City of Maricopa

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

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Committee Chair Kevin McDill
Vice Chair James Liggins
Committee Secretary Priscilla Behnke
Committee Member Tholin Johnson
Committee Member Kenneth Longman
Committee Member Devin Pitcher
Committee Member Jason Royal

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 **6:00 PM** **City Hall Cotton Conference Room**

1. Call To Order

Chair Kevin McDill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present; 5 - Committee Member Devin Pitcher,Secretary Priscilla Behnke,Committee Member James Liggins,Chair Kevin McDill, and Tholin Johnson

Absent; 2 - Committee Member Kenneth Longman, and Committee Member Jason Royal

3. Minutes

3.1 MIN 26-44 The Committee will approve the minutes from the March 26, 2026 and the May 13, 2026 meetings. Discussion and Action.

A motion was made by Committee Member Pitcher, seconded by Committee Member Liggins, that the Minutes be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Call to the Public

5. Agenda Items

5.1 PRAC 26-29 The Committee will hear reports from the chair and committee members. Discussion Only.

Committee members discussed recent City events and recreational opportunities.

Members complimented the Fourth of July celebration, citing favorable weather, the drone show, entertainment, and family activities as highlights. Discussion included traffic congestion when exiting Copper Sky Regional Park and suggestions for improved parking management, traffic control, and shuttle operations during future large-scale events.

Priscilla Behnke complimented staff on the collaboration during the recent Water

Safety Day event, noting improved coordination between Parks and Recreation and community partners compared to prior year.

Ms. Behnke also asked staff to consider extending pool hours during the summer, particularly weekend evening hours, to provide additional recreational opportunities for youth. Staff explained current operating hours, staffing requirements, swim lesson schedules, and associated operating costs while noting that programming is continually evaluated and adjusted based on community demand and available resources.

Discussion on actual costs with cost per hour appearing to be between $300 and $500 p/h. Staff will explore options.

Discussed

5.2 **PRAC 26-30** The Committee will hear a report from the Council Liaison. Discussion Only.

Councilmember Eric Goettle presented an update on the pedestrian bridge project connecting neighborhoods north and south of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Renderings of the bridge were presented, highlighting accessibility features including elevators, stairways, lighting, safety screening, and architectural elements inspired by Maricopa's historic water tower. Staff reported that coordination with Union Pacific had delayed construction, but significant structural progress has now been made. Completion is currently anticipated in late spring 2027.

The committee discussed the City's trail master plan, including future multi-use trail connections throughout the community, connectivity between neighborhoods, pedestrian safety, and the role of future development in constructing portions of the trail system.

Committee members suggested future trail maps distinguish completed trails, projects included within the Capital Improvement Program, and planned future segments to better illustrate progress.

Councilmember Goettle agreed to provide additional information regarding pedestrian improvements along Bowlin Road and Honeycutt Road, including updates from the City's Traffic Task Force.

Discussed

5.3 **PRAC 26-31** The Committee will hear an update from city staff regarding partnerships for teen services. Discussion Only.

City staff provided an update regarding the City's Teen Services Partnership initiative.

Staff explained that the original Request for Proposals (RFP) generated seven proposals, all of which included requests for direct financial support from the City. Following review, City leadership determined the original solicitation did not clearly communicate the City's intent to pursue partnerships utilizing existing City resources rather than establishing a grant funding program.

As a result, the original RFP was withdrawn and replaced with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), focusing on partnerships utilizing non-monetary City resources such as:

- *City-owned facilities*
- *Marketing support*
- *Registration systems*
- *Operational assistance*
- *Equipment and other available City resources*

Staff stated the revised RFQ more clearly identifies that the City is not currently offering direct financial assistance but instead seeks collaborative partnerships that maximize existing City resources while encouraging long-term sustainability.

Committee members engaged in extensive discussion regarding the transition from the original RFP to the revised RFQ.

Priscilla Behnke expressed concern regarding the communication surrounding the original solicitation, noting previous committee discussions led committee members to believe financial requests would be considered. She reviewed the timeline beginning with development of the partnership policy, subsequent community surveys identifying youth service needs, Youth Council discussions, and eventual issuance of the original RFP. Ms. Behnke stated applicants invested considerable time preparing proposals based on the understanding that funding could be available and questioned where the communication breakdown occurred.

Staff acknowledged the original solicitation lacked sufficient clarity regarding the City's expectations and accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding. Staff explained that reviewing the submitted proposals highlighted the need to better define the City's intent before moving forward.

Committee members asked whether any submitted proposals were considered financially reasonable and whether portions of those proposals could still move forward utilizing in-kind support. Staff explained the submitted proposals primarily focused on direct funding requests and therefore did not align with the City's revised partnership model.

Discussion also addressed whether future City funding opportunities for youth programming may become available. Councilmember Goettle explained that while arts funding currently benefits from a dedicated funding source established through state statute, no comparable revenue source presently exists for youth services. He stated the City's long-term goal remains expanding partnerships and community programming as financial capacity allows.

Committee members discussed how in-kind partnerships might operate in practice, including facility use, marketing assistance, operational support, and opportunities for nonprofit organizations to build financially sustainable programs utilizing City resources. However, it did not necessarily mean “free space” it could mean a discounted rate. 50% was offered as an example of a discounted rate.

Goettle encouraged members of the committee to “cheer lead” organizations to continue participating in the revised RFQ process.

The committee requested a follow-up update after the revised RFQ closes.

Discussed

5.4 PRAC 26-32 The Committee will hear an update from city staff on parks. Discussion Only.

Staff provided updates on several Parks and Recreation capital projects and operations, including:

- *Copper Sky Regional Park Fieldhouse construction, with completion anticipated in October.*
- *ABC15 media coverage highlighting the new facility.*
- *Construction progress on the pickleball court expansion, volleyball courts, lighting, and practice wall.*
- *Turf replacement and maintenance completed at Copper Sky athletic fields.*
- *Renovation of Lakeview Sports Complex baseball infields.*
- *Preliminary concepts for the Lakeview neighborhood playground expansion, including baseball-themed features and accessible play elements.*
- *Design work underway for new restroom facilities at Heritage Park.*
- *Release of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Request for Qualifications.*
- *Approval of revised facility rental fees by City Council.*
- *Summer youth basketball programming.*
- *National Drowning Prevention Day activities, including demonstrations and community education.*
- *Progress toward installation of the City's sponsored disc golf course.*

Committee members discussed accessibility considerations for future playground development, including sensory-friendly design features and inclusive play opportunities for children of all abilities.

Staff noted these considerations will continue to be incorporated into future park projects and the upcoming Parks Master Plan process.

Discussed

5.5 PRAC 26-33 The Committee will discuss future agenda items and next meeting date. Discussion and Recommendation.

The committee requested:

- *A follow-up update regarding responses received to the Teen Services RFQ.*
- *Continued updates regarding Heritage Park restroom construction.*
- *Continued updates regarding the Parks Master Plan process.*

The committee agreed to schedule its next meeting for August 26, 2026.

Discussed

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair McDill adjourned the meeting 7:30 p.m.