Palo Verde Park

Neighborhood Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

**Minutes, July 31, 2024**

**regular meeting**

Present:

*Alfredo Araiza, president*

*Dianne Bustamante, vice president*

*Andy Weiss, treasurer*

*Rhonda Bodfield, secretary*

*Patricia Caldwell, delegate*

*Torey Crandell, delegate*

*Adam Freden, delegate*

*Matt Russell/Cathy Cromwell, delegates*

**Regular order of business:** Meeting was gaveled to order at 6:02 p.m. Gratitude to our hosts, Fountain of Life Church, as well as our guest speakers and attendees, including Parks Director **Lara Hamwey** and Ward 2 rep **Pat Burns.**

**Guest presentations:**

* City Councilman **Paul Cunningham** kicked off the meeting by the progress the park has made over the years, highlighting investments from the rainwater harvesting demonstration project around the perimeter to the first splash pad on the east side. He noted the new project will include turf that is expected to stay green year-round and importantly, private and public funding for a covered and lit basketball court, as part of a philanthropic effort by former UA Wildcats basketball player Joseph Blair, to honor his mother, Judith. Pickleball courts be installed where the current basketball court is.
* Parks Program Manager **Joe Barr,** who grew up playing baseball at Palo Verde Park,shared that the park will also get all new irrigation, to support more shallow turf watering and deep watering for trees, as well as new lighting for the fields. The new irrigation system, combined with the new type of turf, will help crowd out weeds and invasive species by supporting a healthier, year-round thatch.
* Construction timeline: The park will be closed for the extensive work, with the expectation of a Memorial Day reopening in 2025. The dog parks will remain open with the exception of a temporary closure to plant new trees for shade. The closure could start as soon as the middle to end of August.
* (Addendum: After the meeting, Joe reached out to share more information about the tree plan for the park. The plan calls for 88 new trees: 22 palo verde, 19 red pistache and 47 live oak.)
* Storm to Shade Public Outreach Coordinator **Xochitl Coronado-Vargas** shared plans for a Green Stormwater Infrastructure project that will start on the Langley parcel east of the park after the broader parks project is able to bring water to the site. The project will include new trees and a walking path.

**President’s/officer’s report:** The upcoming meeting on Aug. 6 was shared, with a TEP workshop designed to share energy saving practices to increase efficiency.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.