

anthem community council

Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 28, 2022, 6:30pm - Open Session
Anthem Civic Building, Community Room

MINUTES

Members Present:

Darrin Francom, Chair
Chilesa Ready, Secretary
Doug Sutherland, Treasurer
Bob McKenzie, Director
Barb Patterson, Director
Gina Richard, Director

Members Absent:

Carolynn Hiron, Vice Chair

Others Present:

Aaron Baker, Executive Director
Paul Conley, Sr. Director of Finance
Mike Krask, Director of Parks and Facilities
Scott Newell, Aquatics & Programs Director
John Safin, Communications Director
Jonathan Ebertshauser, Legal Counsel
Gay Johnson, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Francom called the meeting to order at 6:28pm and recognized those in attendance.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Chairman Francom established a quorum with six Board members present.

CONSENT AGENDA/APPROVAL

Chair Francom made a motion to modify the consent agenda to remove Kendrick Family Fields item and approve the August 24, 2022 and September 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Director McKenzie accepted the motion and Director Richard seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. EPCOR Water Presentation

Executive Director Baker introduced Rebecca Stenholm, Director of Public and Government Affairs, who provided a presentation about local EPCOR Water operations for the east side of Anthem with an overview of the company, service area, water portfolio, long-range planning, management, the Colorado River and current drought impacts, conservation resources and customer assistance that is available. She stressed that their water portfolio is very well-rounded, due to very good preparedness, use of reclaimed water, long-range planning looking up to 100 years in the future with a goal to never let water go to waste.

Resident Kris Madsen inquired as to whether EPCOR would have a booth at Autumnfest, to which Ms. Stenholm shared that they had not had a booth since COVID but would welcome the opportunity to participate again.

Resident Ron Jerich inquired about the impact of the new chip plant. Ms. Stenholm provided that it would not be serviced by their area and has no control, as it is in the City of Phoenix. Mr. Jerich inquired about the increase of car washes and their impact. Ms. Stenholm provided that their experience is the facility works with industry standards, as well as state restrictions and uses reclaimed water.

Resident Jason Langston inquired about the quoted amounts on their website. Ms. Stenholm stated the quoted amounts are for the entire company, not just for this region. Mr. Langston also inquired about the safety of the water. Ms. Stenholm supplied that over 300,000 samples are required for water safety and reports are available on their website every June.

With no other questions, Chair Francom expressed his appreciation for the recent facility tour conducted with the Board, the presentation, and the work that EPCOR does in our community.

STAFF REPORTS/FINANCIALS

A. Executive

Executive Director Aaron Baker supplied information regarding nominations due October 7 for Veterans Service Award, the upcoming 2023 Budget Meetings, Coffee with a Deputy on October 5, traffic improvements at Great Hearts/Anthem Prep, staking on Meridian Drive by MCDOT to install a barrier rail, SK8 & Ride Park upkeep, City of Phoenix trash day change and Civic Building A/V equipment RFP.

B. Programs

Director of Programs & Aquatics Scott Newell gave the Aquatics report of activities including fall swim lessons, diving board with lifeguard weekend hours 12-4pm for September and October, Paddleboard Yoga on October 2, and remaining swim meets in October; in Sports & Fitness youth soccer, volleyball, and Anthem Tots registration available for October, 15 teams for adult softball league, new fitness classes and program starting: Peloton, and Big Splash Fitness Area Ceremony postponed to October 14; in Parks/Fields and Security shows increased park activities due to weather, incidents of graffiti shows decrease YTD; in Youth/Family Programs registration open for Monster Ball on October 28, Sidewalk Chalk Art Day at the SK8 and Ride Park on October 10 and other upcoming programs.

