



**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 26, 2023, 6:30pm - Open Session  
Anthem Civic Building  
3701 W. Anthem Way, Community Room**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Darrin Francom, Chair  
Carolynn Hiron, Vice Chair  
Chilesa Ready, Secretary  
Doug Sutherland, Treasurer (Exited 6:38)  
Bob McKenzie, Director  
Barb Patterson, Director  
Gina Richard, Director  
Dino Cotton, Newly Seated Director

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Francom called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. and recognized those in attendance.

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Chair Francom established a quorum with seven Board members present.

**CONSENT AGENDA/APPROVAL**

**Director McKenzie made a motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Vice Chair Hiron seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Service Recognition of Outgoing Board**

Chair Francom and Vice Chair Hiron thanked Directors Sutherland and Ready for their service, clarifying that Director Ready's term on the Board will end after this evening. Both Directors thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve Anthem.

**B. New Board Seating**

Chair Francom announced that Director Patterson was re-elected from Country Club and introduced the newly elected Director Dino Cotton from Parkside.

**ESTABLISH QUORUM OF NEW BOARD**

Chair Francom established a quorum with seven Board members present.

**ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

The election of officers took place.

**Chair Francom made a motion to elect Director Carolynn Hiron to be seated as Chair. Elected by Acclamation.**

**Chair Hiron made a motion to elect Director Francom to be seated as Vice Chair. Elected by Acclamation.**

**Vice Chair Francom made a motion to elect Director Barb Patterson to be seated as Secretary. Elected by Acclamation.**

**Vice Chair Francom made a motion to elect Director Bob McKenzie to be seated as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. Elected by Acclamation.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**A. 2022 Annual Audit Presentation**

Executive Director Baker, recognizing Sr. Director Conley's absence, introduced Paul Hansen, of Butler-Hansen, the ACC's independent auditor, who then presented the 2022 annual audit report. Mr. Hansen acknowledged the ACC team and applauded the staff for facilitating the audit. The firm issued an "unqualified opinion," which is the best possible opinion you can receive. The report indicates the financial statements are fairly presented, all procedures were completed and from a financial standpoint the management team has done a tremendous job. Mr. Baker echoed that the finance team be commended and acknowledged as a group.

**Treasurer McKenzie made a motion to accept the 2022 Audit Report, with thanks for their hard work. Vice Chair Francom seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.**

**B. StarGuard ELITE Presentation**

Executive Director Baker introduced Nick Hawco, of StarGuard ELITE, an aquatic risk prevention agency, who then presented their part in certification training of lifeguards, as well as two unannounced annual safety audits for Anthem. Company background was provided. Mr. Hawco acknowledged their relationship with Anthem since 2012, one of their oldest Arizona clients, which holds the second highest amount of five-star audits in the entire Western United States, with only nine other clients across the entire globe scoring higher. He then presented Anthem's 2022 Audit Award. Chair Hiron expressed thanks for the work done in Anthem.

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**STAFF REPORTS/FINANCIALS**

**A. Executive**

Executive Director Aaron Baker recognized the four applicants of the Jim Martin STEM Scholarship, then the two winners, Austin Saint Peter and Ainsley O'Connor, were each awarded \$1000 checks. A picture was taken with Chair Hiron, the winners and Vice Chair Francom.

Mr. Baker then continued with an update on ongoing work with MCDOT, notifying agencies about roadway issues, County Emergency Notification System, a presentation that was given about the Central Arizona Project by Director Francom and an update about the Amenities Committee.

**B. Programs**

Director of Programs & Aquatics Scott Newell provided about lifeguard and recertification classes, summer swim registration for summer and Dolphins results from recent meets in Aquatics; recreation registration, projects completed at the Community Center and upcoming Anthem Cinco de Dinko Pickleball tournament in Fitness; Market in the Park and field reports in Parks/Fields and Security; and Summer Camp registration, and programs in Youth/Family Programs.

**C. Parks and Facilities**

Director of Parks & Facilities Mike Krask gave the report on Facilities, Parks and Landscaping projects completed, in progress, and upcoming.

**D. Financials**

In Sr. Director of Finance Conley's absence, Executive Director Baker spoke on status of accounts; Full disclosure financial statements are posted at *OnlineAtAnthem.com* as part of the documents supporting the open meeting.

**E. Communications**

Communications Director John Safin gave an overview of successful Anthem Days, Go Green Recycling, Youth for Troops participation in Wreaths Across America and Arizona Patriot Guard, upcoming Music in May, and Daisy Mountain Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony. He also announced that The Anthem Way/Activities Guide will arrive in mailboxes the first week in May with copies available at all customer service desks, past Friends of Daisy Mountain Trails Representative Town Hall with Chief Brian Tobin of Daisy Mountain Fire & Medical was the final session until further notice. ACC staff is outlining possible activities and events for Anthem's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year and Civic Building activities have been much busier compared to 2022.

**Treasurer McKenzie made a motion to approve the Staff Reports with the Boards thanks for their hard work. Director Ready seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Anthem Veterans Memorial Expansion**

Chair Hiron provided background of the Anthem Veterans Memorial project, with the addition of a marker from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Discussion took place on recommendations made to expand the paver area, address drainage issues, walkway and landscape modifications, clarifications on sources of funding. Suggestions of alternative to artificial turf and replacing the tops of the pillars with marble of greater thickness to lengthen its lifetime.

