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## **2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission Hybrid Meeting** **Monday, July 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

**In-person: Parks & Recreation Mesquite Room - 900 S. Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716**

**Or Virtual:**

To join the Parks + Connections BOC Virtual Teams Meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, go to:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join>

**Meeting ID:** 236 410 179 167 **Passcode:** KH5pbW **Phone dial in:** [+1 213-293-2303, 687858423#](tel:+12132932303)

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Commission Chair Spark called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Quorum was established with roll call, 7-4.

#### **2. Approval of April 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

There was no discussion.

**Commissioner Blake motioned to approve the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Kretschmer seconded, passed by roll call vote of 7-0.**

#### **3. Program Financial Update**

Interim Deputy Director of BSD, Aaron Williams provided a program financial update. The financial overview was provided previously in the meeting materials. Mr. Williams reported there has been significant movement in the \$57 million from the 2020 issued monies. The expenditures in the City's fiscal year 2024, which ended June 30 are \$19.9 leaving a cash balance of \$3 million remaining. Mr. Williams continued to explain there are encumbrance's that represent obligations and commitments to pay totaling \$23 million over the next period of time. This will leave an available cash balance at a negative. However, there is anticipation to go for a bond this late calendar year or early next calendar year. There are active conversations with consultant Piper Sandler to figure out the best timing for the bond issuance. They are \$20 million in Mayor and Council committed funds that are waiting to be utilized. There are \$3 million left to spend. Mr. Williams continued to say with the current spend the \$3 million should be used during this first quarter of the current fiscal year, which means by the next meeting, the cash balance will have been spent. Mr. Williams shared the program expenditures and reported that since the last meeting, parks spent approximately \$6 million dollars. There is no movement in golf. The connectivity is approximately \$300,000 in expenditures and greenways is \$116,000 in expenditures. The total expenditure activity is approximately \$64 million dollars. Mr. Williams added that the expense status is at 94% in the spend commitments, and almost closing out that first bond series. The next issuance is planned to be approximately \$55 million dollars and will be spent in the next three-year time spend.

**No action was taken.**

Commissioner Flasch arrived at 5:43pm.

#### **4. Project Updates**

##### **a. Connections**

Project Managers Collin Chesston, Lee Miller, Faffs Riederer, and Ben Elias provided updates on the following Connections projects: The Mary Ann Cleveland Way shared-use path project received notice to proceed today for construction. The project has federal

funding to supplement it.

The construction for the Roger Road Pedestrian Safety project is anticipated to begin in the late summer. The project is a pedestrian and walkability initiative.

The Blackledge Bicycle Boulevard project received a \$2.57 million grant from FHWA to help fund the project. The project timeline is pushed back because additional analysis for environmental compliance and cultural resources assessment will need to be done and provided the information to the federal government for the funding process. The construction is to begin in the fall of 2025.

6th Ave Protected Bike Lane design- An initial alternatives analysis was done to look at facility type options. It was decided on a parking protected bike lane design consistent with the ballot language for the voters. There are concerns and questions with the facility type and the goal for staff is to work with neighborhood to make sure staff are being responsive to concerns and tweak the design as needed.

The St. Mary's Road Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project- There were two successful events for the initiative. One event was a block party involving a closure of Grande Ave in the Menlo Park areas. The event included a DJ, music and food. A follow-up event took place as well.

The Alamo Wash Greenway project is the largest dollar amount project in the Connections bundle. It is a 9-mile urban greenway from Rillito River Park out to eastern end of the aviation bike way. It was mentioned there is a national expert on bicycle and facility design that is currently in negotiations to be the design consultant for the project. The design consultant will also include a local subconsultant on the team as well. A public kick-off event is planned for the fall.

On the eastside of the city, there are seven different bicycle boulevard projects and one pedestrian safety and walkability project. These projects will be pursued as one design contract. The projects are located east of the Pantano Wash and includes nearly 17 miles of linear bike routes that will be implemented.

There is pedestrian safety and walkability project at Vicksburg which connects to a high school at Camino Seco. The project will receive landscaping and sidewalks to improve the access to the local high school. Another great feature of these east side projects is that staff are going to take advantage of two existing connections to the loop trail system located east of Pantano in addition to making three new connections.

There is a section near Jesse Owens Park that overlaps with the Collector's Street program on Sarnoff and Kenyon between Broadway and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street that is receiving 407 improvements as well. This will be an opportunity to save money by using the Collector's Street program to help with this segment. There are several elementary schools that will connect to parks in this initiative. Staff are finalizing a contract with a designer, and it is anticipated that public engagement for the project will take place in the fall.

Staff spoke about Glenn Street which is three miles from Oracle Road (west) to Country Club (east) Road. Glenn Street has patchy sidewalks and there is not a lot of crossing opportunities except for a signalized location. The project will include lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping. The design process will happen soon as well as public engagement in the fall.

The San Marcus Boulevard and La Cholla Boulevard are bicycle boulevard projects which will have connections to various communities. The projects will be introduced and kicked-off in the wintertime frame.

Staff are in negotiations for a consultant for the four bicycle boulevard projects that are west of the Pantano Wash. This project will provide lot of connectivity with schools and parks.

Staff are working on the last northern mile of the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway. This project will connect Cushing Street and Granada to St. Mary's as well as connectivity to Herrera Quiroz Park and the Davis Bilingual Elementary School.

The project will give access to a 6-mile greenway to the Kino environmental complex. Grande Ave pedestrian safety and walkability project- It's a small project with .7 miles with a lot of room for improvements. It was mentioned that the project can be layered with Prop 411 safety funds and wrap it into a project along Congress to the south. The St. Mary's pedestrian and safety walkability project intersects with Menlo Park and extends from Congress Street to St. Mary's.

