

**Recreation and Public Grounds
Commission
Regular Meeting
Agenda**

Thursday, April 9, 2026

7:00 PM

Members of the Recreation and Public Grounds Commission will attend either in person, by telephone, or video conference call.
Physical access to the meeting room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

I. Call to Order

- A. The agenda and packet are available at: www.litchfieldpark.gov**
- B. A video recording of the meeting can be seen [here](#) the next business day.**

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Call to the Community

This is the time for citizens who would like to address the Commission on any non-agenda item. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to asking staff to review the matter, asking that the matter be put on a future agenda, or responding to criticism.

IV. Staff Report

A. Community and Recreation Services Monthly Report

INFORMATION ONLY

Presenter: *Tricia Kramer, Community & Recreation Services Director*

Ms. Kramer may provide an update on the following:

- Recreation Center Facility
- Community Services
- Special Events
- Aquatics
- Preschool
- Sports

B. Opportunities for Improvement

INFORMATION ONLY

Presenter: *Tricia Kramer, Community & Recreation Services Director*

Staff may provide updates on the maintenance and upkeep of city parks and public grounds. Additional areas of opportunity for improvement may be discussed.

V. Business

A. Election of Officers

ACTION/COMMENT

Presenter: *Tricia Kramer, Community & Recreation Services Director*

Discussion and possible action to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Recreation and Public Grounds Commission for the 2026/2027 term.

B. Approval of Minutes

ACTION/COMMENT

Presenter: *Tricia Kramer, Community & Recreation Services Director*

Discussion and possible action to approve the February 12, 2026, regular meeting minutes.

C. 2026 Orange Tree Painting Event

ACTION/COMMENT

Presenter: Anthony Taddej, Chairperson

Discussion and possible action on matters related to the 2026 Orange Tree Painting event.

D. Yard of the Quarter Program

ACTION/COMMENT

Presenter: Anthony Taddej, Chairperson

Discussion and possible action related to the Yard of the Quarter program.

VI. Commissioners Report on Current Events

This is the time Commissioners may present a brief summary on current events. The Commission may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information presented, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02.

VII. Topics for Referral to City Council

VIII. Adjournment

Anthony Taddej, Chair

Affidavit of Posting

I, Tricia Kramer, do hereby certify that I caused to be posted a true and correct copy of this agenda for the Recreation and Public Grounds Commission meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2026, in the following place in the City of Litchfield Park:

- 1. City Hall, outside bulletin board
- 2. City Website

Tricia Kramer, Staff Liason

Persons with special accessibility needs should contact City Hall, (623) 935-5033, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



**RECREATION AND PUBLIC
GROUNDS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION**

**Staff Report Item IV.A
Community and Recreation
Services Monthly Report**

To: Recreation and Public Grounds Commission Members
From: Tricia Kramer, Community and Recreation Services Director
Meeting Date: 4/9/2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

See attached report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Community and Recreation Services Monthly Report - April 2026



COMMUNITY AND RECREATION SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

To: RPG Chairperson and Commissioners
From: Tricia Kramer, Director of Community and Recreation Services
Meeting Date: 04/09/2026

Recreation Center Facility

- On 4/2 a heavy wind gust broke one of the palm trees in front of the Rec Center. Thankfully, no one was hurt. WCA came within 2 hours and removed the fallen tree from the walkway.
- A new pickleball practice pad for public use has been installed on the fencing on the north side of the east tennis court.
- The tennis courts will be restriped to include pickleball courts between 4/20-5/1.
- The Rec Center has two Seasonal Cashier openings for the summer swim season.

Aquatics

- We are in the process of hiring and onboarding lifeguards for the summer swim season.
- Registration for swim lessons and Lagartos Summer Swim Team opens on 4/13.
- We plan to have the pool deck resurfaced sometime before 5/8.

Community Services

- The HOLA temporary art installation was completed on 4/8. Artist Betsy Andrews' cotton boll flower sculpture is standing on the south side of Palm Plaza.
- The Community Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, 4/18.
- The new Litchfield Park Fitness Fest is scheduled for Sunday, 4/19.

Preschool

- We are scheduling interviews with additional AM Preschool Aide candidates.
- We have filled 14 spaces in Summer Camp so far – 8 in June and 6 in July.
- Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year is ongoing. We currently have 31 students registered.

