



# City of Maricopa

## Meeting Minutes - Final Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Maricopa City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center  
Plaza  
Maricopa, AZ 85138  
Ph: (520) 568-9098  
Fx: (520) 568-9120  
www.maricopa-az.gov

*Committee Chair Kevin McDill*  
*Committee Secretary Priscilla Behnke*  
*Committee Member Tholin Johnson*  
*Committee Member Adam Leach*  
*Committee Member James Liggins*  
*Committee Member Kenneth Longman*  
*Committee Member Devin Pitcher*

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Wednesday, January 28, 2026

6:00 PM

City Hall Cotton Conference Room

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1. **Call To Order**

*Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM.*

2. **Roll Call**

**Present;** 7 - Committee Member Devin Pitcher, Committee Member Adam Leach, Secretary Priscilla Behnke, Committee Member James Liggins, Chair Kevin McDill, Committee Member Kenneth Longman, and Tholin Johnson

3. **Minutes**

3.1 **MIN 26-07**

The Committee will approve the minutes from the September 24, 2025 and November 19, 2025 meetings. Discussion and Action.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Longman, seconded by Committee Member Liggins, that the minutes from the January 28, 2026 meeting be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

4. **Call to the Public**

*There was no call to the public.*

5. **Agenda Items**

5.1 **PRAC 26-01**

The Committee will hear reports from the chair and committee members. Discussion Only.

*Committee members reported on recent outreach efforts, including participation in a community event where survey outreach was conducted.*

*•Approximately 40–50 attendees scanned the survey QR code, with about 35 completed responses shortly after the event.*

*•Feedback emphasized continued need for youth-focused activities, including sports, outdoor recreation, esports/electronics, and general engagement opportunities for youth and teens.*

*An update was also provided regarding the County Archery Park planned north of the Box Canyon Shooting Range. The project is estimated at approximately \$20 million, to be completed in phases. The Committee requested updated renderings if available. (This is a county project).*

*Committee discussion included concerns and suggestions regarding Copper Sky facility reservation policies, particularly the current 30-day online booking window. Members discussed the possibility of allowing limited advance reservations while maintaining equitable access and addressing deposit and damage concerns.*

**Discussed**

**5.2**      [PRAC 26-02](#)      The Committee will hear report from the Council Liaison. Discussion Only.

*The Council Liaison attended the meeting and participated in discussion. No formal report was presented.*

**Discussed**

**5.3**      [PRAC 26-03](#)      The Committee will hear updates from city staff regarding the partnership strategy. Discussion Only.

*City staff provided an update on the Youth and Teen Program Needs Survey:*

*•163 responses received at the time of the meeting, with additional distribution planned through schools and community channels.*

*•Respondents included both parents/caregivers and youth.*

*•Key needs identified:*

*Sports and recreation*

*Arts, music, and performance*

*Academic tutoring and college preparation*

*Job training and life skills*

*Social events and hangout spaces*

*•Teen-specific responses showed increased interest in job training, life skills, and unstructured social spaces.*

*Staff noted some ambiguity in survey wording related to age responses and plans to refine future surveys.*

*Discussion included:*

*•The value of focus groups, particularly with the Youth Council, to clarify what teens mean by “hangout spaces.”*

*•Interest in partnerships with local businesses for career exposure, job shadowing, and apprenticeships.*

*•Updates on a future career and technical education center (CAVOT) anticipated to open in approximately two years.*

*•The importance of survey data in supporting public-private partnerships and compliance with Arizona’s Gift Clause requirements.*

*Staff indicated intent to develop and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in spring 2026.*

**Discussed**

- 5.4 [PRAC 26-04](#) The Committee will hear updates from city staff regarding park projects. Discussion Only.

*Staff provided updates on multiple park projects:*

*Shade Structures: Recently installed at fields; expected lifespan of fabric approximately 10 years, with poles designed for long-term use.*

*Heritage Park:*

*Grand Opening scheduled for February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.*

*Field House*

*Construction progressing; roof completed.*

*Anticipated opening remains September 2026.*

*Committee members encouraged to tour facility ahead of upcoming fee discussions.*

*Lakeview Park Phase 2*

*Design Kickoff completed; J2 Engineering selected.*

*Plans include additional fields, expanded parking, evaluation of restroom capacity.*

*Constraints include WAPA easements and on-site stormwater retention requirements.*

*Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

*Last adopted in 2008*

*Staff outlined plans for a comprehensive update, including public engagement, GIS mapping, statistically valid survey, and benchmarking against national standards.*

*Examples from other cities demonstrated how master planning supported significant capital investment.*

**Discussed**

- 5.5 [PRAC 26-05](#) The Committee will discuss and decide their participation in the upcoming Copa Cultural Night Market. Discussion and Action.

*The Committee discussed participating in the upcoming Copa Cultural Night Market as an outreach opportunity and survey distribution effort.*

*Members emphasized the need for improved event readiness, including a standardized committee outreach kit (banner, QR signage, renderings).*

*Volunteers identified included Ken, James, and Adam. Staff will coordinate logistics through Marlene.*

*Motion was made by Committee member Liggins, seconded by Committee member Leach for the committee to participate in Cope Cultural Night Market. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

**Approved**

- 5.6 [PRAC 26-07](#) The Committee will appoint a new Vice Chair. Discussion and Action.

*Motion made by committee member Leach, seconded by committee member Longman to appoint James Liggins as Vice Chair.*

**The Committee voted unanimously to appoint James Liggins as Vice Chair.**

**5.7**      **PRAC 26-06**

The Committee will discuss future agenda items and next meeting date. Discussion and Recommendation.

*The Committee discussed future agenda items and coordination with the Youth Council.*

*•Next Meeting February 25, 2026*

*Joint discussion with Youth Council beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.*

*•Future agenda items include:*

*Youth Council feedback on survey results*

*Discussion of quarterly coordination with other advisory committees*

*Continued updates on park projects and Field House fee structure*

**Discussed**

**6.      Adjournment**

*Meeting was adjourned at 7:31PM.*

**Adjourn**