**Vice Chair Francom made a motion to approve the Anthem Veterans Memorial Expansion, subject to the following conditions that it's funded up to \$172,000, with fundraising to offset the ACC's obligation for any amount equal to the funds raised. The ACC will fund up to \$172,000, first from the ACC Capital Fund at \$30,000, the ACC Reserve at \$10,000 and the ACC Enhancement Fund at \$132,000. And as fundraising is received, the money would first flow to reimburse the ACC Enhancement Fund. Treasurer McKenzie seconded.**

**Director Cotton asked for an alternative motion, essentially a similar financial motion, but make alterations to the plan on the artificial turf. Vice Chair Francom clarified his motion is as presented.**

Executive Director Baker asked for clarification on several other components to a potential motion, of identifying the expansion, the funding sources, the amount of the priority, also making a finding that's in the best interest of the ACC into a sole source contract with Haydon for this project and authorize staff to execute an agreement. Also, an authorization to take all steps necessary to complete the project. There is also the question of the Daughters of the American Revolution Marker.

**Vice Chair Francom asked to allow a clarification to his motion, in addition to his motion would be to approve the expenditure of the funds and the source through priority define making a finding that it is in the best interest of the Anthem Community Council to enter into a sole source contract with Haydon Construction for this project and authorize staff to execute the agreement with Haydon. It needs to be specified because typically we don't enter into sole source contracts. We have to do open competition so that motion would carry that we're deviating from normal, and I would authorize staff to take all steps necessary to complete the project. My motion today certainly does not include inclusion of the Daughters of the Revolution, as I'd like to discuss that separately. Treasurer McKenzie seconded.**

**Director Cotton asked for an amendment to the motion to come up with an alternative to the turf, and then additionally, not removing the existing flower bed. Chair Hiron asked for a second to the amendment to the motion.**

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**There was no second to the amendment. Chair Hiron then asked for a second to the original motion made by Director Francom. Treasurer McKenzie seconded. Voting took place; motion passed by majority (6 aye, 1 nay-Director Cotton).**

**B. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Proposed Facilities Master Plan Projects: Liberty Bell Park Enhancements and Hastings Field, Parking and Restrooms**

Chair Hiron asked for a motion from the floor and then to open discussion.

**Treasurer McKenzie moved that we discontinue Liberty Bell Park and Hastings Field projects at this time. Director Richard seconded.**

Vice Chair Francom supplied that is in alignment with the motion on the floor, do no harm; so, if we're causing harm, let's pull back, let's reevaluate, let's not execute something that our residents are unhappy with. Director Cotton supplied that Liberty Bell Splash Pad has seen a decline in the past 10 years, the grass area had been reduced and would like to restore the area to the quality that was in that location. Executive Baker addressed that staff would need to research the area historically. Director Ready supplied that she would hesitate to vote on stopping all of Liberty Bell as there were some wonderful parts to that proposal; to delay for additional research to extract some pieces without saying no on all of Liberty Bell as it would be a disservice to our residents. Chair Hiron asked if there is a proposed amendment to the motion currently on the floor.

**Director Ready moved for a hard no or a stop on Hastings and that we take the Liberty Bell project under advisement. Treasurer McKenzie seconded.**

Vice Chair Francom called for clarification so that the motion be that we bring back to talk about the splash pad area and to work with residents and the board to define if there are pieces within that project that are liked or reserve it within the Facilities Master platform. Chair Hiron confirmed that Hastings Field would come off. Discussion took place on updating Liberty Bell, appreciation for taking Hastings Field from the project, concerns about year-round use, maintenance, liability and reevaluating the plan, committee structure and communications going forward on enhancement projects. With no more comments from the floor, Vice Chair Francom requested the amendment to be restated.

**Director Ready moved that Hastings Field project be removed from the Facilities Master Plan and secondarily that we take the Liberty Bell project under advisement for further discussion. Voting took place; motion passed by majority (6 aye, 1 nay-Director Cotton).**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Annual Insurance Renewal**

Executive Baker supplied that the issue is before the board because of the cost involved, based on the Procurement Policy, as it is in excess of \$100,000. Overall, the rates are up over last year, as anticipated, and given the current insurance market.

**Vice Chair Francom moved to approve the expenditure of a not to exceed \$398,000 to renew the ACC insurance package, subject to the staff recommendations. Treasurer McKenzie seconded. Voting took place; the motion passed unanimously.**

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Residents expressed concerns regarding the website, ongoing communication and engagement with residents. Chair Francom provided that the board certainly recognizes the need for engagement and fluid communication with residents and will continue to work toward that end.

A resident expressed concern if there was a change in requesting new keychain for checking in at facilities. Executive Baker provided that there had not been a change and that staff would work directly with residents if a replacement keychain is needed.

Elizabeth Turner revisited the approval of the Daughters of the American Revolution 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Marker, as representatives Jennifer and Robin just arrived. They asked that a decision be made as it is a time sensitive issue of six months to get approval from national for production. Chair Hiron provided that the board would like to follow a two-step procedure to consider all information and discuss, prior to making a decision.

The Board discussed whether or not to consider approving the DAR marker during the current meeting. Vice Chair Francom made a motion to consider the marker during the current meeting. It did not pass. The DAR marker will be considered at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:53p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Barb Patterson, Secretary  
On Behalf of the Anthem Community Council Board of Directors