

**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

**CHINO VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
1527 N ROAD 1 EAST, CHINO VALLEY, AZ**

Present: Chair Celia van der Molen; Vice-Chair Larry Holt; Board Member Susie Jarvis; Board Member Michael Pickett

Absent: Board Member Jeffrey Crandell

Staff Present: Community Services Director Cyndi Thomas (arrived at 2:18 p.m.); Facilities and Parks Manager Jason Olson (left at 1:51 p.m.); Senior Recreation/Events Coordinator Hailey Byrd; Recreation/Events Coordinator Morgan Heiner; Adoption Specialist/Recreation Intern Rebecca Segien

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair van der Molen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2) ROLL CALL

3) STAFF REPORTS

Staff didn't have anything to report except that they were beginning to work on Halloween and Christmas events.

a) Community Services Director

b) Facilities & Parks Manager

c) Recreation Coordinator

4) CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Call to the Public is an opportunity for the public to address the Board concerning a subject that is not on the agenda. Public comment is encouraged. Individuals are limited to speak for three (3) minutes. The total time for Call to the Public may be up to 15 minutes per meeting. Board action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date, or responding to criticism.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Consideration and possible discussion regarding the letter from Boardmember Jeff Crandell read at the last meeting.

Jason Olson, Facilities and Parks Manager, presented the following:

- Regarding Mr. Crandell's comment that small dog areas at dog parks were underutilized, Mr. Olson clarified that the dog park would be broken into three sections with guidelines such as Park A would be for dogs up to 99 pounds, Park B would be for dogs up to 55 pounds. Park C would typically be closed and be made available when maintenance was required on one of the other parks, ensuring that there were always two parks available. The size of dog was meant to act as a threshold, not a blanket rule. Mr. Crandell had made a good point that some small dogs would rather be with larger dogs, and some larger dogs would rather be with smaller dogs.
- Mr. Crandell had suggested keeping the dog park where it was and putting pickleball courts at Center Street Park. Mr. Olson provided maps with superimposed pickleball courts for the Board members so they could see what courts would look like at the current dog park and Center Street Park.
 - With the configuration of Center Street Park, four courts took a lot of space and wouldn't allow for much else.
 - Parking was lacking at Center Street Park, especially if tournaments were to be hosted in Town.
 - Pickleball would have more need for future expansion than the dog park would, and that could not happen at Center Street Park.
- Mr. Olson offered to take the Board members out to look at the different properties and discuss them onsite.
- Staff was limited in what they could do at the current dog park location, as there was no water and they were not supposed to have any grass there, and artificial turf was a less desirable option. Center Street Park had irrigation, power, and trees.
- Staff had been given permission to reach out to a landscape architect to work on getting these projects designed. Once designed, staff would look at the budget. Not everything had to be done at once, it might be completed in phases. One year the courts could be constructed, the next year the parking lot. The third year any additional amenities, such as lights.
- The goal would be to have 12 courts, but eight would suffice for now.

The Board and staff discussed the following:

- Noise was a consideration when deciding where pickleball courts should be located. They would more negatively affect the nearby residents at Center Street Park as opposed to the current dog park.
- The Town Manager was working on a Letter of Intent that would allow the Pickleball Association to start applying for grants so they could help with costs. Prescott had received a lot of help from outside sources to build their courts.

- One Board member stated that there were never 30 people at the dog park and there were routinely 20-25 people playing pickleball.
- Board members mentioned that there were also no facilities available at Center Street Park and would be problematic for Pickleball players.
- Board members stated that the current dog park already being graded would be a cost savings for court construction.
- Some board members felt that sports should be kept at the sports complex.
- Board members discussed possible complaints from residents near Center Street Park about court lights.
 - Staff stated that LED lights cause little light pollution. LED lights were also cheaper (long term) to build and had longer warranties.
 - Availability of power at the sports complex could present some difficulties in getting power out to the pickleball courts.
- The cost of moving the new dog park would be in fencing and putting water and power in the area.

6) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Consideration and continued discussion regarding a Community Survey.

Staff provided a draft survey to the Board for review. The survey included 15 multiple choice questions.

The Board and staff discussed the following:

- Reviewed the survey and discussed various questions regarding demographics that they found redundant or unnecessary.
- Discussed and modified the questions and format of the survey.
- Strategies to ensure survey takers would know how long the survey would take to keep them engaged and not stop before completing the survey.
 - Staff suggested including an opening message that it would take five to 10 minutes.
- The Board contemplated if the survey was too long to print and hand out to residents at Town events. The Board suggested using a QR code as a way of disseminating the survey.
- Board members inquired how long the survey would be open.
 - Staff felt the timeframe should be relatively short, around 15 days.
- Staff would email the survey to Town leadership to hopefully get approval by Monday.
- National Night Out could possibly be used as a soft opening for the survey to have some people fill it out then officially launch it in mid-October and close it on Halloween. This would also give staff an opportunity to adjust anything that may not have worked during the soft opening.

7) FUTURE AGENDA SUGGESTIONS

- a) Consideration and possible discussion regarding the next meeting date and time.

The Board discussed having the next meeting after the survey was complete so they could discuss the results.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Aquatic Center.

8) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Vice-Chair Larry Holt, seconded by Chair Celia van der Molen to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Vice-Chair Larry Holt, Board Member Susie Jarvis, Board Member Michael Pickett

4 - 0 PASSED - Unanimously

Submitted: October 9, 2023.

By: *Sara Burchill, Deputy Town Clerk*

Approved: January 30, 2024.