



TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (TPRC)
2021 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

January 27, 2021

- The meeting minutes for December 16, 2021 were approved.
- Call to the Audience: Various constituents spoke concerning Reid Park and the Reid Park Zoo.
- Discussion was held on the following topics:
 - Public Comment Process (master plans, expansions, etc...)
An overlay of information from the department and the Reid Park Zoo regarding processes was provided.
 - Recreation Assets- Department Policy Recognizing Value of Natural Resources
Vice Chair Kroesen provided information concerning conservation and development of park space. Director, Lara Hamwey said that the department does not have a specific policy to this affect. It was requested that the item be carried forth to the next meeting. She plans to gather information for further discussion.
 - Mayor and Council Agenda Items
A budget workshop was held in December. A second budget workshop is scheduled for January 28, 2021. The focus of discussion will be fiscal year 2022. The department submitted its accomplishments for the previous fiscal year and its recommendations for budget considerations for supplementals.
 - Reports & Announcements: Commissioners, Staff, and Director
An update on the IGA with Catalina High School was provided. The item may be put on a Mayor and Council meeting in March for approval. Currently, the shared property near Catalina High School will be closed due to COVID.
Deputy Director, Greg Jackson provided an update on capital projects.
The department hired a Project Manager, Owen Long. He began on January 25, 2021. This opened the capacity to get 3 or 4 Phase II projects activated.
 - Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

February 24, 2021

- No meeting due to absence of quorum.

March 24, 2021

- The meeting minutes for January 27, 2021 were approved.
- Call to the Audience: Various constituents spoke concerning the city tennis management contract #081067.
A constituent expressed gratitude to the commission and support of the agenda #4 Recreation Assets- Department Recognizing Value of Natural Resources.
Nancy Kluge, Reid Park Zoo CEO & President provided zoo updates.
- Discussion was held on the following topics:
 - Recreation Assets- Department Policy Recognizing Value of Natural Resources
This item was carried over from the January 27, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Kroesen asked if the department has an explicit policy or work plan that addresses the importance of wildlife and natural resources in parks. Director, Hamwey explained that the department does not have anything about percentage or allocation of spaces within parks towards that end. Through Prop 407, the department is doing a lot of updating of masterplans specific to each park that is going to be benefitting from a Prop 407 investment. The Iron Horse Park Master Plan in process involved a lot of community engagement and understanding the neighborhood's priorities. There is a wash that goes through the park. The park had to be designed around the wash and to make sure that the wash and its natural features were a part of the accents of the park itself. There is a lot of momentum towards natural designs or techniques being enveloped within parks. In addition, the department and Tucson Clean and Beautiful collaborate on Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) grant opportunities that may allow to set up parks that will lend towards having more natural resource areas incorporated.

- Playground shade standards
The department is developing a standard for shading playgrounds to ensure the best use of resources to meet the needs of citizens. Information on the process and a viewing of the draft standard for shade structures over playgrounds.
- Commissioner Lucy Porter- Attendance removal
The board was informed of Commissioner Porter's removal from the commission. The removal is due to the number of absences for meetings held in 2020.
- Mayor and Council agenda items
Information was provided on the IGA with Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) for joint use of certain amenities at Catalina High School. The IGA is an update to an existing IGA. The updates will be more reflective of actual uses of shared spaces and clarifying maintenance language. The item will be placed on the agenda for the April 6, 2021, Mayor and Council meeting.
- Reports / Announcements: Commissioners, Staff, and Director
An update on capital improvement projects was provided.
- Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

