

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, July 26, 2023- 3:34 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Present:

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Commissioner Azul Navarrete-Valera, Ward 1 Representative

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Absent:

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Mike Hayes, Tucson Parks & Recreation

John Bonillas, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Other:

Joan Visconti, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: May 24, 2023 (Action Item)

Motion was made by Commissioner, Robin McArdle duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the May 24, 2023, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 4-0. (Vice Chair, Beki Quintero was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

3. Call to the Audience

Constituent Joan Visconti shared information and concerns regarding city dog parks.

No action was taken.

4. Elder Programs- Type and Outreach

Commissioner Robin McArdle requested the agenda item from the previous meeting and asked for an update on senior program offerings and how the information is shared. Director, Lara Hamwey provided a detailed overview of the program and training offerings as well as the different partnerships and collaborations with various organizations. The partnerships allow for program enhancements as well. Ms. Hamwey also explained the different tools and resources used to share program information and engage seniors.

Commissioner McArdle shared comments and concerns with reduced participation post COVID as well as receding support for elder programs. Ms. McArdle requested a report to include programs and activities taking place at each of the recreation centers.

Director, Hamwey said that a report by location can be pulled together and sent out. Ms. Hamwey also mentioned that before COVID, there was report that the attendance for the evening programs was reduced and some of it is partly due to increase of homeless in the park. Ms. Hamwey added that Armory Center is undergoing a master plan because of Prop 407. In addition, the department has a public ally intern which the department hired to get the community more engaged and activated at Armory as well as to help reduce the impact from the homeless. The anticipation is with those activations, it is hoped that the programmatic and capital investments turn the tide.

Chair, Steve Poe mentioned that after reading the meeting reports many of the centers have had senior events and field trips to all kinds of different locations and was impressed with the number of offerings. Mr. Poe hopes that the programs continue and expand to try to get seniors to various other locations other than just the community centers.

No action was taken.

5. Tucson Parks & Recreation Commission Awards

Director Hamwey spoke briefly on the TPRC awards program including timelines, categories, and process for the previous year. Ms. Hamwey recommended to do the same and conduct the award presentations during the department event which is planned to take place again this year at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) in December. Ms. Hamwey also proposed to return next month to review the categories and share the nomination submittal forms. Then open for nominations to the public on September 1. Recommendations will be accepted for a two-week period. The candidate information will be sent in advance to the board for review and selection of recommendations for the top three candidates for each category. The invitation to the December event will include the TPRC committee, and to be present for the award presentations.

Commissioner Getsi complimented last year's event and the process for the award presentations. Ms. Getsi suggested that someone from the Mayor and Council attend as well. Ms. Hamwey said that the invitation can be extended.

No action was taken.

6. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner McArdle reported information on a Back-to-School program that took place on July 22 at the Quincie Douglas Center. Ms. McArdle volunteered time and services for help with the event. Ms. McArdle complimented the event and commended staff and the various partnerships involved with the event. It is reported that there were over 4,000 people in attendance and over 1,500 backpacks were distributed.

Commissioner McArdle honored retiree, Donna Thomas and her 36-year service with the Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Thomas was also recognized for her work and collaborations with the community and various organizations.

Commissioner, Azul Navarrette-Valera inquired about Murrieta Park and the splash pad project. Director Hamwey provided an update on the project, and said that through the Water Conservation Fund, the department was successful in a grant application for just under \$1,000,000 towards the new splash pad in Joaquin Murrieta Park. Ms. Hamwey continued to say that the park has had a master plan on file since 2013, and it was the intent to be able to implement some of that master plan. Currently, the project is in permitting and construction could begin in the late fall depending on how quickly it is navigated through the permitting process. The project will include a new splash pad, playground, restrooms, rebuilding of the baseball field and quad field, and security light

improvements in the parking lot.

Commissioner, Manon Getsi reminded everyone of an opportunity to participate in the survey for the Rio Vista Park trail head which will end on August 2nd. Ms. Getsi added that the survey can be accessed through the Friends of Rio Vista website.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes reported information on the turf projects taking place at various park facilities. The fields are undergoing aerification and fertilization regimens to support and promote healthy surfaces. Various fields have been reseeded and resodded as well. Turf projects took place at fields in Udall Park, Rudy Garcia Park, and Jesse Owens Park. Mr. Hayes reported that a new grass called TifTuf was installed at Jesse Owens Park, Rudy Garcia Park, and CSM Martin "Gunny" Barreras Memorial Park. It is reported that the product uses 20 to 30 percent less water when it's fully developed. In addition, a new grass called Latitude 36 was installed on the large fields in Jesse Owens Park. The product was developed at Oklahoma State University and is top quality rated with high traffic tolerance and visual appeal. The new grass installations are in efforts to reduce water use and mowing.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Director, Hamwey provided updates on different grant applications for various parks and projects. Ms. Hamwey spoke about an application that is in process which includes approximately \$3.5 million for Jacob's Park. The funding will allow for building out the entirety of the master plan. Applications for Tohono O'odham gaming grants for different projects have been submitted as well. The department is focused on matching Prop 407 money with external money to extend and enhance the plans that are ready.

Ms. Hamwey mentioned that the department will be awarded at the Arizona Parks & Recreation Association (APRA) conference in August for efforts with lifeguard recruitment and how it was approached with marketing information and programs. The department's Public Information Officer, Sierra Boyer was commended for efforts with this initiative. Ms. Hamwey continued to say that staff, P&R Administrator- Dawnee Moreno, PIO, Sierra Boyer and including herself will be presenting at the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) Conference in October. The presentation will be on aquatics program and how it was rebuilt and rebranded to successfully hire many lifeguards and open 20 pools. The department is looking at year two of retaining lifeguards and keeping the momentum of the new culture.

No action was taken.

7. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items:

Report on Dog Parks concerning gravel and accidents. Director Hamwey recommended that the item is placed on the September agenda for better staff representation as staff will be attending the APRA conference.

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, August 23, 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 4:20 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Manon Getsi, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by 4-0. (Vice Chair, Beki Quintero Poe was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)