



MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

San Tan Conference Room

22358 S. Ellsworth Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

November 29, 2022

6:00 PM

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call:** Meeting started at 6:03 p.m.

PRAC Members present: David Dobbs, Daniel Babcock, Karl Kleinebriel (via WebEx 6:07 p.m.), Michael Shirley, Marvin Smith, Sylvia Tarin, Staci Curtis, April Petersen and Ashley Fuller (non-resident/non-voting)

PRAC Members absent: Dru Alberti, Adam Neville and David Sobeck

Council Liaisons present: Mayor-elect Wheatley and Vice Mayor Brown

Staff present: Adam Robinson - Community Services Deputy Director, Brad Greer - Senior Recreation Coordinator, Nia Fanaika - Recreation Supervisor and Joey LaNeve - Aquatics Supervisor

Public attendees: Mark Moran

2. **Introductions:** April Petersen - New PRAC member, Staci Curtis - New PRAC member and Nia Fanaika - New Recreation Supervisor

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Items for Discussion and Possible Action:**

- A. **Consideration and possible approval of the September 14, 2022 minutes**

Motion to Approve: Sylvia Tarin

Second: Michael Shirley

Vote: Unanimous

- B. **Introduction of new committee members**

- a. April Petersen

- b. Staci Curtis

- C. **Introduction of new Recreation Supervisor**

- a. Nia Fanaika

- D. **Presentation on Queen Creek Little League end of season report - Daniel Babcock, QC Little League President**

Daniel provided a review of the Queen Creek Little League end of season report, including a powerpoint.

Highlights included:

- Membership increased 11.3%
- Boundary limits were strictly enforced at all levels (boundaries changed in 2020, Mesa portion moved to

Desert Ridge Little League)

- Opening Night resumed with a skills competition and home-run derby - both QCPD and QCFD attended as well
 - Events back this year: Day with the Arizona Diamondbacks, ASU Baseball Night, and Dick's Sporting Goods Shopping Events
 - The league operates 100% on the support of volunteers with an est. 23,000+ volunteer hours
 - \$5,750 in sponsorship funds
 - Full financials coming soon, will follow up at a later date
 - Fiscal year ended on 9/30/22
 - 7 player scholarships
 - Very close to a 'break even' year
 - 2023 Registration fees will increase \$10
 - Post-season survey for parents with 40 questions
 - How would you rate your overall experience with QCLL? *84.78% response Positive - Neutral*
 - Three teams made it to the District 14 tournaments - District 14 tournament decides who will pay at the State Tournament
 - 2023 registration is open
 - AZ Diamondbacks uniform sponsorship
 - Will host 10U District 14 Tournament
 - Continue Pony League concessions partnership
 - Continue scoreboard fundraising
 - Chrissy Gamboa will take over as QCLL President
- E. Discussion on Youth Sports Partnership Policy and Sport Field Rental Policies - Brad Greer, Senior Recreation Coordinator**

Brad followed up with the group on the request to compare how other cities and towns manage field allocations:

- Staff recommends a similar process to what is currently in place adding an application and review process with five categories:
 - Category 1: Town use for events, maintenance or town-sponsored events
 - Category 2: Town of Queen Creek Official Youth Sports Partners, one official partner per "season" - selected through an application & interview process, with an annual contract with partnerships criteria
 - Category 3: Non-partner organizations, non-profit youth sports leagues & organizations that serve area youth through full seasons or long term rental agreements
 - Category 4: Resident and non-profit organizations
 - Category 5: Non-resident, commercial/private use, and tournaments
- Other cities/town have some version of an application process as well as categories or criteria to be met
- Current Queen Creek policy: partner leagues are first, non-partner/bulk renters - second, but no official third option
 - Partnership program was set up because of a small number of fields available and the partnership works for the town population
 - With new field availability, partners will have plenty of field available to them with additional fields for others
 - With the new park we will have the ability to meet all current partners sports field needs, but need to determine how do we fill additional sports field availability

- Application criteria options:
 - Residency rates
 - Equity
 - All volunteer boards or all volunteer coaches
 - Non-profit or not
 - And any additional characteristics the group would like to include

Discussion/Questions/Comments:

