

## TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

**Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Tucson Parks & Recreation Commission that the Tucson Parks & Recreation Commission will hold the following meeting, which will be open to the public.**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Steve Poe at 3:34 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative Commissioner Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative Commissioner Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

**Absent:**

Commissioner Luz Navarrete-Valera, Ward 1 Representative

**Staff Present:**

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Greg Jackson, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Mike Hayes, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks & Recreation

**Other:**

Scott Martinez, McGann & Associates  
Adam Wright, Empire Little League  
Kris Konz, Empire Little League

2. Approval of Minutes: December 28, 2022 (Action Item)

**Motion was made by Commissioner Quintero duly seconded by Commissioner Getsi to accept the December 28, 2022, minutes as submitted. Motion was carried by 4-0. (Commissioner Navarrete was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**

3. Call to the Audience

*At this time, any member of the public is allowed to address the Committee. Speakers are limited to three (3) minute presentations. Pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, individual Committee members may ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda, or respond to criticism made by speakers. However, the Committee may not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during "call to the audience".*

No one wished to address the commission.

**No action was taken.**

4. Chair Elections Discussion

Director Hamwey introduced the item and spoke about the Chair and Vice Chair vacancies. A brief discussion took place on election protocols and responsibilities of Chairman and Vice Chairperson. There

was a nomination for Commissioner Poe to fill the Chair position, and a nomination for Commissioner Quintero to serve as Vice Chair.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McArdle duly seconded by Commissioner Quintero to approve Commissioner Poe to serve as Chair for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion was carried by a roll call of 3-0. Commissioner Poe consented to the vote. (Commissioner Navarrete was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McArdle duly seconded by Commissioner Poe to approve Commissioner Quintero to serve as the Vice Chair for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion was carried by a roll call of 3-0. Commissioner Quintero consented to the vote. (Commissioner Navarrete was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**

5. Robert Price Park (Action item)

Mr. Scott Martinez with McGann Associates provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Robert Price Park Master Plan including its public engagement process. The project is on the Proposition 407 bond list.

Commissioner Quintero shared a safety concern with the attraction of animals when digging for a new playground, and playground sand. Ms. Quintero also shared a concern regarding operations and maintenance, and inadequacy of staff with the addition of a new park.

Ms. Hamwey explained when there is a new park or amenity that is increasing staff capacity needs then as part of the budget process, the department requests additional positions. To add, the calculation of the number of staff needed is based on new amenities and how many new hours are going to be required to maintain.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes mentioned that the department hired two additional aquatic's staff because of the installations of new splash pads.

Commissioner Getsi inquired about the sanitation and circulation of splash pads. Mr. Martinez explained that there is a chemical process to kill any bacteria and germs in the water source. There is a secondary process which is a UV treatment system. In addition, the department is incorporating large, oversized storage tanks to splash pads. The tanks are key to recirculation systems and assists with increasing amount of water flow.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Quintero duly seconded by Commissioner Getsi to approve the Robert Price Park Master Plan. Motion was carried by a voice vote 3-0. Chair, Poe was in consent of the approval. (Commissioner Navarrete was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**

6. Reports / Announcements

- a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners Commissioner Quintero mentioned that she is organizing a Peace Garden 20<sup>th</sup> birthday party to be held on February 4, 2023 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Manuel Herrera Jr. Park located at 5901 S. Fiesta.

Chair, Poe referenced the reports for the Capital Ward Projects and asked about the difference in expenditures for the splash pad projects at the Himmel Park and Reid Park. Deputy Director, Jackson said that the Himmel Park project is budgeted at \$166,000 bond dollars and \$224,000 in impact fees. The budget for the Reid Park splash pad is approximately \$1.25 million. The Reid Park included ramada improvements. Mr. Jackson continued to explain that there are 25 splash pads budgeted in the bond. Eleven of those splash pads for

\$166,000 are intended for pools that have existing wading pools which are going to be converted to splash pads. There were interests shown for shade structures over the splash pads as well. The department recommended to Mayor and Council that \$224,000 is taken from impact fees for every splash pad that is budgeted at \$166,000 then to re-budget those to \$390,000. This was suggested due to costs involved for shades structures and labor. There are thirteen other splash pads that are budgeted at \$315,000. These are stand-alone splash pads that are not tied to an existing pool. The stand-alone splash pads involve building a circulation and sanitation system. The labor budget will be higher, and these splash pads will also have shade structures. A recommendation to Mayor and council is to take \$125,000 for impact fees and budget with the \$315,000 for the larger splash pads. All the splash pad budgets have been combined with impact fees to ensure bigger amenity and to add shape to them. Mr. Jackson added that the Reid Pak project is budgeted higher as it is a destination type splash pad. The budgets vary for the splash pad because of different of the difference factors involved.

**No action was taken.**

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Recreation Program Manager, Dawnee Moreno provided information on the February 14, Valentine's Day at the COPA (Children's Outdoor Performance Center) event in Lincoln Park. The cost is \$30.00. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. and includes various activities such as wine tasting, jazz fusion band, and food trucks. Ms. Moreno also reported information on the newest event, the High School Battle of the Bands event on March 23 at the Reid Park DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center (OPC). The event begins at 12:00 p.m. The winner will be awarded studio time to record extended play and a release party. Ms. Moreno also mentioned that staff are preparing for the Eggstavaganza event on March 25 which will take place at the Mansfield Park.

Mr. Jackson talked about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground at Ft. Lowell Park that took place on January 13. The project was a partnership with Burke Playgrounds.

**No action was taken.**

c. Director

Ms. Hamwey reported that the Mayor and City Manager's office along with different departments have been working through a process called federal earmark funding. The city will propose certain projects to be funded through federal dollars that are attributed under Congress or Senate. The city overall received approximately 12 million dollars. The department will receive \$2.9 million of the 12 million to go towards an aquatic complex at the Mission Manor Park. The complex will be comprised of a splash pad, open recreation pool and a therapy pool. A second portion of the money, which is \$2.7 million will be attributed to improvements at the El Pueblo Center.

**No action was taken.**

7. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items:

Commissioner Quintero requested a report on contractors that provide services to the department, and what it entails.

Commissioner Navarrete requested renaming of Christopher Columbus Park from the previous meeting.

Commissioner Getsi requested information on the Santa Rita Park project and its timeline for

construction. To add, Ms. Getsi requested information on how the city will address the unhoused.

**No action was taken.**

- b. Next Meeting Date:  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

**No action was taken.**

- c. Location:  
Hybrid Format- In-person at the Tucson Parks & Recreation Administration Office, Mesquite Conference Room, 900 S. Randolph Way and Microsoft Teams Virtual

**No action was taken.**

8. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner Getsi to adjourn the meeting. (Commissioner Navarrete was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**