

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, April 26, 2023- 3:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

In-person at the Tucson Parks & Recreation Administration Office, Mesquite Conference Room
and Teams Virtual

Join on your computer [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 264 139 340 104

Passcode: f6nX2j

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Steve Poe at 3:32 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Commissioner Azul Navarrete-Valera, Ward 1 Representative

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Commissioner Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Greg Jackson, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Mike Hayes, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Dawnee Moreno, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Iliana Gonzales, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Other:

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

Amanda Smith, Planning and Development Services

Nancy Schlegel, CEO, Reid Park Zoological Society

2. Approval of Minutes: February 22, 2023 (Action Item)

Motion was made by Chair, Poe duly seconded by Commissioner McArdle to accept the February 22, 2023, minutes. Motion was carried by 3-0. (Vice Chair, Quintero absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

3. Call to the Audience

Constituent, Jonathan Paul Salvatierra asked about the protocol for Call to the Audience and asked to speak after the meeting. The process was explained to Mr. Salvatierra. The committee agreed to allow Mr. Salvatierra to speak after the meeting.

No action was taken.

4. Plan Tucson (action item)

Amanda Smith from Planning and development Services provided a PowerPoint presentation on Plan Tucson, the City of Tucson General and Sustainability Plan. A flier with information was provided as well. The City of Tucson is working on an update to Plan Tucson and invited the commission to appoint a liaison to the Plan Tucson update process. This includes participation in a working group to aid in the development of policies, goals, and future growth map. Active engagement will start later this Spring 2023 and is anticipated to extend through late 2024.

Questions and answers took place.

The commission expressed interest in the initiative and to learn more about the working groups. The commission will be added to a list for a formal invite with a survey for availability. The invite will be sent in May and the working groups to begin in June or July.

No action was taken.

5. Reid Park Zoo- Expansion & Parking Update

Nancy Schegel, President & CEO of the Reid Park Zoological Society provided a "Reid Park Zoo- Saving Wild Animals and Wild Places" PowerPoint presentation with information and updates.

6. Trainings and Shared Vision

The item was at the request of Commissioner, McArdle from the previous meeting. Commissioner, McArdle asked what process the department is doing to create vision in training. Director Lara Hamwey explained that the department takes advantage of training's that experts bring in and those available through the city partners as well. Ms. Hamwey named various training offerings such as analysis work through the new financial Human Resources system, de-escalation in partnership with Tucson Police Department, triage processes, mental health through Cigna and diversity trainings.

Ms. McArdle asked how the department is bringing together all levels of staff to build the Parks and Recreation mission and vision.

Ms. Hamwey explained that the department has a Strategic Plan. The plan was launched last year, and a roadshow was conducted for the public to learn about the Strategic plan. All levels of staff were given the opportunity to be involved as well. Staff meet monthly and discuss various objectives that are outlined in the Strategic Plan. The objectives were developed by staff. Ms. Hamwey mentioned that it is instrumental of moving the department forward in a unified force and offered to do a presentation on the Strategic plan at a future meeting. Ms. Hamwey also mentioned the accreditation process and keeping up to date the components of the accreditation features. This includes making sure that the mission vision statement is up to date as well review and dissemination of policies and procedures. The General Security Plan was recently updated, and staff are working on the Risk Management item.

Commissioner, McArdle welcomed a Strategic Plan presentation.

No action was taken.

7. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner McArdle complimented those involved with the Eggstravanza event. Ms. McArdle also shared an inquiry from a member of the public regarding a mural request to use a Parks and Recreation space. Ms. McArdle spoke about various collaborations with mural initiatives and advocates for these efforts.

Commissioner Getsi thanked staff for the Randolph Park/Golf meeting.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Administrator, Dawne Moreno provided information on registration for the Summer KIDCO program. Online registration begins Saturday, May 6 at 6:00 a.m. Ms. Moreno also mentioned registration for swim lessons which will start soon after KIDCO registration. In addition, the department is advertising a women's fastpitch program for ages 16 and up. Ms. Moreno spoke about the Silent Disco Recruitment Party on April 14. The event had over 250 participants. Ms. Moreno added that there is a free family night event with a Bingo focus at the Donna Liggins Center on Friday, April 28 at 6 p.m., and the Parents Night Out at Udall Center on April 12, 5 p.m. Additionally, it was that the Special Olympics track and field team won 30 gold medals, 14 silver medals and 11 bronze medals during the games in Phoenix.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes reported information on field maintenance preparations which will involve aeration and fertilization of fields as well as irrigation repairs. The project takes place from May 1st through the end of August. In addition, Mr. Hayes spoke about the zoo construction taking place around the Parks and Recreation administration buildings. Staff are working with zoo staff and Lloyd Construction with retaining all the wrought iron that is removed. The materials will be repurposed. An update on the staff move to Allen Hall was provided as well. One more group of staff will be brought into the facility. Mr. Hayes ended by speaking about the new Aquatics Program Manager, Orlie (TJ) Johnson, who is the replacement of the previous manager, Billy Sassi. Various pool maintenance and improvement projects are being completed. The department recruited a new Parks Superintendent, John Bonillas. Mr. Bonilla is an Arborist, and other staff are going through the trainings and certifications for certified Arborist as well.

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson reported that the grand re-opening of CSM Martin R. "Gunny" Barreras Memorial Park will take place on June 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Additionally, the Freedom Park Pool and new water slide opens on May 26, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Getsi inquired about the bromine in pools and the possibility for people who can't function with bromine. Mr. Hayes said that the department is moving towards going away with bromine and some pools have been converted. Ms. Hamwey added that the department is converting to a tab system called Pulsar. It is also proven that bromine is corrosive to equipment and new boilers and filters are being installed.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Ms. Hamwey reported that Borderlands Theatre launched the West Side Stories and is occurring at Bonita Park on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 7:45 p.m. The event is in celebration of Tucson's west side heritage and cultural pride. The theatre engaged with the west side community to develop short skits based on history. The department worked with Borderlands to use space at El Pueblo for rehearsals. In addition, this is a partnership with the Salvador Institute as the institute funded the renovation of the Garden of Gethsemane which is next to Bonita Park.

Ms. Hamwey mentioned that a tree planting of 64 trees will take place on April 28 at Purple Heart Park at 9:00 a.m. This is an initiative through the Ward 4 Council Office.

No action was taken.

8. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items:
Strategic Plan

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 24, 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

Commissioner Getsi requested an update with contact information for the Wildcat House and homeless outreach program. Mr. Getsi is interested in getting involved with the program.

Constituent, Jonathan Paul Salvatierra spoke regarding various involvements and initiatives with the City of Tucson and Pima County.

No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Getsi, duly seconded by Commissioner Navarrete-Valera to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried by 3-0. (Commissioner McArdle absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)