- Do we have an idea on how many organizations have been turned down for field rentals based on the current policy? Do we get requests for private events/tournaments often?
 - Not that often
- Would the review process be once a year?
 - Ideally, yes if we decide to move forward with an application process for non-partnered groups
- If we go with the application process, need to ensure equity based decisions
 - Fall League for QC Heat Little League
- The PRAC would like to see details of qualifications, application criteria
- What is the residency of Queen Creek Little League? Dan did not include, but will provide
 - 80% or higher, boundary is all of Queen Creek including annexed areas
 - LL rule that has to be followed, if a player lives outside of Queen Creek but attends a Queen Creek school they must be allowed to play in the league
 - Boundary adjustments coming soon for LL
- Are there out of season softball teams playing on the weekends? Tournaments?
 - Yes, QC Heat Softball has a fall ball season and have hosted tournaments
- Would like to be able to accommodate more tournaments in off-seasons
- Current partners have brought tournaments to us in the past who play while the partner is on a break
- Does the annual review apply to only category three or three, four and five?
 - Only category three - four and five are geared more towards residency requirements and non-profit status
 - Category three would be for long term seasonal rentals in addition to official sports partners with the ability to have both happening at the same time with the additional fields
 - How many applications do we anticipate per year?
 - Currently there are 3-4 youth sports groups that have enough seasons/numbers to qualify for category three, i.e. Paladin
- Would it be easy to educate and inform youth sports groups like Paladin?
 - Yes
- Why is it important to work with a league who is non-profit versus a paid board member?
 - Originally came from the idea that a non-paid board keeps costs down
- We need to be considerate of our current partners - can we find out what their needs are, especially as they grow? And needs of potential new partners?
 - Would like staff to follow up with this information
- Is there some adjusting for the one partner per season concept?
 - Soccer has three seasons, one of which is winter partner season
 - Partner season gets first choice of fields, cheaper rates for field rental and lights
- To clarify; the recommendation compared to the current policy is essentially the same, except a little more clarification for sports partners and category three?
 - The primary difference in what staff is recommending is the addition of the application and review process to select those outside of our official sports partners
 - For example in Category 3:

- QC Heat Softball has fall ball season; they would apply for the non-partner season to use fields
- If they are a partner in the spring, why can't they be a partner in the fall too? Current policy does not allow competing partner seasons at the same time, i.e. football vs. softball, etc.
- Who would we be excluding in the application process?
 - That is to be determined with the current discussion
- Clarification: who would be excluded by implementing the application process? I.e. a new league would have to wait until the next application time period?
 - Yes, that is a possibility
- A lot of leagues plan at least a year in advance for tournaments, etc. Recommend reaching out to organizations like USSSA or others

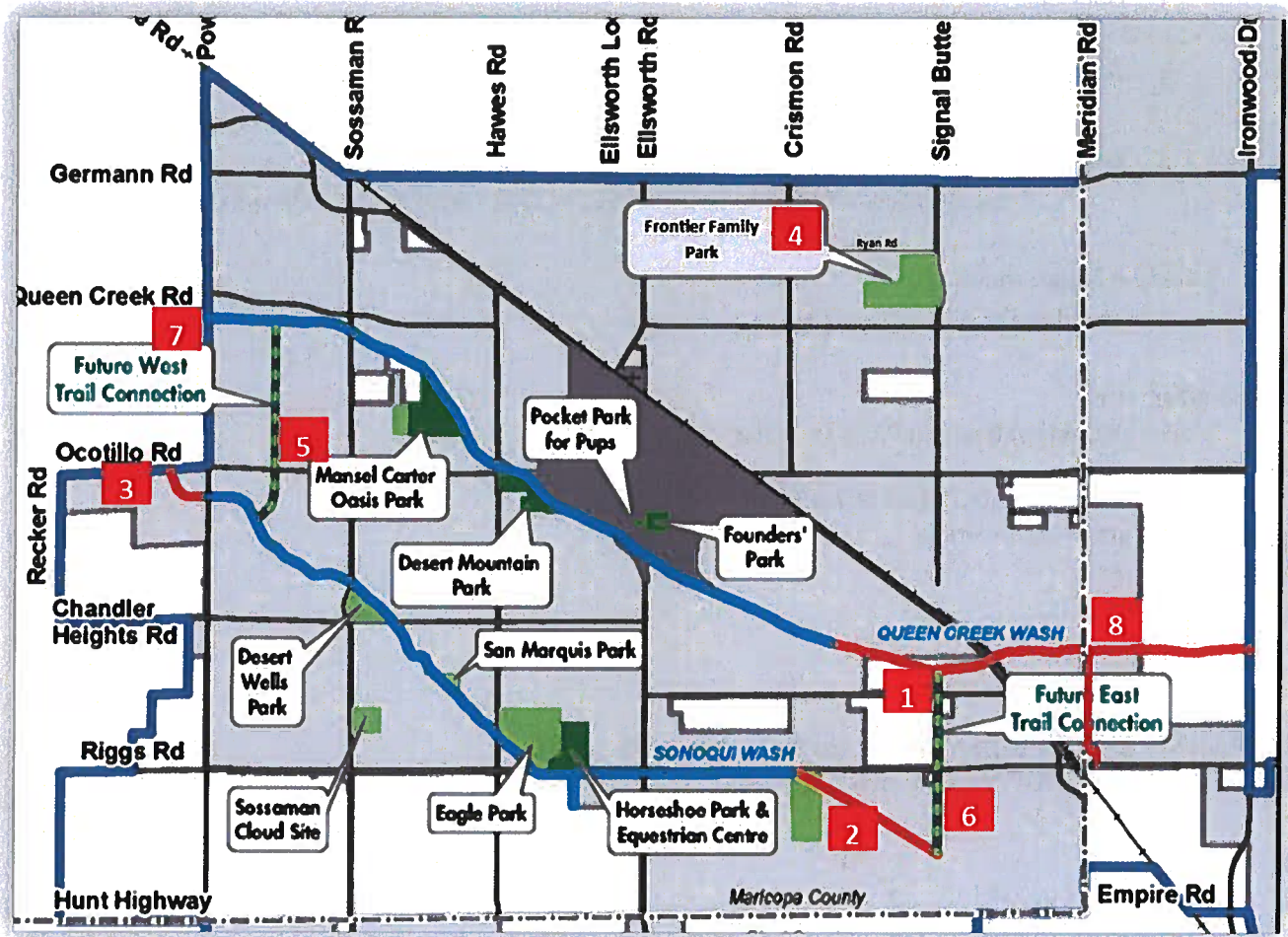
Action items:

