



City of Prescott

City Council - Study Session

August 25, 2026 | 2:00 PM
201 N Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 1st Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rusing called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Cathey Rusing - Mayor
Lois Fruhwirth - Mayor Pro Tem
Mary Frederickson - Councilwoman
Ted Gambogi - Councilman
Jim Garing - Councilman
Patrick Grady - Councilman
Jay Ruby - Councilman

3. DISCUSSION

- A. Presentation & Discussion Regarding a Reconsideration of the West Granite Creek Park Conceptual Parking Design.

Recreation Services Director Kristy Diaz-Trahan provided a presentation to the Council regarding an update on the West Granite Creek Park conceptual design as a review and an alternative for what was already approved by the Council previously. She reviewed the previously approved plan for parking at the park, and additionally proposed additional parking rather than a drop-off zone. The community group prefers to keep the drop-off area as public space rather than parking. Ms. Diaz-Trahan reviewed the attachments included in the packet: 1) Exhibit B is the plan as approved by the Council in November; 2) Exhibit C is the revised plan which would add additional parking. She added that the community group has an alternative proposal they would like the Council to consider which preserves more open space and provide for four additional parking spots rather than eight.

Mayor Rusing stated that she remembers when the park was a bad crime-ridden area and that this is proof of the benefit of what the city and community can do. She reiterated the importance of ADA Parking and accessible paths for mothers and others that need them, especially at the location rather than across the street. Additionally, she stated that she supports Exhibit C to make it usable and still meet what everyone wants.

Councilman Gambogi commented that he has struggled with this area. He asked about costs for the approved option versus what she is proposing today. He feels that parking is an issue and so anything that can be done to improve it would be

beneficial.

Ms. Diaz-Trahan stated that she believes there is just shy of \$500,000 budgeted which would cover everything for what is approved, and Exhibit C will be about the same.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth added that she recalls the funding that was originally used for the park was federal pass-through dollars with strings attached, and parking as well as the issues with camping in the area which could pose a problem. She also asked for additional signage in the area to direct people where to go and park. It is important to honor the funding.

City Attorney Joseph Young commented that there was funding in the early 2020's for the trail that he believes the city is compliant with. He doesn't recall seeing anything that would preclude parking.

Councilman Ruby asked for clarification that there are three proposals. He stated that this park has become one of the "shiny objects" in the community. From his perspective, there is plenty of parking and he encouraged the Hilton Garden Inn to be a good neighbor and let people park there.

Ms. Diaz-Trahan confirmed and reviewed each of the options.

Councilman Grady expressed his concern that we are going to a lot of effort to destroy preservation work that everyone was behind for a few additional parking spots. He echoed Councilman Ruby's comments about parking in the area.

Councilman Garing stated that the city should find out what Sam Hill would be willing to do for them.

Ms. Diaz-Trahan stated that the APS parking area is beyond where the Sam Hill parking is. She added that the critical point is when there is an event, the hotel is sold out, and it is summertime when families are trying to go to the park.

City Clerk Sarah Thornhill advised of the time remaining before the Voting Meeting and suggested that Council take public comment and then provide direction to staff regarding how they would like to proceed.

Member of the public Colleen McHorney addressed the Council in support of the proposed alternative option from the community which she handed out to the Council. She commented that currently there are 111 existing spots in the area and an ADA spot could be placed at the gate. Also, she indicated that the only costs associated with the community proposal, which she named Exhibit D, would only be "lines and signs".

Member of the public Eric Moore addressed the Council regarding his support of the alternative option provided by the community. He believes there are a lot of solutions that exist which will be less impactful to this area, and he referenced a July 2000 Resolution related to the West Granite Creek Park Master Plan expressing his frustration that it is still being debated.

Member of the public Laurel Freeman addressed the Council regarding how much screens are negatively impacting young people, and being outdoors in this area is much more beneficial. She encouraged the Council to visit the area, and see there is enough paving already.

Member of the public Caroline Williams addressed the Council in favor of the linear parking in the park, and stated that it is the ideal option as a mother. She added that she hasn't had any issues with finding parking in the area, and she is thankful to have natural space and doesn't want to see any disturbed.

Member of the public James Knaup addressed the Council as a regular user of the park. There are many people who use the space year round and don't need additional parking. If you consider West Granite Creek Park as an extension of the splash pad, there is adequate parking. He also expressed his support for connecting the trail systems and the downtown greenway.

Member of the public David Fero addressed the Council as a member of the Over the Hill Gang who has worked in Granite Creek Park on a variety of projects over the years. He encouraged the Council to keep cars out of the area for pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Member of the public Erica Ryberg addressed the Council as a mom who uses the park and splash pad, this is a wonderful area but it needs accessibility and that isn't just signage. That isn't a three-minute walk when you have several children or a lot of items, there are mothers that aren't using the splash pad because it doesn't feel safe to get to and that upsets her.

Mayor Rusing asked for staff to put together a schematic for the community-driven alternative. She also asked about the number of crosswalks existing in proposed Exhibit C.

Ms. Diaz-Trahan reviewed the proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that she would like to see a clearer visual of Exhibit C and the community option in order to have a clearer idea. She reiterated that no matter which alternative is selected, there will be money expended. Finally, she discussed the importance of making sure that this project is handled by the spring so it isn't an issue next summer.

Councilman Grady commented that he would be in support of the neighborhood proposal if he could see that more clearly.

Councilwoman Frederickson stated that, as the wife of someone with mobility issues, she recognizes that a three-minute walk for an agile person is not the same for everyone. She would like to have Option C and the community alternative come back to Council.

Councilman Ruby would like to see each option more detailed.

Councilman Gambogi commented that aesthetics are less important to him than safety and accessibility. He feels it is important to study this further, but he supports Option C as presented by staff.

Councilman Ruby stated that the emails received by the Council were 40-1 to preserve the park, and that if the Council is going to discuss safety and accessibility they need to focus on areas in the community where it is needed more.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Rusing adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Cathey Rusing

CATHEY RUSING, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah M. Thornhill

SARAH M. THORNHILL, City Clerk



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Voting Meeting of the City Council Voting Meeting of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on August 25, 2026. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sarah M. Thornhill

Sarah M. Thornhill, City Clerk