Sports

- Staff would like to add a tee ball infield at Scout Park. We are still awaiting quotes from vendors for consideration.
- Spring Sports are underway and entering week 3.
- Beginners Edge Sports Training's (BEST) next session begins on 4/11.

Special Events

- Easter in the Square on 3/28 was fun and well attended. Morning winds canceled the helicopter but, thanks to GYFD, the "Old Red" fire truck still made for a special Easter Bunny arrival.
- Our Arts in the Park season finale concert will be held on 4/10 at The Wigwam. City Nights Band performs from 6-8pm that evening. This free concert is being sponsored by WM.
- Staff have been working on plans for our 5/25 Memorial Day Ceremony and our 7/3 Sparkle in the Square celebration.



**RECREATION AND PUBLIC
GROUNDS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION**

**Staff Report Item IV.B
Opportunities for Improvement**

To: Recreation and Public Grounds Commission Members
From: Tricia Kramer, Community and Recreation Services Director
Meeting Date: 4/9/2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Staff will provide updates on items previously submitted by Commissioners regarding the maintenance and upkeep of city parks and public grounds. Commissioners may also notify staff about additional areas of opportunity for improvement. No action will be taken during the meeting on any items presented as part of this agenda item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None

ATTACHMENTS:



**RECREATION AND PUBLIC
GROUNDS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION**

**Business Item V.A
Election of Officers**

To: Recreation and Public Grounds Commission Members
From: Tricia Kramer, Community & Recreation Services Director
Meeting Date: 4/9/2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Nominations will be heard for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Recreation and Public Grounds Commission for the 2026/2027 term.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:



**RECREATION AND PUBLIC
GROUNDS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION**

**Business Item V.B
Approval of Minutes**

To: Recreation and Public Grounds Commission Members
From: Tricia Kramer, Community and Recreation Services Director
Meeting Date: 4/9/2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
MOVE TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 12, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None

ATTACHMENTS:
1. 021226 REG Minutes - Draft TK

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was held in the Library Community Room and called to order by Chairperson Taddei at 7:01 p.m. A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Present: Chairperson Anthony Taddei, Vice Chairperson Andrea Phillips, Commissioner Brian Culbreth, Commissioner Brian Faith, Commissioner Christoph Gerz, Commissioner Krysten Giordano, Commissioner Adam Schwartz, Council Member Justin James (ZOOM)

Staff: Tricia Kramer, Community and Recreation Services Director; Pat McCoy, Sports Coordinator, Melvyn Lopez, Maintenance and Irrigation Technician Supervisor

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Taddei.

III. Call to the Community

Resident Sonny Culbreth spoke about his desire for the current library to become a community center once the new library opens. He encouraged the Commissioners to speak with fellow residents about what they would like to see offered. He believes it could become a nice multipurpose facility with activities for seniors, after-school programs for kids and teens, and rentable meeting space. Mr. Culbreth heard the Preschool may move from the Rec Center to the new community center. He does not believe the Preschool should move because the space is not adequate, and it will limit what other activities can happen in the building.

IV. Staff Report

A. Community and Recreation Services Monthly Report

Ms. Kramer reviewed her written report. Sports Coordinator Pat McCoy provided registration updates for the Spring Sports Season. He also shared that 565 participants are already signed up for the February 28th Litchfield Park Run.

B. Opportunities for Improvement

Ms. Kramer introduced Melvyn Lopez, the Maintenance and Irrigation Technician Supervisor for the city's Public Works Department. He provided updates on repairs to the play structures, picnic tables, and sign posts that were made at Little Park. These repairs were done after Commissioner Faith notified Staff about them. Mr. Lopez also responded to Commissioner Gerz's inquiry about the gophers at Scout Park. Mr. Lopez stated that Public Works has been using traps, but they are considering using smoke like some of the golf courses. Finally, Ms. Kramer told the Commissioners that a new 311 app (Engage LP) will be available for residents to report concerns starting February 18th.

