

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

Present: Committee Member Randy Guyer, Committee Member Rob Langford, Committee Member Paul Murphy, Committee Member David O'Donnell, Vice-Chair Ralph Perry, Committee Member Tim Skogen, Chair John Maldonado

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Chris Escobedo, Community Services Manager Shawn Muir, Senior Project Manager Kevin Swartz, Landscape Supervisor Brad Chuck, Recording Secretary Michelle Nance

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order by Chair Maldonado on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., in the Administrative Conference Room, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

2. ROLL CALL

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Donahue, Palm Desert resident, spoke on the condition of Palm Desert Aquatic Center due to wind and dust.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.a 2025 DESERT X PRESENTATION

Management Analyst Powell narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to member inquiries.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by: Vice-Chair Perry

Seconded by: Committee Member Langford

To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

5.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by: Vice-Chair Perry

Seconded by: Committee Member Langford

Approve the Minutes of December 3, 2024.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

6. ACTION CALENDAR

6.a DISCUSS NEW DISC GOLF COURSE AT HOMME ADAMS PARK / SLAUGHTER RECREATION AREA

President of Palm Desert Disc Golf Club, Jon Berg, spoke in support of adding disc golf course to Homme Adams Park and responded to member inquiries.

Following discussion, feedback to continue with Homme Adams Park as a location for disc golf was provided, no formal action taken on this item.

6.b PARK NAMING SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR NAMING THE FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK

Senior Project Manager Swartz narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to member inquiries.

Motion by: Chair Maldonado

Seconded by: Committee Member Guyer

Recommend to the City Council approval of naming the future Community Park in honor of Dave Erwin, the City's first City Attorney.

NOES (1): Committee Member Skogen

Motion Carried (6 to 1)

6.c DISCUSS BAJA PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Community Services Manager Muir with Chris Hermann of Hermann Design Group lead discussion on enhancement of Baja Park with focal points being lighting, landscape theft and signage. Feedback was provided, no formal action taken on this item.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

7.a UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

7.a.1 Palm Desert Aquatic Center

Palm Desert Aquatic Center Manager, David Keyes, provided a report and responded to member inquiries.

7.a.2 First Tee - Coachella Valley

General Manager of Desert Recreation District, Kevin Kalman, provided a report and responded to member inquiries.

7.a.3 Friends of the Desert Mountains

Report provided; no action taken on this item.

7.b UPDATES FROM EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

7.b.1 Family YMCA of the Desert

Executive Director of the Family YMCA of the Desert, Paula Simonds, provided a report and responded to member inquiries.

7.b.2 Desert Recreation District

General Manager of Desert Recreation District, Kevin Kalman, provided a report and responded to member inquiries.

7.c PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following items were requested by Committee Members for staff follow-up; however, they do not necessarily reflect the consensus of the Committee:

- Installation of fencing around playgrounds;
- Updates and timelines for planned new parks; and
- A walkability study, bike safety assessment, and traffic enforcement review for Portola Avenue between Fairway Drive and Haystack Road.

In response to an inquiry, Assistant City Manager Escobedo provided an update on the YMCA's management agreement amendment for the Palm Desert Aquatic Center. The Committee expressed disappointment over the lack of Committee involvement in the process.

7.d CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

None.

7.e CITY STAFF

Senior Project Manager Swartz shared an update regarding the recent resignations of Committee Members Flint and Akkerman; reminded the Committee that interviews for Boards, Committees, and Commissions will take place May or June 2025, with new members expected to start attending meetings in July 2025.

Acting Assistant City Clerk Nance provided a reminder about the AB 1234 training session, scheduled for January 30, 2025. The training will be conducted via Zoom or in person in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

7.f ATTENDANCE REPORT

Report provided; no action taken on this item.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Nance, Acting Assistant City Clerk
Recording Secretary

Kevin Swartz, Sr. Project Manager
Secretary

DATE APPROVED BY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE