

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
CHINO VALLEY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026
11:00 AM
SENIOR CENTER | 1021 W BUTTERFIELD RD | CHINO VALLEY,
ARIZONA 86323**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair van der Molen called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Susie Jarvis

Absent: Board Member Michael Pickett

Staff Present: Community Services Director Cyndi Thomas, Senior Recreation & Events Coordinator Morgan Heiner, Recreation & Events Coordinator Susan Palmer, Recreation & Events Coordinator Rebekah Seigan, Executive Analyst Jessi Sorteberg, Deputy Town Clerk Sara Burchill

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the June 3, 2025, special meeting minutes.

MOVED by Board Member Susie Jarvis, seconded by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell to approve the June 3, 2025, special meeting minutes.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Susie Jarvis

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

3. PARKS & RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Cyndi Thomas, Community Services Director, presented the following:

- The Board's last update to Council was very well received. Chair van der Molen did a great job.
- Regarding Community Center Park, things are moving along. T-Mobile selected the Town for a grant to move the disc golf course to Old Home Manor. Over 50 people attended the "T-Off Event" and it was well received. The Town thanks T-Mobile for their contribution.
- Staff is working with the high school to get a Mayor/Youth Council established. They are hoping to have representation from the youth attending Citizen's Academy starting next week.
 - Discussion ensued regarding what youth councils look like in other areas that have them and how staff hopes for the group to function for the Town of Chino Valley.

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

- Aquatics is ramping up for the summer season. Hiring has been completed for a total of 30 positions. Lifeguard training starts next week.
- The pool will be opening May 30th with a pirate-themed pool party with a showing of Pirates of the Caribbean.
- Touch-a-truck is coming up on Saturday, May 9th. Staff had received a great response from ADOT. There would be over 30 vehicles coming, including a helicopter and snowplow. There would also be food vendors available.

Susan Palmer, Events & Recreation Coordinator, presented the following:

- Staff recently introduced their "Compass to Lifelong Learning" series. AARP came in yesterday to talk about getting documents in order. They would have upcoming presentations regarding dementia, falls prevention, fire safety, etc.
- Calendars are available at the Senior Center.

Rebekah Segien, Events & Recreation Coordinator, presented the following:

- 10 different classes are currently happening, including fitness bootcamp, dancing, tai chi, a craft group, etc.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Consideration and possible discussion regarding priorities for Parks & Recreation Amenities

- Community Center Park Phase III
- Appaloosa Meadows
- Center Street Park
- Old Home Manor
- Ball Fields/Lighting

Cyndi Thomas, Community Services Director, presented the following:

- The Community Center Park Phase III project is moving along, but not fast.
- The civil and electrical plans are done for the first phase. The disc golfers were really excited about the move out to Old Home Manor with additional holes.
- The \$250,000 that was budgeted for this year will not be able to be spent by June 30th and will be rolled into the next fiscal year. Staff requested another approximately \$250,000 towards the next phase of the project. Once the project is complete it will be a total of about \$1.1 million in today's pricing.

Staff and Board Members discussed the following:

- Staff asked the Board where else they wanted focus to be considering the fact that the Town now has an Executive Analyst on board to pursue grants.
 - The Board discussed finishing what they've already started (referring to Community Center Park).

- Gave an overview and brief history of discussions regarding Appaloosa Meadows, Center Street Park, Old Home Manor, and ball fields/lighting plans and proposed projects to get Ms. Sorteberg up to speed on what might be done in those areas regarding grants.
- The Board assessed that Community Center Park is the first priority, followed by Center Street Park, and Old Home Manor. Appaloosa Meadows should be revisited down the road.

5. FUTURE AGENDA SUGGESTIONS

- Staff suggested another presentation to Council. The by-laws state that they give a presentation once every year. It does not need to be to the scale as last year.
- Staff would provide updates on youth council and how others can get involved.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, seconded by Board Member Susie Jarvis to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

AYE: Chair Celia van der Molen, Board Member Jeffrey Crandell, Board Member Susie Jarvis

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

Submitted:	May 12, 2026
By:	Sara Burchill, Deputy Town Clerk
Approved:	