



Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



MINUTES
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS
June 18, 2026

Meeting location: Arizona State Parks and Trails, 1110 W Washington St., Suite #100, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007

Members present: John Sefton, Dale Larsen, Sarah King

Members participating telephonically: Robyn Sahid, Terri Palmberg

Members absent:

ASPT Staff Present: Bob Broscheid, Sarah Webber, Pamela Cason, Woody Gresko, Kevin Brock, Mark Weise, Brittany Hudson, Cora Winans, Tom Kmetz,

Arizona AG Office: Wesley Gerard, Laurie Hachtel, Arizona State Parks Board attorney

YouTube live stream: https://youtube.com/live/44Ti3c5_6jI?feature=share.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sefton of the Arizona State Parks Board called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member Sarah King led Board members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. MEMBER ROLL CALL AND MISSION STATEMENT

Pamela Cason did the role call and all members were present.

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration of Action to Approve Minutes of the April 16, 2026, Board Meeting.

The Board approved the Board meeting minutes from April 16, 2026. Vice Chair Dale Larsen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from April 16, 2026. Member Terri Palmberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Legislative Update. (Presenter: Brittany Hudson, Legislative Liaison)

The Board was briefed on the 2026 Arizona State Legislative session. This agenda item is for information only.

3. FY27 Budget Highlights and Financial Overview (Presenter Kevin Brock, Chief Financial Officer) This agenda item is for information only.

Current SPURF Cash Balance: \$30.3 Million.

An \$8.6 million budget sweep from SPURF to the State General Fund was



Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



implemented. This is the first sweep of this fund since its creation post-2008 recession.

\$10 million was reinstated/extended until 2028 for the development of Veterans Memorial State Park.

New Appropriations: \$541,000 for wastewater projects, \$242,000 for broadband projects, and \$3,552,200 for major maintenance.

The operating state park revenue fund received a \$1 million increase to support 11 new Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs).

12-month data following the Feb 2025 fee increase showed an operating revenue of \$27.2 million (a 22% or \$5 million increase), slightly below the 25% target.

Overall visitation dropped 11%, tracking with national outdoor recreation trends.

A newly introduced \$20 cancellation fee successfully altered user behavior; slashing park cancellations by over 50% (from 45,000 down to roughly 20,000).

The board members noted that because of the budget sweep, there will be no new capital plans or projects submitted to the DOA, effectively stalling development priorities and prioritizing catastrophic maintenance over new infrastructure.

4. Picket Post Update. (Presenter: Kevin Brock, Chief Financial Officer)

The Board reviewed a proposal for a direct property sale of the unutilized 30-acre historical Picket Post parcel (including the 6,400 sq. ft. mansion) to the adjacent Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Two specialized independent appraisals valued the property at \$690,000 and \$968,000 (accounting for hazardous waste remediation factors).

Kim Gray outlined the Arboretum's board-approved intent to invest \$20 to \$30 million to historically restore the property, introduce native plant research facilities, and open it for public tours. The Town of Superior and its mayor actively support the vision.

Member Sarah King moved that the board approve the sale of the Picket Post House to Boyce Thompson Arboretum for no less than \$690,000, subject to the statutory requirements of ARS 41-511.054 and ARS 37-83. Seconded by Dale Larson. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.



Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



5. Strategic Plan 2026-27 Overview (Presenter: Cora Winans, Director of Human Resource)

Five-Year Outcomes (Targets through FY 2029):

Trail Expansion: Achieved 35.7 miles of non-motorized trail development in FY26, bringing the current running total to 103 miles out of a 200-mile goal.

Deferred Maintenance: Completed 8 out of 12 targeted projects as of Q3 FY26 (including the Fool Hollow water lines project).

Visitor Growth: Surpassed expectations by driving a 43% increase in family campout participation (beating the 15% target). Target set for 200 families in FY27.

Employee Index: Shifted employee engagement metrics upwards from 73% (2025) to 76% in FY26. Collected 43 internal innovative idea submissions via the Innovation Hub.

6. IT Updates. (Presenter: David Gilbert, Chief Information Officer)

Cyber Security: Lifted the state agency's cyber security compliance stance from 61% to 76% (targeting 85% compliance under Department of Homeland Security metrics).

Broadband Rollout: Progressing park connections via ASZNet. State parks central office, Dead Horse, Kartchner Caverns, Lost Dutchman, and Patagonia are updated; Lake Havasu is slated to go live with broadband within 30 days.

Infrastructure Strategy: Transitioning failing/outdated terrestrial landlines to modern wireless solutions (Verizon) to mitigate weather outages.

7. Visitor Survey. (Presenter: Michelle Thompson, Deputy Assistant Director)

Survey Metrics: Compiled 10,693 comprehensive surveys during the calendar year 2025 via AmeriCorps interns.

Completion Methods: 70% in-person, 22% email, 8% QR code.

Demographics: 59% Arizona residents, 34% out-of-state, 3% international (led by Canadians). Visitors skew highly educated (predominantly holding Bachelor's and Master's degrees) and affluent.

Key Insight: Disproved assumptions about generational tech preferences—the 65+ age demographic reported the highest reliance/importance on digital services



Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



(emergency calling/streaming) while in the parks, though all demographics emphasize a desire to "disconnect."

Satisfaction: The vast majority rated their overall state parks experience as "Excellent" or "Good."

8. 2025 Economic Impact Study Presentation (Presenter: Dari Duval, University of Arizona)

State park visitors generated \$355 million in spending within a 50-mile radius of the parks during 2025. \$308 million of this total was driven by non-local visitors.

Total economic output/contribution (accounting for multiplier ripple effects) reached \$555 million in sales, translating to \$273 million in State GDP and supporting roughly 3,000 jobs.

The parks generated \$18 million in state tax revenue and \$14 million in local/county tax revenue, reinforcing the agency's narrative of fueling the economy without requiring state taxpayer funds.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members may identify items or issues they wish to be considered for inclusion on a future agenda.

There were no items.

F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

The Executive Director may present a summary of current events and /or recent experiences of interest to the outdoor recreation community and/or the status of any projects with which they may be involved. The Board will not discuss or take any action on any current event summary.

Terrain Hopper Launch: *Officially debuted the off-road mobility vehicle program at Rockin' River Ranch on May 1st to support ADA accessibility. The program will roll out next to Oracle and Lake Havasu state parks this summer. Special thanks were given to staff member Jeff for mapping the trails.*

Great Outdoors Month: *Celebrated in June; Deputy Chief of Staff Larry Sandigo traveled to Fool Hollow State Recreation Area to issue the official Governor's proclamation.*



Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



America 250: Engaging nearly 2,900 current participants in hiking, birding, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) milestone challenges.

Washington D.C. Mall Representation: Staff members Shannon (Riordan Mansion) and Curtis (Tombstone Courthouse) were selected to represent Arizona State Parks at the Great American State Fair on the National Mall around July 4th.

G. CURRENT EVENTS

Board members may present a summary of current events and /or recent experiences of interest to the outdoor recreation community and/or the status of any projects with which they may be involved. The Board will not discuss or take any action on any current event summary.

H. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The Chair will recognize those wishing to address the Board. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken because of acknowledgement of comments and suggestions from the public will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

I. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Arizona State Parks Board Tentative 2026 Meeting Schedule	
Date	Location
Thursday, September 17, 2026	Rockin River Ranch State Park
Thursday, December 17, 2026	Central Office

J. ADJOURNMENT: *The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.*