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C. Parks and Facilities

Director of Parks & Facilities Mike Krask supplied the Landscaping reports of Phase 1 and 2 of Arborist cutback, over seed began September 12 for new Sports Field Bermuda Turf program, culvert clean out Anthem-wide and DLC to commence Poly to PVC conversion on October 1; Parks installation of concrete flatwork in upper park, Verizon tower construction to begin in December, Civic Building AC unit replacements, bridge painting, Water Park slides and softball stands painting and AVM video shoot scheduled for October 12.

D. Financials

Sr. Director of Finance Paul Conley spoke on status of accounts. Full disclosure financial statements are posted at *OnlineAtAnthem.com* as part of the documents for the open meeting. He then invited Project Manager Kevin Foster for an update on Facilities Master Plan Projects. Mr. Foster supplied an overview of Tennis Court 1, with estimates for court resurfacing, fence options for higher or lower, landscaping barrier, lighting and shade structures. For the North Lawn, to recreate area with artificial turf and shade.

Director Patterson inquired as to the timing for the project, which Mr. Foster provided would be available within one month for the Board's review. Director Patterson also inquired about the Museum project, which Mr. Baker supplied it was not presented to the Project Management team, but deadline of the anniversary is expected.

E. Communications

Communications Director John Safin provided information on Special Events, inviting residents to the October 8 *Go Green* event from 8-11am, with full list of acceptable recycle items on the website, reminded of nominations due for *Anthem Veterans Service Award* on October 7 to be presented during the Veterans Day Ceremony, reminder for Autumnfest on October 22-23, with carnival opening on October 20 and Pumpkin Decorating Contest details available on the website. Anthem Safe Roads awareness campaign receiving support on social media, Family Movie Night canceled in September due to unexpected technical issues, Town Hall Meeting on October 14, featuring Superintendent Dr. Curtis Finch from Deer Valley Unified School District, improvements on OnlineAtAnthem website and announcing Family Safety Preparedness Night on November 2 from 6-8pm.

Resident Ron Jerich expressed his concern on Peloton, whether there is an additional cost and if Peloton has access to revenue from fitness classes. Mr. Newell responded that there is no additional cost, simply using equipment.

Director McKenzie motioned to accept the Staff Reports and Financials as presented. Secretary Ready seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Update from Finance Committee

Committee Chair Sutherland stated they met on September 27 with a quorum, review of the report with robust conversation about use of reserve, enhancement, and other funds, the reduced contribution to the reserve fund in 2022, returning the contribution to the fund for 2023 and asking staff for further ways to decrease expenditures and increase revenues. Nuance is a deficit budget for the 2023 budget discussion.

B. Update from the Amenities Committee

1. Sk8 and Ride Park

Chair Francom introduced Executive Director Baker who provided background of data collection of users of the facility. Based on the information, staff recommends that the park be used by residents and non-residents, as the facility usage has not met capacity. To capture revenue, it is recommended that non-residents may gain access by purchasing a \$3 daily pass or a \$25 monthly membership online via CivicRec with implementation planned effective November 1. Residents access at check-in with the same keychain tag used at the Community Center. Staff further recommended that the guard booth remain staffed by Park Patrol during operating hours, as it has shown that incidents are down since its opening and safety benefits of enforcing rules or responding to any potential incidents or injuries is a benefit. Chair Francom opened the floor for comments.

Resident Kris Madsen expressed her concern of non-resident use of amenities, focus should be on residents first and to weigh access the same as the Community Center to allow non-residents if with a resident. Chair Francom appreciated the comments. Director Patterson suggested review of the usage of non-residents/residents, monitoring to continue, with a report in one year. Secretary Ready mentioned a facility was built that has much more capacity than the scale of resident usage and she is in favor of the policy.