**No action was taken.**

b. **Parks**

Project Manager, Jasmine Chan provided update on Parks projects. Discussion included updates on newly opened locations, and current project phases.

The splash pads are open at the Freedom Park and Ft. Lowell Park. The bathhouse and pool at Ft. Lowell Park will open August 1. In addition, there is a series of playgrounds that are open for use and those include Park View Park, Villa Serena Park, and Rudy Garcia Park. The playgrounds in Villa Serena Park and Rudy Garcia Park have shade structures.

The Barrio Nopal Park construction began in May. The project is progressing with earthwork and ensuring various submittals are being reviewed as well as ordering different items for the project.

There is survey open for playground selections for the Chuck Ford Lakeside Park. The survey closes in a week, approximately.

There is a submittal for a Federal Land Water Conservation grant for Jacob's Park and is going through the federal process. Staff will hear back in the fall. The project is in the permitting process, currently.

The phase 1 of the field project in Christopher Columbus Park is on hold due to an issue in a right-of way along Silverbell Road. There is an existing federal 404 permit that staff were unaware of as a parks team. The area is in an archeology sensitivity zone and there is a permit through the Transportation Mobility Department for widening of Silverbell. The permit is a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Staff are working with the Army Corp of Engineers as well as the Arizona State Museum and the State Historic Preservation Office on how to move forward.

**No action was taken.**

i. **Clarification**

Project Manager, Jasmine Chan presented clarification related to pool slide complete product replacement versus flume refurbishing and associated costs. It was explained that the items are two different project types with different budgets. The pool slide budget in the bond ranged from \$288,000 to \$337,000. The pool slide flume budget has a range of \$31,500 to \$72,000. There were two pool slides replacement projects have been completed at Mansfield Park with a total cost of \$783,000 and the Freedom Park pool came in at \$454,000. The department received condition assessments for all the pool slides. There are four slide flumes that are included the bond package and for the locations- Archer Pool, Clements Pool, El Pueblo and Quincie Douglas. Based off the assessments, the pool slides flumes need to be refurbished and do not to be replaced.

**Commissioner Blake motioned to clarify the scope of the project does allow for refurbishing of pool slide instead of complete replacement where appropriate, seconded by Commissioner Frank Flasch. Motion passed by roll call vote of 8- 0.**

5. **Project Change Requests**

a. **Overview of Project Change Guidelines**

This item was placed on the agenda in case it needed to be addressed. There was no discussion.

**No action was taken.**

b. **Parks** – Jasmine Chan

1. **Scope Change** – Keeling Desert Park

Project Managers Jasmine Chan and Joe Barr presented data related to Keeling Desert Park playground improvements, community concerns related to security, and community input for alternative improvements.

P&R Administrator, Jasmin Chan reported there was an open community survey available for a three-week timeframe. Some respondents live one mile from the Keeling Park. The priorities from the survey and discussions held with the neighborhood are to improve lighting, remove walls that are visual barriers, and to improve visibility into the park from the street as well as create a half basketball court, construct fencing along the back of the park and new landscaping. The Parks Department has \$144,450 from the bond to replace the playground. However, based on community input from the survey and conversations, staff are recommending changing the scope of the bond project and implementing park improvements based on community input. There are more items on the list than can be funded with the bond amount. A grant request was submitted to the Tohono O’odham Nation for an additional \$75,000 to contribute to the initiative.

**Commissioner Blake motioned, duly seconded by Commissioner Flasch to expand the project scope Keeling Desert Park to include improvements based on community feedback as requested by staff. There was no discussion. Motion passed by roll call vote of 8-0.**

6. **Call to the Audience**

Chairperson Spark opened the call to the audience. Constituent, Jim Glock, Chair of Transportation Committee provided various comments involving the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Protected Bike Lane project. In addition, Mr. Glock shared concerns from the neighborhood regarding the parking along 5<sup>th</sup> Street near University Boulevard associated with the Protected Bike Lane concept. It was explained that the key issue is the neighborhood is a historic neighborhood without on-street parking. On-street parking is important to the viability of the neighborhood. To add, the plan puts the parking next to an 11-foot travel lane and provides only 7 feet for parking. There is a need for safe access to vehicles and the configuration of the project presents operational challenges. The protection of the bike lane is also limiting alternatives that DTM is having the neighborhood to consider.

Project Manager, Collin Chesston said that staff intend to move forward with the parking protected configuration such as the dimensions of the travel and parking lanes which is something that can be looked at. Staff plan to address as many concerns as possible through the design effort. It was also mentioned that the bond states that the design will include a curb separated bike lane. The bond language is more specific than most projects which adds option constraints. If the commission directed staff to consider an option that didn’t include a curb, then there will be more options to consider.

Chairman, Spark recommended to bring back the item to the next meeting for further discussion. It was decided to do a special meeting for the subject matter.

Constituents, Bill and Marcy Seery, residents near Jacobs Park provided comment to the board regarding the park and project. The constituents commended staff for efforts with the park.

7. **Next Steps**

a. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule**

1. **10.21.24 / 1.13.25 / 4.21.25**

b. **Future Agenda Items**

Chairperson Spark requested a future agenda item to discuss status of bike boulevard signage on Pima County’s Loop system directing riders towards the City’s bicycle boulevard network.

Commissioner Fyffe requested a future agenda item to discuss the project plan and timeline of Parks and Connections projects with a focus on how to complete by the established bond deadline and potential barriers to completion.

**No action was taken.**

**c. Commissioner & Staff Announcements**

Chairperson Spark shared experiences and feedback observed at project kick offs and ribbon cuttings. Mentioning the direct positive impact these projects have on community members.

**No action was taken.**

**8. Adjournment**

Chairperson Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm

-LAST ITEM-