April 28, 2021

- The meeting minutes for March 24, 2021 were approved.
- Call to the Audience: Constituents spoke on the following the following topics: Tennis Management Contract; Reid Park; Reid Park Zoo; Lap swim age limitations and sports (soccer) fields use and allocation.
- Discussion was held on the following topics:
 - Role of Parks & Recreation Commission
The City Clerk's office was invited to participate in the meeting as staff thought it would be a valuable reminder and introduction of information. The City Clerk's staff were not able to attend but will attend the meeting in May. The item was moved to the next park commission meeting.
 - Tennis Management Contract (A copy of the contract was provided in the meeting packets)
The tennis contract is up for renewal. The history and details of the contract was provided. Staff provided information on the status of the contract as well.
 - Tucson Parks & Recreation Commission Awards
Background information and dates for the previous program in 2019 was provided. The current process may involve a new online form for nomination submittals. A draft of the online form was shared with the board. Commissioners provided feedback including dates suggestions for nomination submittals. It was recommended that staff bring recommendations for a timeline to the next commission meeting in May.
 - IGA TUSD for Joint Use of Certain Amenities at Catalina High School (A copy of the IGA was provided in the meeting packets)
The IGA was amended for clarification of maintenance and operating responsibilities. The details of the previous and current IGA was shared. A footprint of Catalina High School with joint and non-joint use areas was shared as well.
 - Mayor and Council Agenda Items
A Reid Park Zoo community recommendation discussion will be held on the May 4, Study Session. The IGA with Pima County for Cooperative Development and Management of Trails at John F. Kennedy Park which will allow for connectivity of trails between Kennedy Park and Tucson Mountain Park for shared use and improvement agreement of the parking lot in Kennedy Park will be on a future agenda.
 - Reports and Announcements: Commissioners, Staff, Director
Commissioner Kroesen reported that 50 trees will be planted in Lincoln Regional Park on April 30, 2021. Deputy Director, Hayes added that 15 trees were added to Mansfield Park on May 24, 2021. An update on capital improvement projects was provided. It was also mentioned that new marquis signs have been installed at Broadway Blvd and 22nd Street. This project is a shared agreement between the University of Arizona, Reid Park Zoo and the department. A news release will be published on April 29, 2021 for the opening of ramada reservations for any size ramada for groups of under 75 people. The 2nd Annual Sonoran Desert Rain Garden Memorial with a planting and dedication activity took place on April 29, 2021.
 - Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: May 26, 2021

May 26, 2021

- The meeting minutes for March 24, 2021 were approved.
- Call to the Audience: No one spoke.

- Discussion was held on the following topics:
 - Iron Horse Master Plan
Designer, Andre Rioux of Wheat Design Group, Inc. provided a PowerPoint presentation which included the development and process of the master plan. Mr. Rioux also explained the proposal details for the master plan.
Motion was made by Commissioner Poe, duly second by Commissioner McArdle to move the master plan forward to Mayor and Council for their adoption. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. (Commissioner Coffman and Serrano were absent. There is no representation for the Mayor's division.)
 - Tucson Parks & Recreation Commission Awards (Action Item)
Staff recommendations for the program timelines was provided.
Motion was made by Chair Kroesen, duly second by Commissioner Poe to approve a timeline for the process to begin in September and for presentations to take place in the spring.
 - Lap Swimming Age Limitations
Commissioner Poe requested the item due to a constituent concern that was expressed during call to the audience at the previous meeting. It was asked the department and commission consider removing the age limitation for lap swim and to allow for all swimmers that are capable of lap swimming to be able to lap swim at all department facilities. Director, Hamwey referenced the 2014 aquatic manual and recited rules. She also shared information and various concerns with different age group comingling. The department will provide recommendations for the lap swim program and will engage the public on those recommendations prior to coming back to the board with the information.
 - Field Use & Allocation
This item was brought forward at the request of constituents that shared concerns during call to the audience at the previous meeting. Constituents reported concerns regarding the lack of field availability. Staff provided a PowerPoint presentation to explain the department's field allocation process. A viewing of a Master Schedule for field reservation was shared as well. The board and staff agreed that there are modifications that can be made to the process. The department will work on an approach to do so.
 - Reid Park/Zoo Update
Director, Hamwey reported that Mayor and Council has given direction to proceed with a north and west expansion for the zoo. The department is working with the zoo to figure out different layouts that will work and meet Mayor and Council recommendations. To follow, staff will launch a Reid Park Master Plan. Deputy Director, Jackson has submitted the scope of work to procurement and plans to engage a firm.
 - Mayor and Council Agenda Items
The Ironhorse Park Master Plan will be placed on a Mayor and Council agenda for a meeting in July.
 - Reports and Announcements: Commissioners, Staff, Director
The department opened registration for indoor classes on May 21, 2021. Some recreation centers will reopen for limited use in mid-June. Centers will be open only weight room and walking track use. Senior activities are on-going.
A Santa Rita Park Master Plan event will take place at the park on June 5, 2021 and a virtual meeting on June 9, 2021.
 - Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: June 23, 2021