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Secretary Ready motioned to approve non-resident access to the SK8 and Ride Park by purchasing a \$3 daily pass or a \$25 monthly membership with a review in one year. Director McKenzie seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

Director McKenzie motioned to accept the Committee Reports as presented. Secretary Ready seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023 Budget

Chair Francom introduced Sr. Director of Finance Paul Conley who provided an overview from the September 7 budget workshop, with August additions, welcoming feedback from this meeting. He stated the Finance Committee plans to meet prior to October 25, which will give more time for recommendations for approval on October 26. The Board then discussed how 2022 is ahead of budget and projected to be ahead at year end, to pay into the reserve fund the same \$500k that was reduced from the 2022 suggested contribution, reduce payroll and payroll taxes for unfilled positions, increase assessments, staff to relook to increase revenues and decrease non-payroll and benefit related expenses.

Director McKenzie made a motion directing staff to relook at replenishing the reserve, income projections and decrease expenses, and increase of assessments. Treasurer Sutherland seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Kendrick Family Fields Improvements

Item removed from agenda during Consent Agenda consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ziggi's Coffee

Chair Francom introduced Executive Director Baker to review the project, approved by the City of Phoenix and the owners have received the City's complete approval and have receive the building permit. The project has been reviewed by staff as compliant with ACC *Non-Residential Architectural Design Guidelines*. He explained the parcel and how the owner of lot 26 had subdivided into three sub-parcels, with legal counsel proposal for an amendment to tract declarations to subdivide the parcel properly, define the permitted uses and reallocate assessments.

Director Patterson made a motion for conditional approval with staff direction to proceed with suggested proposal from legal. Director Richard seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

B. New Event Policy

Chair Francom provided that this agenda item is strictly for discussion, not approval. Executive Director Baker gave a review of the legal components. After discussion and questions, Chair Francom suggested a draft for the October meeting to include the addition of a submittal deadline with rigorous review guidelines.

Director McKenzie made a motion to direct staff to proceed with New Event Policy with an adjustment to include a submittal deadline. Secretary Ready seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Anthem Strategic Priorities

Chair Francom introduced Executive Director Baker who gave an overview so that the Board could have a discussion to solidify the strategies—the overarching direction. At that point, staff will develop the tactics necessary to implement those strategies and periodically report back on implementation. Ideally, the strategies will be relevant for several years while the tactics used to meet each of the strategies could change from year-to-year. Chair Francom suggested the addition of deadlines with rigorous a review.

Director McKenzie suggested he would like to see the direction of tactics from the staff to better understand. Mr. Baker will share the suggestions with staff for future Board review.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Resident Jason Langston expressed his concern regarding loitering on commercial property if the ACC is to inform tenants to post signs.

Resident Julie Hudy inquired as to whether dog poop stations could be installed near New River Wash paths, one on either end, for a total of two. Chair Francom requested locations be provided for consideration. Ms. Hudy also expressed concern regarding motorcycles riding near New River wash and 46th Ave stating a safety issue, destruction of the walking path, public nuisance with loud noise, no signs stating motorized vehicles are prohibited. Chair Francom requested Ms. Hudy supply the information to the Recording Secretary and is committed to looking at the area.

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Resident Kris Madsen expressed her concern about the electric skateboards and bikes with the hazard of riding on the sidewalks and the possible installation of signs on the sidewalks. Chair Francom supplied that research will be completed to regulate, will recommend a community campaign to inform residents.

Resident Ron Jerich inquired as to the SK8 and Ride Park numbers mentioned in the report. Chair Francom supplied that 56% were residents and 44% were non-residents and is willing to share the report. Mr. Jerich also questioned what revenue would be gained from the \$3 charge, which Mr. Baker supplied at \$875 per month. Chair Francom stated that the Board will continue to monitor for the next year and review.

Resident Jerich then inquired as to the car wash status, which Mr. Baker supplied that the project is in the review process. Mr. Jerich expressed concern over water usage, which Chair Francom reminded of state restrictions, use of reclaimed water, the application was made to the City of Phoenix and due diligence will continue. Mr. Jerich requested that the Board consider the benefit and good of the residents.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:
Chilesa Ready
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10/29/2022

Chilesa Ready, Secretary
On Behalf of the Anthem Community Council Board of Directors