



# Minutes

## Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board

### December 10, 2025

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting held on December 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E Southern Ave, Tempe, AZ, and virtual through Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth Hatch – Chair  
Lane Waddell – Vice Chair  
Sharon Doyle  
Mary Farmer  
Thomas Klabunde  
Shereen Lerner  
Gerardo Lopez  
Cory Pechtl  
Regina Ponder  
Lisa Zyriek

**Members Absent:**

Susan Carlson

**City Staff Present:**

Alexander Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks (Staff Liaison)  
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director  
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation  
Shelbie Meyer, Administrative Analyst – Parks

**Other Guests Present:**

None

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Elizabeth Hatch.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**November 12, 2025**

Motion by Lisa Zyriek to approve November 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Gerardo Lopez. Motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ayes: Elizabeth Hatch, Lane Waddell, Mary Farmer, Thomas Klabunde, Gerardo Lopez, Cory Pechtl, and Lisa Zyriek

Absent: Susan Carlson. Sharon Doyle, Shereen Lerner, and Regina Ponder arrived after the vote.

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### **Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report**

Alex Jovanovic re-presented the 2025 Annual Report draft for board approval after the edits were added by board members. Board members did not have any more changes for approval.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Recharge Wells**

Alex Jovanovic introduced representatives from Wilson Engineering (Mike McBrady) and the City's Public Works Department (Erich Bonz) to discuss recharge wells at Ken McDonald Golf Course (KMGC).

- Presentation Overview
  - Who are the owners, designers, and contractors for this project.
  - Maps and locations of all of the wells.
  - Kyrene recharge program schedule.
  - Recharge system pipelines and trenches.
  - Recharge wells and facilities (4 total).
  - Recharge system pipelines and location of temporary pipelines with crossings through KMGC.
  - SRP canal crossing – underground boring operation.
  
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - Are recharge wells *real* wells or just reclaimed water from the pipeline?
  - Why recharge the well at KMGC particularly?
  - Did we consider putting water into Kiwanis Park?
  - Is all the water coming from the plant considered Tempe's water? Are you going to swap with SRP? Is the cooling water for consumption?
  - Were you impacted at all from the storms through KMGC?
  - Is the irrigation part ending in October?
  - If we look at the timeline for recharge, it goes well into 2027.
  - Is this the only network of recharge wells in Tempe or there more?

### **Agenda Item 5 – Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment (MAKERS)**

Shawn Wagner introduced MAKERS to present the updates and findings from the Recreation needs assessment.

- Presentation Information
  - Background and project goals and currently on phase three (final phase).
  - Recreation facility portfolio (6 recreation centers with equity priority zone).
  - Prior related plans and studies to guide the assessment.
  - Key findings and recommendations with context.
  - Kiwanis and Pyle are the most outdated centers. Whereas Escalante and Westside are in a high priority equity zone and labeled as a priority.
  - Recommendations at Kiwanis Recreation Center with target dates.
  - Recommendations at Pyle Recreation Center and the needs for adult recreation.
  - Recommendations at Escalante and Westside based on the equity priority zone.
  - Recommendations for capital maintenance and asset preservation.
  - Recommendation portfolio and overlap timeline in investment and functional improvement.

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- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
    - Are only existing facilities being looked at?
    - When MAKERS was here last, there were more options and more buildings needed to be built. Is this just stating the buildings need to be re-built or are there more options available?
    - Regarding Kiwanis: Is that long term building where the soccer fields are?
    - Where in the process is the Pyle plan now for Community Health and Humas Services (CHHS)?
    - Is land identified to build a new facility for Pyle?
    - Would a new building take away from parking at Pyle and other sites? You are not only taking away parking but adding people as well.
    - Does this study focus on these six facilities or more within the city?
    - Any safety issues at the facilities that we should be concerned about?

### **Agenda Item 6 – Cemetery Study Public Distribution**

Alex Jovanovic introduced Lisa Zyriek, who initiated the agenda item to discuss with the Board whether the cemetery study should be made available for public distribution.

- Presentation Information
  - Background about the Cemetery Study
    - Site features condition assessment report
    - Drainage evaluation and recommendations report
    - Historic Preservation summary report
    - Aztec Engineering / TYPASA
    - Done by end of 2025/early 2026.
  - Discussion by Lisa Zyriek (in summary) for support for public distribution through a vote
    - This was put onto an agenda item because we, the city, think improvements need to be made to the cemetery enough to put on the bond. The bond was approved in November 2024, \$2M for improvements to the cemetery, \$1M donation from a community member.
      - Multiple sources of funds to pay for improvements (CIP, bond, donations, and Historic Preservation)
    - It would be great to share it with the public. She was surprised this study was not for public input, like other projects, to look at drawings or plans for recommendations.
    - This could generate excitement, provide an opportunity to learn, and show transparency.
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
  - What exactly would be shared to the public for input?
  - Curious about any caveats from what the individual donation and if they are able to decide what they would be spent on? Did the donor want more visual improvements or parameters as opposed to underground stuff?
  - We (the board) cannot just say you must have specific items from the study to Council?
  - This sounds like this is an assessment, but the current motion is anticipating decisions for public input.

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- Would you say the cemetery study is similar to the park bench donation policy than it is to private/city staff decision?
  - Regardless of whether this is communicated with the community, the next steps would be to take the money private/public, hire/select an engineering company? What has been paid so far is just the assessment, we still need to prioritize what the city can/cannot afford within certain design elements.
  - We are just talking about making this study available to the public, similar to a park project.
  - Excited by taking the initiative before going to Council, as long as we phrase it correctly there is an opportunity.
  - I think posting the study makes sense after-the-fact, but do not think the public should have comments on what the city should do with donated money.

Lisa Zyriek made a motion to share what was identified in the Cemetery Study, analyze how the projects are being coordinated, and provide recommendations from the study, to then be shared with the public for input (similar to a park project). Seconded by Gerardo Lopez. Motion passed 8-0.

Ayes: Elizabeth Hatch, Sharon Doyle, Mary Farmer, Thomas Klabunde, Gerardo Lopez, Cory Pechtl, Regina Ponder, and Lisa Zyriek

Abstain: Lane Waddell and Shereen Lerner

Absent: Susan Carlson

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

None.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Public Meeting Attendance, Notices & Announcements**

Final comments made by Sharon Doyle, Thomas Klabunde, and Shereen Lerner, as it is their last PRGDBC Advisory Board meeting. Sharon stated it is an honor to serve on the board and to keep up the good work.

Thomas Klabundee and Shereen Lerner collaborated on some parting thoughts: board agenda and focus, golf course oversight, Cardinals moving - transition into public park land, memorial policy visibility, cemetery and preservation, and pocket parks (especially downtown).

#### **Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

Prepared by: Shelbie Meyer, Administrative Analyst, (480) 350-8353

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director- Parks, (480) 350-5811