

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

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

Staff Present: Community Services Manager Shawn Muir, Project Manager Kevin Swartz, Management Analyst Maria Gonzalez, Director of Public Works Randy Chavez, Recording Secretary Michelle Nance

**Participated remotely in accordance with AB2449*

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order by Vice-Chair Perry on August 5, 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. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Committee Member Murphy expressed disagreement with the new rotational process and advised the Committee of a pending request for exemption.

Motion by: Committee Member Murphy

Seconded by: Chair Maldonado

To appoint Ralph Perry as Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee for Fiscal Year 2025–2026, and to defer the appointment of a Vice-Chairperson pending the City Council's decision on a request to exempt the Committee from the rotational appointment process.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

4. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by: Committee Member Guyer
Seconded by: Committee Member O'Donnell

To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

5.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by: Committee Member Guyer
Seconded by: Committee Member O'Donnell

Approve the Minutes of June 3, 2025.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.a ASSIGN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PARKS

Community Services Manager Shawn Muir provided a staff report and responded to Committee Member's inquiries.

Director of Public Works Randy Chavez responded to Committee Member inquiries and provided information regarding the intent of the proposed assignments.

Motion by: Chair Perry

Assign Parks and Recreation Committee members to certain parks to work with vendors on park and trailhead designs.

Motion failed due to lack of second. The Committee declined to provide an alternate motion.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

7.a UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

7.a.1 Palm Desert Aquatic Center

David Keyes provided a verbal and written report and responded to Committee Member's inquiries. Committee Member Guyer made the following requests:

- A presentation on the PDAC renovations
- That staff initiate an item to have the PDAC Subcommittee meet more regularly
- Improved communication between City staff and PDAC staff regarding facility repairs
- An update on recent and upcoming walk-throughs

7.a.2 First Tee - Coachella Valley

Chief Executive Officer Teal Thron provided a verbal report on summer programming and upcoming events.

7.a.3 Friends of the Desert Mountains

Report was provided with the agenda materials.

7.a.4 Family YMCA of the Desert

Executive Director Paula Simmonds provided a written and verbal report regarding upcoming events and ongoing summer programs.

7.a.5 Desert Recreation District

Interim General Manager Lindsey Woods reported on the temporary closure of the Palm Desert Community Center Gymnasium, which is currently being used as a Red Cross center in support of local firefighting efforts. She also provided an update on recent and upcoming events.

7.b CITY STAFF

7.b.1 Public Art Presentation for Civic Center and Ironwood Parks

Management Analyst Erica Powell narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Committee Member's inquiries.

7.b.2 Staff Liaison Transition

Project Manager Kevin Swartz introduced Maria Gonzalez as the new staff liaison to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Recording Secretary Nance reported that a new Planning Commission Liaison Josh Nickerson will begin in September 2025.

7.c CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

City Council Liaison Evan Trubee reported attendance at the July 4th event at Civic Park and commended landscaping crews for the timely clean up.

8. REQUESTS FOR ACTION

Committee Member Guyer requested a discussion regarding better utilization of the skate park and an update on the construction progress at Baja Park.

9. ATTENDANCE REPORT

Report provided; no action taken on this item.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

11. PUBLIC NOTICES

Monique Lomeli, Senior Deputy Clerk
Recording Secretary

Kevin Swartz, Project Manager
Secretary

DATE APPROVED BY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE