



2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission

2021 Annual Report

January 25, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** - Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark extended a warm welcome to the new Parks and Recreation Director, the new Commission Member, and the new Project Manager for the Department of Transportation & Mobility to the 2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission. Everyone introduced themselves and expressed their excitement on joining the Commission. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - **Parks and Recreation Director – Lara Hamwey**
 - **Ward 1 Commission Member – Ernesto Somoza**
 - **Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Manager – Collin Chesston**
3. **Video Conferencing Guidelines for Use and Rules for Public Meetings** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan presented and discussed information on the guidelines and rules for video conferencing and virtual public meetings. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
4. **Approval of November 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Frank Flasch made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 9, 2020. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion, and the minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 9-0.
5. **Approval of November 19, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Nicole Fyffe made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes from November 19, 2020. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion, and the minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 9-0.
6. **Call to the Audience** – Five members of the public addressed the Commission. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
7. **Program Update** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan gave a program update and said there has been steady progress on many large Parks projects as well as upcoming bicycle boulevards. Ms. Chan introduced a few new projects managers that will be assisting with the Parks + Connections projects within Prop 407. She mentioned that different methods of public engagement have been useful in shaping the projects. Ms. Chan also provided updated program financial information through January 19, 2021. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - a. **Program Update**
 - b. **Financial Report**
8. **Project Updates**
 - a. **Parks** – Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Greg Jackson gave updated information on several Parks projects. He mentioned that with the new project manager that was hired, all Parks projects in Phase 1 have been assigned as well as a few Parks projects from Phase 2. Mr. Jackson also provided a link to the Parks and Recreation Flickr account (photo-sharing platform), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tucsonpics/albums/with/72157717106242808>, which contains before and after photos of completed projects. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - b. **Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Manager Ryan Fagan presented and discussed updated information on Phase 1A and 1B Connections projects as well as projects that have been advanced from future phases. Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Manager Collin Chesston presented and discussed information on a few projects that he will be managing. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
9. **Project Changes** – Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Greg Jackson provided information and discussed proposed project changes on a few Phase 1 Parks projects. He mentioned two scenarios that could trigger changing a project.

a. Stefan Gollob Field Lighting – Mr. Jackson recommended that the Stefan Gollob Park field lighting project be moved to Ft. Lowell Park because the Stefan Gollob Park was built on a landfill and some of the current light poles are sinking. Mr. Jackson pointed out that if commission members approve the change, then Mayor and Council would have to approve it as well. Discussion was held.

Commission member Frank Flasch made a motion to move the field lighting project from Stefan Gollob Park to Ft. Lowell Park. Commission member Nicole Fyffe seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by a roll call vote of 9-0.

b. Mission Manor Park Pool – Mr. Jackson provided information on a potential change to the new splashpad and pool renovations at Mission Manor Park. He mentioned a community member suggested doing away with the pool and building a larger splashpad. Mr. Jackson said there would be more community outreach and he would provide a recommendation to the commission members once the engagement process was complete. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

c. Cherry Avenue Park – After conducting a virtual community workshop as well as online and intercept surveys and input and concerns from neighborhood leaders and neighboring residents, Mr. Jackson recommended building a walking path, a dog park, a shade over the basketball court, painting the fence, and building the new restroom in a future phase. He mentioned a recreation center nearby where public restrooms could be utilized. Discussion was held.

Commission member Nicole Fyffe made a motion to build the walking path, the dog park, the shade over the basketball court, to paint the fence, and build the restroom in a future phase but also have signage directing community members to the public restrooms at the recreation center nearby. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by a roll call vote of 9-0.

10. Advancing Project (s)

a. Anza Park – Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Greg Jackson talked about Anza Park which is a Phase 3 project that includes renovating the restrooms. He said a new master plan was created to bring more activity to the park that included a dog park, ramadas and changing the location of the restrooms. There were three neighborhood meetings as well as some stakeholder meetings where the master plan was approved. He said impact fees would be used to build the dog park. Mr. Jackson asked to change the location of the restrooms at Anza Park and advance the project from Phase 3 to Phase 1 which would also include building the dog park at the same time. Discussion was held.

Commission member Frank Flasch made a motion to change the location of the restrooms at Anza Park and advance the project from Phase 3 to Phase 1 and have them built at the same time the dog park will be built. Commission member Nicole Fyffe seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by a roll call of vote of 9-0.

11. Next Steps – Discussion was held. No action was taken.

a. Next Meeting and 2021 Meeting Schedule (Tentative) – Commission member Dr. Ron Spark pointed out the next tentative meeting dates.

- Mar 15
- May 17
- Aug 16
- Nov 15

b. Agenda Items for Future Meetings – Commission member Dr. Ron Spark suggested an enumeration of what the situation is within the parks are as far as the sites and activities are regarding dog parks. Dr. Spark also suggested an update on the shade structure standard. Commission member Krista Romero-Cardenas suggested an update on the Reid Park Zoo expansion; Commission member Frank Flasch agreed.

c. Commissioner / Staff Announcements – Commission member Frank Flasch said the tennis courts at Ft. Lowell Park were being utilized more and more since they had been renovated. He complimented Greg Jackson and his team on the renovations. Commission member Dr. Ron Spark complimented staff on providing more information on the Parks and Recreation website. He also mentioned the vacant position on the Commission. Dr. Spark informed everyone that Commission member Willie Blake was absent due to health issues.

12. Adjournment – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

March 15, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call.

2. **Approval of January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Kathy Kretschmer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021. Commission member Nicole Fyffe seconded the motion, and the minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 8-0.
3. **Call to the Audience** – No members of the public wished to address the commission.
4. **Urban Forestry and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Programs Update** – Tucson Water’s Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program Coordinator Blue Baldwin talked about the source for the Green Stormwater Infrastructure program and the three primary goals for the fund. The deadline for this fund is June 2023. Nicole Gillett, City of Tucson Urban Forestry Program Manager, gave an overview of her position and the goals of the Mayor’s One Million Trees initiative. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
5. **Program Update** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan gave a program update and shared with the commission the most recent Tucson Delivers E-Newsletter. Ms. Chan also provided updated program financial information through March 9, 2021. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - **Tucson Delivers E-Newsletter**
 - **Program Update**
 - **Financial Report**
6. **Project Updates**
 - a. **Parks** – Parks & Recreation Management Coordinator in Capitol Planning Iliana Gonzales gave updated information in Greg Jackson’s place on several Parks projects and their progress. She shared that with the new project manager, Owen Long, all Parks projects in Phase 1 have been assigned. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - i. **Shade structure guidelines update** – There were no updates to the shade structure guidelines.
 - ii. **Cherry Avenue Park Bathroom** – Ms. Gonzales also discussed the Cherry Avenue Park bathroom. She shared that it is part of a future phase and is not a Prop 407 project, so when funding becomes available the bathroom will be considered.
 - b. **Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Managers Ryan Fagan and Collin Chesston presented information on updated pavement work for bicycle boulevards. They also discussed updated information on the status of Phase 1A and 1B Connections projects as well as projects that have been advanced from future phases. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
7. **Project Changes** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Manager Collin Chesston provided information and discussed proposed project changes on the alignment of the El Paso & Southwestern Greenway. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - a. **El Paso & Southwestern Greenway**
8. **Advancing Project (s)**
 - a. **Francisco Elias Esquer Park** – Parks & Recreation Management Coordinator in Capitol Planning Iliana Gonzales discussed the advancement of the Francisco Elias Esquer park project from Phase 3 into Phase 1. Since additional funding for the park is being provided through a HUD Grant it needs to be used by the fall of 2021. She shared that one of the highest priorities for this park was a potential dog park. Discussion was held.

Commission member Krista Romero-Cardenas made a motion to advance the Francisco Elias Esquer park from Phase 3 to Phase. Commission member Nicole Fyffe seconded, and the motion passed by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Although Commission member John Anderson was unable to attend due to technical difficulties, he did express his agreement on advancing the Francisco Elias Esquer park project from Phase 3 to Phase 1.
9. **Next Steps** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark pointed out the next tentative meeting dates.
 - a. **Next Meeting and 2021 Meeting Schedule (Tentative)**
 - May 17
 - Aug 16
 - Nov 15
 - b. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings** – Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark suggested discussing the adoption of the Tree Equity Score to be used on upcoming Park projects; Commission member Krista Romero-Cardenas agreed it would be good to establish a standard operating procedure for this. Ms. Romero-Cardenas requested the commission discuss the Green Stormwater Infrastructure presentation that included the benefits of leveraging funds with partnerships and seeing the criteria for how projects are eligible, which could lead to opportunities to advance funds; Dr. Spark agreed. Dr. Spark asked that the commission take another look at what can be done to add more trees and shade to Francisco Elias Esquer Park.

- c. **Commissioner / Staff Announcements** – Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark shared how pleased he was to see Commission member Willie Blake. Commission member Frank Flasch expressed his excitement for the pickleball courts at Morris K. Udall Park. Parks & Recreation Management Coordinator in Capitol Planning Iliana Gonzales mentioned the grand opening of the pickleball courts would take place on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

May 17, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call.
2. **Approval of March 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Krista Romero-Cardenas motioned to approve the March 15, 2021 meeting minutes with some edits she provided. The edits were discussed by the commission. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion, and the minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.
3. **Call to the Audience** – No members of the public wished to address the commission.
4. **Parks & Recreation Presentation: Park Planning and Park Types** – Parks & Recreation Director Lara Hamwey and Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson provided an overview presentation on how parks are planned, built, and how certain amenities are included or not included. Mr. Jackson also talked about the different park types and classifications. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
5. **Program Update** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan gave a program update and talked about the bond proceeds that were acquired in August 2020 as well as when the next bond sale would occur. She also mentioned a few different types of upcoming public outreach. Ms. Chan went on to provide updated program financial information through May 9, 2021. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - Program Update
 - Financial Report
6. **Project Updates** – Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - a. **Parks** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson provided updated information on the different Parks projects throughout each ward and talked about public engagement. Mr. Jackson also provided an updated draft of the Shade Structure Policy.
 - i. **Shade Structure Policy**
 - b. **Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Managers Ryan Fagan and Collin Chesston presented updated information on Connections projects. Mr. Fagan gave an update on the pavement improvements for bicycle boulevards and gave status updates on Phase 1A and Phase 1B projects. Mr. Chesston gave an update on a few upcoming public engagement events that will be in-person and virtual. He also provided updates on the Blackledge Bicycle Boulevard, the El Paso & Southwestern Greenway, and the 8th, 18th, S Campbell/Pinal Bicycle Boulevards.
7. **Next Steps** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark pointed out the next tentative meeting dates and requested discussing in-person and hybrid meetings.
 - a. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule (Tentative 2021-2022)**

i. Aug 16	iii. Jan 24	v. May 16
ii. Nov 15	iv. Mar 21	
 - b. **Agenda Items for future meetings** – Commission member Krista Romero-Cardenas requested the commission discuss the Green Stormwater Infrastructure presentation that included the benefits of leveraging funds through partnerships and seeing the criteria for how projects are eligible, which could lead to opportunities to advance funds as well as develop informational flyers to share with non-profits, coalitions, neighborhood associations, etc. to provide an opportunity for these organizations to help contribute funding.
 - c. **Commissioner/Staff Announcements** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark expressed his excitement and talked about the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Ribbon Cutting event. Commission member Krista Romero-Cardenas praised the staff for the exceptional job they are doing with the program. Dr. Spark concurred.
8. **Adjournment** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

August 16, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call.
2. **Approval of May 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Kathy Kretschmer motioned to approve the May 17, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Commission member Frank Flasch seconded the motion, and the minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 6-0.
3. **Call to the Audience** – No members of the public wished to address the commission.
4. **Dog Park Acreage** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson talked about the process for adding a dog park or any type of amenity to the City of Tucson parks. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
5. **Program Update** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan gave a program update and talked about working with the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona coordinating and combining public artwork into Prop 407 projects. Ms. Chan said in-person public outreach efforts (masks required) are ongoing for various projects. She mentioned the Green Stormwater Infrastructure fund. Ms. Chan provided updated financial information through August 10, 2021. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - **Program Update**
 - **Financial Report**
6. **Project Updates** – Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - a. **Parks** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson provided an update on the Playground Shade Structure standard that Parks & Recreation has been developing and said that it was published in the August 2021 issue of the Parks and Recreation Business magazine. Mr. Jackson also shared images and talked about projects that have been completed throughout each ward as well as upcoming projects.
 - i. **Playground Shade Structure**
 - ii. **Completed Projects**
 - b. **Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Managers Ryan Fagan and Collin Chesston presented updated information on Connections projects. Mr. Fagan gave an update on bicycle boulevards, pedestrian safety and walkability projects, shared-use path projects, the Bike HAWK crossing at 22nd Street and Irving Avenue, and upcoming public outreach planned in Phase 1A and Phase 1B. Mr. Chesston provided information on an upcoming public engagement event that will be in-person for the El Paso & Southwestern Greenway project and gave feedback on other public engagement events that were previously held. He also provided updates on the Blacklidge Bicycle Boulevard, the El Paso & Southwestern Greenway, and the 8th Avenue, 18th Street, S. Campbell/Pinal Bicycle Boulevards.
7. **Advancing Projects** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson talked about a few projects that qualify for advancement using the two-step criteria found in the Advancing Projects Guidelines that was adopted in June of 2019 by commission members. Mr. Jackson provided information on these projects. Discussion was held.
 - a. **Mission Manor Park Walking Path Renovation** – The recommendation is to advance the resurfacing of the entire Mission Manor Park Walking Path from Phase 3 to Phase 1 which makes it a cost-efficient advancement, rather than repairing the walking path a few sections at a time making it more costly and would not delay any other projects.

Commission member Ernesto Somoza made a motion to advance the resurfacing of the entire Mission Manor Park Walking Path from Phase 3 to Phase 1. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.
 - b. **Parks Phase 2 Resurfacing Projects** – The recommendation is to advance 18 resurfacing projects that are in Phase 2 to Phase 1, utilizing funding that is available from 2020 bond sales which would deliver these projects ahead of schedule without delaying future projects.

Commission member Kathy Kretschmer motioned to advance the 18 resurfacing projects from Phase 2 to Phase 1 utilizing funding from 2020 bond sales. Commission member John Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.
8. **Next Steps**
 - a. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule (Tentative 2021-2022)** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark pointed out the next tentative meeting dates.
 - i. **Nov 15**
 - ii. **Jan 24**
 - iii. **Mar 21**
 - iv. **May 16**

- b. **Agenda Items for future meetings** – Commission member Frank Flasch requested information on how maintenance/support on improvement projects is being handled and executed.
 - c. **Commissioner/Staff Announcements** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark mentioned the upcoming Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission meeting that will be held next week.
9. **Adjournment** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

September 8, 2021 – Special Virtual Meeting

- 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call.
- 2. **Project Change** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Manager Collin Chesston presented and discussed two potential alignment alternatives (Sunland Vista & Jason Vista options) for the El Paso & Southwestern Greenway project. Mr. Chesston said that after receiving community input and feedback, the Jason Vista alignment option was selected. Mr. Chesston requested approval from commission members to move forward with this option. Discussion was held.
 - a. **El Paso and Southwestern Greenway East End Alignment** – Commission vice chair Krista Romero-Cardenas motioned to approve and move forward with the Jason Vista alignment option. Commission member Ryan Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a roll call vote of 9-0.
- 3. **Call to the Audience** – No members of the public were in attendance virtually, therefore, no Call to the Audience.
- 4. **Adjournment** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

November 15, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

- 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call, 8-2.
- 2. **Approval of August 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes and September 8, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Willie Blake motioned to approve the August 16, 2021 and the September 8, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion. Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark provided an amendment and requested it be included in the August 16, 2021 meeting minutes. The commission members agreed. Both meeting minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 8-0.
- 3. **Call to the Audience** – No members of the public wished to address the commission.
- 4. **Program Update** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan provided a short presentation giving the commission members a high-level program update overview showing what has been accomplished thus far. Ms. Chan also provided updated financial information through October 31, 2021. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
 - **Program Update**
 - **Financial Report**
- 5. **Project Updates** – Discussion was held. No action was taken
 - a. **Parks** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson provided an update on Parks projects. Mr. Jackson mentioned several playground projects have been delayed due to delays in the shipping of materials.
 - i. **Lincoln Park Walking Path Cost** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson provided updated information on a question that arose at the previous meeting regarding the cost of the walking path.
 - ii. **Operational Impact** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Greg Jackson provided information on the detailed analysis of the operational impact from every project from each of the three phases within the Prop 407 bond.
 - b. **Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Project Manager Collin Chesston presented updated information on Connections projects. Mr. Chesston mentioned all active projects are posted on the Tucson Delivers website as well as upcoming public engagement events, <https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/parks-connections>. Engineering Project Manager with the Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility, Arturo Ledesma provided information on construction updates on a few bicycle boulevard projects.

6. **Project Changes** – Program Manager Jasmine Chan provided information on the Fort Lowell Park Historic Preservation project and the proposed changes/recommendations. Ms. Chan requested from the commission members to expand the scope of the Fort Lowell Park Historic Preservation project to include assets as listed in the memo. Discussion was held.
 - **Fort Lowell Park Historic Preservation**

Commission member Kathy Kretschmer made a motion to approve the expansion of the scope for the Fort Lowell Park Historic Preservation project to include assets as listed in the memo within the boundaries of the money that has been designated for the project. Commission member Frank Flasch seconded, and the motion passed by a roll call vote of 8-0.
7. **Next Steps** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark pointed out the next tentative meeting dates.
 - a. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule (Tentative)**
 - i. Jan 24
 - ii. Mar 21
 - iii. May 16
 - b. **Agenda Items for future meetings** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark suggested an updated report on the potential El Con bike path.
 - c. **Commissioner/Staff Announcements** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark suggested having a celebration with the neighborhoods once a project has been completed. Commission member Willie Blake and Commission member Frank Flasch thanked everyone for their continued support during their difficult time.
8. **Adjournment** – Commission chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.