- Staff to look into current partners future needs especially growth needs and if possible, needs of potential new partners
- Connect with current sports partners and/or potential partners to consider all options

F. Trail projects and connectivity updates - Adam Robinson, Community Services Deputy Director

Adam provided an update on existing and planned trails. Highlights included:

- The washes provide opportunity for a great trail system connecting neighborhoods, town center and parks
- In addition to wash trails, the Town also has roadway trails
 - Roadway trails = 6ft sidewalk and within 30-40 ft easement include 10ft wide multi-use path
- Wash trails have a paved path usually at the top of the bank, equestrian trail is the bottom of the wash
- Referring to numbered trails map below
 - 1 - 4 are Town projects
 - Queen Creek wash trail currently under design - Crismon Rd alignment to Rittenhouse Rd and south along Signal Butte Rd down to Riggs Rd
 - 2 - The "Jorde" section of Sonoqui Wash Trail goes through a recently purchased park site; when developed will connect to Signal Butte Rd and south end of connector trail
 - 3 - Ocotillo Rd from Power Rd to Recker Rd, Queen Creek owns the roadway and right away next to the road, once in the wash channel it is the Town of Gilbert
 - Planning to extend trail system out to Recker Rd which will connect with Gilbert's trail and Gilbert Regional Park
 - 4 - Ryan Road alignment, SRP easement runs from Signal Butte Rd to Ellsworth Road, the first development to build at Ellsworth Road did include the easement and has a trail
 - All private development along this area will include some version of a trail through the easement
 - Town owned property will ensure the park is connected to all
 - 5 & 6 based on developments
 - 5 is Sossaman development
 - 6 parcels are under development
 - 7 is new, Gilbert is considering connecting to Queen Creek Wash Trail to keep it going through and connect to Gilbert Regional Park



- Working with Development Services on future planning to ensure trails are included
- Will also work on closing 'holes' in the system to create the true trail connectivity that was envisioned

Discussion/Questions/Comments:

- What about a connection to San Tan Trail?
 - It is connected via the Maricopa County Trail System
- The group does not want to lose sight of the trails and trail connectivity
- Are the developers provided plans/overlays for trail requirements?
 - Unsure how it was presented, but is included now

Action items:

- Come back with connectivity plans, from the Town, developers, etc.
- There was an overlay of trails current/planned, do we still have that?

G. CIP Updates - Adam Robinson, Community Services Deputy Director

Adam provided an update on current projects under construction. Highlights included:

- Groundbreaking for both Frontier Family Park and Mansel Phase II
- 90% design for Frontier Family Park GMP 2 (of 3)
- 90% design for Mansel Phase II
- 30% Rec and Aquatic Center

H. Department Updates

- a. General
 - i. Groundbreakings for both Frontier Family Park and Mansel Phase II
- b. Volunteer Opportunities
 - i. Spring Into QC - March 25, 2023, 9 am - 1 pm
- c. Committee Report for December 7, 2022 Town Council Meeting
 - i. Dave Dobbs confirmed to present Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.

I. Schedule future meeting

- a. Tuesday, February 21, 2023

5. Announcements:

- Mayor elect Wheatley, last PRAC meeting

6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

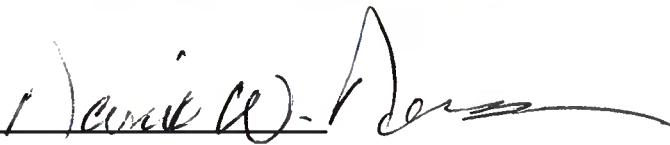
Motion to adjourn: Marvin Smith

Second: Sylvia Tarin

Vote: Unanimous

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Lamis on November 29, 2022

PASSED AND APPROVED: April 18, 2023



Dave Dobbs, PRAC Chair