



## PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY OF SAFFORD ANNEX BUILDING  
808 SOUTH 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAFFORD, ARIZONA  
TUESDAY JULY 27, 2021  
5:30 PM

*In accordance with Section 2.04.120 of the Municipal Code of the City of Safford, and Arizona Revised Statutes §38-431.01 et seq., and §38-431.02 et seq., NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the members of the general public that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will be held.*

### MINUTE RECORD

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michelle Hoshal, Pete Gauna, Marie Arbizio, Marvin Rios, Nora Rogers  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dusti Brantner, Tad Jacobson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jason Kouts, Mayor, John Cassella, City Manager, Susan Anderson, Planning & Community Development Director, Lance Henrie, Public Works Director, Matthew Hoshal, Assistant to the City Manager, Jennifer Surber, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Toni Palomino, Graham County Health Department/STARS (Students Tacking Action on the Road to Success), Ellysin Barrig, Xander Webb, Aaron Cutler, Kali Gluyas, Olivia Madrid

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.  
Mayor Kouts gave opening remarks: This group will be very instrumental in implementing where we go from here because when you have a group of seven men on a council, sometimes it's very difficult to reach an agreement. That's why we have picked you guys to help us know what's the best for our community. I'm excited to work with you guys and hear what you guys have to present to us. You guys hold a very good place because you are out there, the moms and dads in the community and so therefore, we're excited as a council to put the rubber on the road.  
John Cassella led introductions and stated: I'm a big believer in getting public input, particularly a wide variety of public input for activities in the city and the topic that we're going to be discussing is recreational amenities and infrastructure, those types of issues. We're trying to address both the short term and long term. What kind of recreational amenities the city of Safford might want based on the public's needs. At some point we may even go out further as a group and have some public meetings out in the community. It's a little bit more relaxed and I think you get more input and a better product. We have to understand that there are limitations financially. As we go through this we can talk about different projects. We welcome different ideas. At some point the committee will make a recommendation to City Council. We're really starting a fairly basic level, we've had some early successes where we've taken areas that really were not very attractive and we were able to turn them into something that people were obviously utilizing and enjoying.

2. **TASKS AND EXPECTATIONS:**

- Talk with family, friends, community members for ideas.
- Take pictures and send them to the city staff to compile.
- Read through the resource book provided.
- Visit all existing parks.

3. **OVERVIEW OF GENERAL PLAN:** Susan Anderson went over the General Plan in the resource book. Arizona requires jurisdictions, cities and towns to have a general plan, and a general plan is a visioning process, looking 20 years into the future. And it's usually done with a group of people, similar to yourself, people from the community. Looking at what is the desire to see the community become in the future, that is generally a land use element, and housing element and environmental movement, these are different chapters within that general plan. They're intended to be updated every 10 years. Some places some state it's every five years, and to keep them current, because things change. This is again a vision plan, it's not intended to be implemented fast, it's intended to evolve as the vision and the community would evolve and some of this gets implemented, and some of it's further down the line, so that's just a general overview of what the general plan is and what you have in your packet

4. **OVERVIEW OF EXISTING AMENITIES:** Susan Anderson gave a brief overview of current parks.

3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Central Avenue Park  
Dry Lake Park  
Ed Ragland 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Courts  
El Paso Park  
Firth Park  
Glenn Meadows Park  
La Tierra Park  
Mt. Graham Golf Club  
Safford Multi-Use Path  
Safford Pool  
Copper Canyon Subdivision Private Development Park

5. **OVERVIEW OF FUTURE AMENITIES:**

In the resource book included is a Conceptual Plan of a proposed park off Discovery Park Boulevard was in office since 2009 & also a map of City of Safford owned property for possible future amenities.

El Paso park is in the works.

Multi-Use Path near cemetery is in need of parking. Public Works is working on that. Installing fillable water stations.

Currently working on an Intergovernmental agreement with the Safford Unified School District to open their facilities to the public.

6. **READING ASSIGNMENT:**

Articles to read in the resource book

- Why Parks and Recreation are Essential Public Services
- Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics-The Benefits of Play
- 10 Ways That Parks and Playgrounds Benefit the Community
- Benefits of Parks in Your Community
- The Importance of Parents and Play
- What is an "Inclusive Playground"

7. **COMMITTEE QUESTIONS:**

Where can we find out what parks are ADA compliant? Currently updating website and will add that to the parks page.

Are the city, county and town of Thatcher and Pima contributing for the multi-use path/linear park along river? Yes each one contributes if it connects to their jurisdiction.

Can we have the ADA equipment with the regular equipment and not have their own section?

How do I find out what parks have the rubberized surface? Will address with website upgrade.

8. **VISIONING EXERCISE:**

ADA compliant

All-inclusive park

Arcade

Batting cages

Bumper cars

Competitive events

Cornhole permanent structure

Covered equipment

Firth Park rebranded

Football field

Four square

Hopscotch

Large chess pieces

Library use for teens

Lighted tennis court

Lighting

Mini golf

Nice grass for soccer/football

Outdoor movies

Pickle ball

Place for live music

Place for video game club

Place to hang-out

Place to have 5K races

Place to study outside

Putting green

Rebranding

Recreation center

Sand volleyball

Shuffle boards

Trees/Landscaping

Wifi/internet

Work out equipment

Wreck room

Susan Anderson: Think about these amenities and how we can complement what we already have. From demographic standpoint, what ages groups do we want to address? Where do we put it? Who will maintain it? Because of the cost we may want to do the project in phases. There are grants to look at. How do we lay this stuff out in the city so that geographically it's dispersed right? That it is a 10-minute walk from a residential area. There is the whole social justice issues that we want to make sure certain areas are a part of the community as a whole and deserve to have nice parks also. Seniors having places to go, toddlers, teenagers, I think teenagers get left out in the mix a lot of times with parks, and then also Americans with disabilities act. The

rubberized surface-there's two components that makes accessible, and it also has to do with the kids fall play equipment that they won't get injured. How do we get the word out? Our website more user friendly, The Chamber of Commerce.

John Cassella: I want this to be a creative process that people enjoy. I want everybody to be respectful of each other and the ideas that we have and listen. We will have a chair and vice chair. Let's make it fun, let's make it a creative process. The council here, as we started talking about recreation their ideas began to grow and people were looking at oh we're going to try to put a couple \$100,000 in the budget ended up being over a million, then they're looking at public participation, the mayor showed up, because it's important to him. And so I really feel like we've got something really unique here we're down to the ground floor so let's make it something we all enjoy. I want to do a formal tasking so I want to have a resolution and it would have guidelines for the committee.

9. **NEXT MEETING:** TBD – about 3 weeks on Wednesday 5:30pm-7:00pm  
at the Safford Library Program Room

10. **ADJOURN**