



Monday, March 25, 2024

City of Palm Springs

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission

This meeting was held in person at City Hall with option for teleconference provided.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the City of Palm Springs Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chair Miraglia and the roll call was taken by Director Yvonne Wise.

II. ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	EXCUSED
Donald Admire	X	
Johnny Coladonato	X	
Rod Davis		X
Jody Diaz	X	
Michael Finland	X	
Margaret Keung		X
Susan Meyer	X	
John Miraglia	X	
Jase Nagaia	X	

City Staff Present: Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein; Yvonne Wise, Director of Parks & Recreation; David McAbee, Public Works Director; and Aaron Bergeson, Project Manager, Engineering.

III. REPORT OF POSTING OF AGENDA:

The Agenda for this meeting was posted at City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way; the Palm Springs Leisure Center, 401 S. Pavilion Way; and the City of Palm Springs' website prior to 5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, as required by established policies and procedures.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF February 26, 2024

Motion: Commissioner Diaz

Second: Commissioner Admire

Motion Carried: Yes 7

Noting the absence of Commissioner Keung and Davis

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Correspondence was emailed to Commissioners prior to the Meeting.

1. T Santora – Noted the letter sent to the Commissioners on behalf of the Palm Springs Ad-hoc Pickleball Committee.
2. Mara Hutchins – Concerned for shelter dogs who use Demuth Park as removing trees could affect them.
3. Paula Walters – Expressed need to be conscientious of animals including shelter dogs and birds.
4. Tim Watts – Expressed need to work collaboratively with Parks and Recreation on an alternative to removing turf and trees.
5. Dan Rasi – Expressed need for park space at Palm Springs Animal Shelter to serve animals.
6. Jim Gazan – Noted, an opportunity for Measure J funds to create green space for the shelter. Kudos to Kimley Horn.
7. Matt Dierda - Shared research that the “healthiest cities” have Pickleball courts and more courts and shade are much needed.
8. Keith Markovitz – Expressed that Pickleball players are supportive of the Animal Shelters and street parking needs to be enforced as to not impede on the Animal Shelter.
9. Shelly Saunders – There is misinformation that people are claiming that is simply not true. There have been hours going into this project, and the City, Ad-hoc, and the Consultants listened to players. Players want what's best for all. It's important to notice that trees are being replaced. Although appreciative of the shelter's concerns, players are trying to work with the community to make sure the facility is for everyone. The parking should also be monitored.
10. Cliff Shiapa – Noted that Pickleball is for friendship and sport and requested approving design.
11. David Feltman – Expressed need to work with the Animal Shelter about parking. The Parks & Recreation Director has gone out of her way to consult all on the scope of the project and requested moving forward with concept.
12. Larry Robles – Noted the need for youth involvement in sports and the expansion of the Pickleball courts will encourage youth to get involved.
13. John Fitzgerald – Suggested additional trees on the southwest corner of the proposed Pickleball courts. Consider partnering with Department of Education to encourage youth involvement, and potential of a kiosk for fundraising.

VI. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Wise provided an overview of the Parks & Recreation department's projects and programs in progress or coming up in the future. Additionally, Director Wise reported on items that went to Council as well as any upcoming Council items, warming/cooling center updates, new City website (engagepalmsprings.com), upcoming events, and an overview of maintenance completed in parks and facilities.

VII. **PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. ACTION: Demuth Pickleball Court Preliminary Design Concept

Michael Madsen of Kimley Horn gave an updated overview of the Pickleball Court Expansion Project progress. He explained that parking is not a part of this project. There were 3 Community Outreach meetings, 5 ad-hoc meetings, and the preliminary concept was presented February 26, 2024. They received good

feedback on the corridors and manhole adjustment and talked about changes to the tournament court to add more trees. This space is for the entire community so the openness around the tournament court can create a shade area or keep space open for other opportunities such as food trucks or events. They are continuing to collaborate with the Animal Shelter.

Director Wise stated that this is an action item for this concept. We would like Kimley Horn to be able to move forward in the project.

Action: Approve Design for Purpose of Advancing for Cost Estimates

Motion: Commissioner Miraglia

Second: Commissioner Finland

Motion Carried: Yes 7

Noting the absence of Commissioner Keung and Davis

B. PRESENTATION: Ad-Hoc Committees

Director Wise mentioned the need to add a Commissioner to the Swim center Ad-hoc. Commissioner Meyer volunteered to join. Chair Miraglia asked for anyone interested in switching assignments; there were none.

C. PRESENTATION: Parks & Recreation Project Updates

Director Wise shared photos of the updates on improvement projects. Director of Public Works David McAbee and Project Manager Aaron Bergesen reported on Measure J, Capital Projects, and other projects.

VIII. **AD-HOC UPDATES:**

Dog Park: None

Master Plan: Commissioner Meyer shared that KDI is doing a great job, and it is a great idea to be out in the community. It was suggested that there should be a calendar for Swim Center third party rentals as people were surprised at the recent closures for events. Wise explained that email is typical for communications, however we can consider a calendar released ahead of time. Commissioner Meyer and Miraglia suggested posting upcoming events with holiday hours for the pool.

Park Enhancements: Projects shared earlier on agenda.

Pickleball: Commissioner Finland noted the progression of the project and working collaboratively regarding the green space. Palm Springs will be a national highlight with this project.

Swim Center: Upcoming Community Outreach meeting on April 23.

IX. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

1. Commissioner Diaz, expressed hearing public frustration with the lack of youth softball/baseball as some parents can't take kids to Palm Desert and there isn't a youth organization because of recreational ballfield lighting project.

2. Chair Miraglia thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

X. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no other business Chair Miraglia asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Meyer

Second: Commissioner Finland

Motion carried unanimously noting the absence of Commissioner Keung and Davis.

The Parks & Recreation Commission adjourned at 6:57 PM with the next Regular Meeting to be held on Monday, April 22, 2024, via teleconference and in-person.

Respectfully submitted,

Rylee Bates

Rylee Bates, Administrative Specialist
Department of Parks & Recreation