.

Recreation Commission Chair Brent Bailey inquired about parking capacity at Rescue Oasis, to which Holly responded that the park can accommodate 500 vehicles. He also asked about the two entrances and concerns regarding overflow parking, prompting Holly to provide an update on available parking along Perryville Rd.

Recreation Commissioner Michael Wallace commented on the joy he has observed among children enjoying the newly renovated Marley Park splash pad.

Item 3- INTERNAL- Discussion and presentation pertaining to the McMicken Dam project.

Director Holly Osborn provided a presentation on the McMicken Dam project, which has been part of the master plan since 2015. She highlighted the support from the City Manager's Office in working with Maricopa County and noted that the City Council has approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

She outlined the timeline for the approval of 3,500 acres, stating that the project was presented to the council on April 15 for the city to assume control, with final approval pending from the county board on May 21.

Chair Brent Bailey inquired about potential roadblocks, prompting Councilmember Judd—who was present—to affirm that both county officials and legislators are supportive of the process and land acquisition. Holly emphasized that significant cleanup will be required, with plans to initially add four park rangers.

She also expressed hope for the approval of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which would allow for programming and planning within the space, with a goal to preserve 90% of the area in its natural state.

Commissioner Matthew Ives asked about the dam’s impact on the land, and Holly addressed existing restrictions and emergency plans. **Councilmember Judd** noted that while the county retains the option to sell portions of the land, securing public support for the project could make such a sale more challenging. He also referenced similar land agreements in the cities of Peoria and Phoenix as an example.

Item 4- INTERNAL- Update pertaining to the Surprise Youth Council

Surprise Youth Council members Maddie Mize and Emma Tran provided an update on the Surprise Youth Council, outlining their committees and the goals they have set. They highlighted the events they have planned and developed throughout the year, as well as the valuable opportunities they have received, including shared experiences, attended conferences, and personal development. Both expressed gratitude for the support from the city.

Youth Council Advisor Shelby Fenwick provided an update on recent recruiting efforts, announcing the addition of nine new members for the upcoming school year. The council’s involvement in the Simon CRE project and their participation in presentations were also noted.

OTHER BUSINESS and Future Agenda Items

Chair Brent Bailey acknowledged public comments regarding the dog park. **Director Holly Osborn** and **Assistant Director Shannon Gaul** shared their feedback, noting that they have previously researched data and consulted relevant sources on the matter. They stated that they will review the documents provided by the public.

No future agenda items determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Brent Bailey. 2nd Matthew Ives, 5 yes votes. Motion carried.

Chair Brent Bailey, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

ATTEST:

Holly Osborn, Director
Parks & Recreation

CERTIFICATION:

I, Steven Day, Management Analyst for the City of Surprise Parks and Recreation Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting held on April 22, 2024.

Steven Day, Management Analyst