June 23, 2021

- A June meeting was not held as the BCC did not receive the agenda in the required time frame.

September 22, 2021

- Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2021 and May 26, 2021 were approved.
- Call to the Audience: A constituent spoke regarding various matters concerning the Anza Dog Park and the 6th Avenue Dog Park.
- Discussion was held on the following topics:
 - TPRD Policy on Turf Reduction
Commissioner Kroesen asked if there is an explicit TPRD policy on turf reduction in parks and is there a goal for how much turf to remove by a particular date. It was explained that the department does not have anything in writing. The City put together a landscape management program for shrub and landscape areas. Turf reduction is done on a park-by-park basis. The improvement project at several parks with turf reduction items were referenced.

The department is working with Tucson Water and the Landscape Advisory Committee to put verbiage together for turf practices. The department is replacing old irrigation controllers with new weather irrigation controllers which automatically adjust to weather conditions making it easier to manage water while cutting water use.

- Reports, Commissioner, Staff and Director
Various events were mentioned.

An update on the mowing contract was provided. Staff asked the commission to select a board member to serve on the committee for the contract. A tennis contract will be done in April, and the commission will be included on this committee selection as well. It was decided that Commissioner Poe will serve on the mowing contract committee, and Vice Chair Kroesen will serve as a non-voting member.

- Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: October 27, 2021

October 27, 2021

- The meeting minutes for September 22, 2021 were approved.
- Call to the Audience: Constituents spoke regarding the Reid Park Zoo and the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) parking lot. A constituent spoke regarding the gravel in dog parks.
- Discussion was held on the following topics:
 - Parks and Connections Update
The program manager of the Prop 407 Parks + Connections Bond program Jasmine Chan provided a presentation on the program and an overview of the expenditures.
Deputy Director, Greg Jackson shared information regarding community engagement and public participation opportunities.
 - Oury Center Renaming (Item was discussed out of order and before Item4. Parks and Connections Update)
There was a recommendation to rename Oury Center, and as it began traveling forward there was some of the community around Oury that were not in agreement. Since joining the department, Ms. Hamwey has not heard of any renaming topics that have come up. Ms. Hamwey has an upcoming ward office meeting and will have this on the agenda to find out if this is something that will be pursued.
 - Zoo Expansion Update
A viewing of the expansion concept was shared with the board. Meetings will be arranged with various groups that have expressed concerns. Staff are in the RFQ (request for quotation) and review process with different firms to commence with the Reid Park Master plan. The department is approximately 30 days away from awarding a design firm. Then it will begin with the redesigning of the zoo portion and
 - Reports, Commissioner, Staff and Director
 - Commissioner Poe reported there is a “workday” on November 13, 2021. The activity is taking place at the Seneca St. Basins and Neighborhood Park. The area was bult by the Flood Control District. The neighborhood is doing the maintenance around the area because of the floods and heavy monsoons that happened this year. Mr. Poe invited the committee and staff to participate in the activity.
Director, Hamwey advised the board that the department is currently trying to go through estimations of the impacts from the city vaccine mandate. The department is working through of what operations could be should we lose varying degrees of staff. The impacts could involve reduced hours of access and pivoting staff into different roles.
Ms. Hamwey provided information on the annual budget. A budget worksheet will be sent to the board. It will be used as a tool to provide feedback on what the committee thinks are priorities.
 - Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: November 24, 2021

November 24, 2021

- The meeting was canceled due to absence of quorum.

December 22, 2021

- The meeting was canceled due to absence of quorum.

Respectfully,



Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission