

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025
2:00 PM**

AQUATICS CENTER | 1615 NORTH ROAD 1 EAST | CHINO VALLEY, ARIZONA 86323

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair van der Molen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Michael Pickett

Absent: Board Member Susie Jarvis

Staff Present: Community Services Director Cyndi Thomas, Recreation/Events Coordinator Morgan Heiner, Recreation/Events Coordinator Rebekah Segien (arrived at 2:05 p.m.), Recreation/Events Coordinator Susan Palmer (left at 2:38 p.m.), Deputy Town Clerk Sara Burchill

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Consideration and possible action to approve the January 30, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, seconded by Board Member Michael Pickett to approve the January 30, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Michael Pickett

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

- b. Consideration and possible action to approve the April 3, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Board Member Michael Pickett, seconded by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell to approve the April 3, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Michael Pickett

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

c. Consideration and possible action to approve the April 24, 2024, study session minutes.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Board Member Michael Pickett, seconded by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell to approve the April 24, 2024, study session minutes.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Michael Pickett

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

d. Consideration and possible action to approve the May 15, 2024, study session minutes.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, seconded by Board Member Michael Pickett to approve the May 15, 2024, study session minutes.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Michael Pickett

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

3. STAFF REPORTS

a. Community Services Director

Cyndi Thomas, Community Services Director, presented the following:

- Introduced Susan Palmer as the new Recreation Coordinator. She worked 19.5 hours per week. She was hired early this year. Rebekah Segien was another part-time recreation coordinator.
- Budget presentations were coming up on Wednesday. Community Services did not ask for anything extravagant as there were several concerns about the overall budget. Requests included:
 - Resurfacing the pool deck (it was 20 years old and becoming a safety issue).
 - Increase in the Senior Center food budget.
 - Staffing position in the library.
 - Contingency money in case they are able to connect the Peavine Trail from Road 4 North to Sullivan Lake.
 - Overall, the recreation budget was reduced by \$500.

The Board and staff discussed the following:

- Board member Pickett inquired what the timeframe was on the pool deck.
 - Staff stated that, because of the dollar amount, it would be considered a Capital Improvement Project. The Capital Improvement Program Citizen's Advisory

Committee prioritized the pool deck resurfacing to recommend to Council. Staff was hopeful that it would be approved, but it could not happen until after July 1st, so staff would have to wait until the pool closes and have it ready for opening next season.

- Member Crandell inquired how long it would take to complete the project. He was concerned that it was a safety issue.
 - Staff did not have the answer to that. But nothing could happen until July 1st if the budget was approved, including advertising for bids.

b. Facilities & Parks Manager

No update was given for this item.

c. Recreation Coordinator

Morgan Heiner, Recreation & Events Coordinator, presented the following:

- Events held over the last few months included:
 - Families in jammies
 - Luck of the Irish Bingo
 - Art classes
 - A trail clean-up was being held today and seven people showed up. The volunteers walked eagle trail and got two full buckets of trash.
- Events coming up included:
 - May the Fourth movie in the park
 - A 20-year aquatic anniversary will be held on June 7th.
- Staff provided the yearly schedule to the Board.

The Board and staff discussed the following:

- Member Pickett inquired what the plan was for the June 7th event.
 - Staff stated it would be a Baywatch alumni theme, with free swim, food trucks, music, prior pool employees invited back, etc.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - Individuals requesting to speak, please complete a Speaker Comment Card and return to the Clerk.

Call to the Public is an opportunity for the public to address the Council on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Council that is not on the agenda. Public comment is at the discretion of the Council and not required by law. Individuals are limited to speak for three (3) minutes, yielding of time will not be permitted. The total time for Call to the Public may be up to 30 minutes per meeting. Council 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. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated; this includes loud outbursts, profanity, and disruptive discussions among our audience.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Consideration and possible discussion regarding Community Center Park Phase III, Appaloosa Meadows, and Center Street Park plans and design by Sketch Architect.

The Board and staff discussed the following:

- Plans for each park were provided to the Board.
- Chair van der Molen gave an overview of the conceptual plans.
- Further discussion ensued regarding conversations with staff and what would best serve the area.

Community Center Park

- The dog park would stay where it is and extend to the existing retention area.
- The main parking area needed to be a certain distance from nearby neighborhoods, so an additional parking lot was added in the middle of the portion of Community Center Park being redesigned.
- Design tried to keep as many existing trees as possible to avoid replacing trees, which could get expensive.
- Discussed pickleball courts and other amenities that can be added.
- Member Crandell asked for more information on the dog park.
 - Chair van der Molen stated that the plan was to keep the existing dog park and enhance it with artificial grass, and add another dog park so that one would always be open in case the other needed maintenance.
 - Member Crandell clarified that one park wouldn't be designated for small dogs and the other for large dogs.
 - Chair van der Molen stated that it could be and could be a discussion with people who frequent the dog park.

Appaloosa Meadows

- This location had an existing retention basin and could be used as a small multi-use athletic field. It wouldn't fit an official-sized soccer field, but could provide an area for people to train.
- Other possible amenities included corn hole, a playground, volleyball courts, etc.
- Disc golf could possibly be moved here depending on what the disc golf users would prefer.

Center Street Park

- Chair van der Molen felt that the disc golf course would fit best here due to its long, linear shape.
- Other possible amenities included looping trails, stationed workout equipment, etc.
- Member Crandell inquired if the Town Council could pick and choose which projects they wanted to do.
 - Staff stated that they could, but the Council was looking for recommendations. Staff suggested the Board identify some priorities. Last year's priority was design. Now that they had the design, they needed to figure out the next step.
- Member Pickett stated that the budget was their biggest issue and suggested breaking the plans down into sections.
 - Members discussed getting preliminary numbers from contractors to present numbers to Council.
 - Members discussed the groundwork that would be needed, including grading and expanding infrastructure.

- Members discussed priorities beyond the groundwork and what factors the Board should think about when deciding priorities, such as cost of the project, how often an amenity was used, results of the surveys, etc.
 - Members discussed that the dog park might not be a priority for full expansion, and discussed some low-cost enhancements.
 - Staff briefly reviewed the survey results, stating that the second priority identified was sports courts and facilities. Staff stated that:
 - Appaloosa Meadows would be an easy option for adding a new field.
 - Center Street Park could be accomplished fairly easily.
 - Discussion ensued regarding what would benefit the most people in the community. Member Crandell didn't feel that Center Street Park would benefit enough people.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the parking at Community Center Park, particularly during sporting events, especially Little League opening ceremonies.
 - Staff stated that moving disc golf to Center Street Park would open a large area for parking even if it was just dirt. Further discussion ensued regarding moving disc golf to Center Street Park including how many people utilize disc golf, and including them in the conversation, and how the nearby neighborhood would feel about having the disc golf course at Center Street Park.
 - Further discussion regarding parking and the logistics. The Board did not feel that asphalt in the parking areas was a priority and further discussed the benefits of having a more organic area with bio-retention areas.
 - Staff stated that they agreed the parking was bad during the opening ceremonies, but it was not to that extreme all the time.
 - The Board discussed other times and events when parking was an issue.
- The Board had more discussion regarding pickleball courts and the cost of that project (estimated to be between \$100,000 and \$120,000 per court if they included fencing) and funding sources including the Town, Pickleball Association, and private donors. Also discussed lighting the pickleball courts and using that infrastructure to tie in the lighting for Field 5. Discussed where pickleball fell in the survey priorities.
 - Staff stated that 39% of respondents stated that pickleball was important.
 - Chair van der Molen stated that the pickleball courts would put more pressure on the parking situation.
- The Board discussed restrooms and locations for them at each park and wanted to create a consistent design for them across all the parks.

The Board identified their priorities as follows:

1. Get pricing on the proposed projects.
2. Get parking areas graded out (starting with Center Street Park).
3. Move disc golf to Center Street Park.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration and possible discussion regarding funding to construct park improvements and expansions.

The Board and staff discussed the following:

- The Board inquired if there was something that could be done to enhance the current pickleball courts.
 - Kathy Hill, Chino Valley Pickleball Association, stated that there were holes in the surface that created a hazard. She was concerned about vandalism if there were permanent nets.
 - Member Crandell inquired if the Prescott courts had trouble with vandalism.
 - Ms. Hill stated that their equipment was locked up every night. The Association would like to offer organized play.
 - Discussed the software used to facilitate organized play.

7. FUTURE AGENDA SUGGESTIONS

The Board felt they had enough tasks to focus on now and did not have additional suggestions.

Staff conferred with the Board to schedule the next meeting for June 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, seconded by Board Member Michael Pickett to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Michael Pickett

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

Submitted: May 1, 2025

By: *Sara Burchill, Deputy Town Clerk*

Approved: June 3, 2025