Suggestions for other opportunities for improvement:

- Vice Chair Phillips - replacing park benches
- Commissioner Giordano - address speeding along Old Litchfield Rd; look into permanent school zone signage.
- Commissioner Culbreth - evaluate drinking fountains at all of our parks and the Rec Center

V. Business

A. Approval of Minutes

APPROVED

MOVE TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

MOVER Commissioner Culbreth, **SECONDER** Commissioner Gerz

AYE: Chairperson Taddei, Vice Chairperson Phillip, Commissioner Culbreth, Commissioner Faith, Commissioner Gerz, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Giordano

7 - 0 - 0 Passed

B. Cancellation of March RPG Meeting

APPROVED

Chairperson Taddei proposed that the March meeting be canceled. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend the State of the City presentation and participate in the Orange Tree Painting.

MOVE TO CANCEL THE MARCH 12, 2026, REGULAR RPG MEETING

MOVER Commissioner Schwartz, **SECONDER** Commissioner Gerz

AYE: Chairperson Taddei, Vice Chairperson Phillip, Commissioner Culbreth, Commissioner Faith, Commissioner Gerz, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Giordano

7 - 0 - 0 Passed

C. 2026 Orange Tree Painting Event

APPROVED

Ms. Kramer let the Commissioners know that the event information has been posted on the city's website and social media platforms. Emails were sent out to past volunteers. Potential sponsors still need to be approached to help offset the costs of the t-shirts, refreshments, and painting supplies. Commissioner Faith asked for brushes with better bristles for the bark scraping as well as better painting brushes. Melvyn and Chairperson Taddei will get together to review the supply inventory and purchase anything else needed. We will re-evaluate whether Sunday volunteers are still necessary after this year's event. Finally, the Commissioners selected the t-shirt design and color.

MOVE TO USE THE ORIGINAL DESIGN WITH AN UPDATED YEAR ON THE T-SHIRT

MOVER Vice Chairperson Phillip, **SECONDER** Commissioner Schwartz

AYE: Chairperson Taddei, Vice Chairperson Phillip, Commissioner Culbreth, Commissioner Faith, Commissioner Gerz, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Giordano

7 - 0 - 0 Passed

D. Yard of the Quarter Program**DISCUSSED**

Ms. Kramer informed the Commissioners that a resident nomination was received online after the Commission's first quarter selection was made. Discussion was held. The Commissioners decided to consider the resident's nomination next quarter. Further discussion was held about possibly changing the name from Yard of the Quarter to something else. The Commissioners agreed to come to the April meeting with name suggestions.

VI. Commissioners Report on Current Events

Commissioner Giordano shared that she has been walking at night and the lights around the lake are really nice.

Commissioner Faith thanked Public Works for their prompt and well-done response to his concerns about Little Park.

Commissioner Schwartz said this time of year with all of the events and activities going on is validation for why he lives in Litchfield Park.

Commissioner Gerz observed that the weather has skipped right from fall to spring.

Vice Chair Phillips appreciates the new signs by the dog poop collection bags.

Chairperson Taddei is grateful to be back in the meetings with all the Commissioners. He enjoys the events and thinks the city looks great.

Councilmember James reported on the progress of various items being considered by Council including: names for the new library and park at the Hilltop; development at the city center; the scheduled opening of the library and the high school; planned roundabouts near the Hilltop; Camelback Park improvements; and upcoming elections.

VII. Topics for Referral to City Council

None

VIII. Adjournment

APPROVED:

Anthony Taddei, Chair

CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Kramer, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Public Grounds Commission of the City of Litchfield Park held on Thursday, February 12, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Tricia Kramer, Staff Liaison



**RECREATION AND PUBLIC
GROUNDS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION**

**Business Item V.C
2026 Orange Tree Painting Event**

To: Recreation and Public Grounds Commission Members
From: Tricia Kramer, Community and Recreation Services Director
Meeting Date: 4/9/2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:
The RPG Commission's annual orange tree painting event was held on March 14 & 15, 2026. A post-event debrief will take place.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None

ATTACHMENTS:



**RECREATION AND PUBLIC
GROUNDS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION**

**Business Item V.D
Yard of the Quarter Program**

To: Recreation and Public Grounds Commission Members
From: Anthony Taddei, RPG Chair
Meeting Date: 4/9/2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Commissioners will decide whether to rename Yard of the Quarter or keep it the same moving forward.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS: