City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Final

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

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

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 **6:00 PM** **City Hall Cotton Conference Room**

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