

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, September 27, 2023- 3:33 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

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only) [+1 213-293-2303](tel:+12132932303) United States, Los Angeles Phone Conference ID: 672 700 458#

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Poe at 3:31 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Commissioner Azul Navarrete-Valera, Ward 1 Representative

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Greg Jackson, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Dawnee Moreno, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Mike Hayes, Tucson Parks & Recreation

John Bonillas, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Other:

Ronald P. Sparks, 2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission (PCBOC)

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista, Board of Directors

Bill Dupont, Colonia Solana

Joan Visconti, Constituent

Christine Carino, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: August 30, 2023 (Action Item)

There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the August 30, 2023, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

3. Call to the Audience

Jennifer Shopland, Chair of the Board and Directors of the non-profit organization, Friends of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park spoke regarding the Rio Vista Park master plan.

Constituent, Christine Carino addressed the commission concerning the Rodeo Wash Greenway I and drinking water availability as well as maintenance of trees.

Constituent, Mark Albrecht spoke about the Randolph Park golf course and a walking path that may be planned to be installed in the middle of the course. Mr. Albrecht also inquired about the Del Ulrich Golf Course and a redesign to include a walking path. Mr. Albrecht expressed safety concerns with the two plans.

Constituent, Joan Visconti addressed the commission concerning city dog parks and gravel concerns.

Mr. Bill Dupont with Colonia Solana neighborhood spoke to the commission regarding various safety concerns with Randolph Park golf courses and the David Bell pedestrian path that coexist near the Colonia Solana neighborhood.

No action was taken.

4. Dog Park Report

Director, Lara Hamwey provided a PowerPoint presentation, "Dog Parks- Claims and ADA Accessibility". The presentation included various detailed information on city dog parks such as documented claims with reference to dog parks (confirmed with City Attorney and Risk Management- no known current lawsuit or complaint regarding dog parks and accessibility), City dog parks ADA accessibility evaluation, as well as ADA accessibility of 6th Avenue Dog Park.

Questions and answers took place as well as discussions.

No action was taken.

5. Alamo Wash

The item was requested in the previous meeting during Call to the Audience.

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson shared a map of the Alamo Wash Greenway, and explained that the Alamo Wash is part of the Pima County Regional Trail System master plan. The plan was adopted by the Mayor and Council and the County Board of Supervisors. The project is brought forth as part of Proposition 407 in Phase 2 and 3. Additionally, the project will include an eight-mile trail, and could connect ten parks and eight schools in that greenway. The plan impacts Wards 2, 4 and 6. Mr. Jackson mentioned that there will be necessary land acquisition to complete the project. Currently, the Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) is estimating the cost to be more than is budgeted, and approximately \$33 million dollars. Staff will evaluate how to bridge the gap and look at possible federal grants. Mr. Jackson added that DTM will take a little bit of a lead to build then Parks and Recreation will take on the operations.

No action was taken.

6. Old Trees lost to weather systems

The agenda item was at the request of Commissioner, Manon Getsi during the August TPRC meeting.

Parks Superintendent, John Bonillas prepared a report for tracking damaged and lost trees affected by a storm in July. Mr. Bonillas reported that currently there were 30 parks that suffered significant amount of damage, and there were 47 tree removals. Staff are still working through to identify anything else because of another storm that came through and took place after. Staff will have a final count in approximately 2-3 weeks.

Commissioner Getsi spoke about an interest in getting a better idea of how many older trees would be in that system. Mr. Bonillas responded by saying that the department's GSI and mapping person has an annual survey which is put together based on how many trees were removed and is recorded in the asset tracking software. Director, Hamwey added that Nicole Gillette, the city's Urban Forester is about

fifty percent through an actual tree inventory city-wide and that is on all public land. The trees are GPS tagged and position assessed as well. Ms. Gillette will work with all departments with capturing tree removals as well. Ms. Hamwey mentioned that she will inquire with Ms. Gillette to come to a meeting and talk through the assessments that were discovered.

No action was taken.

7. TPRC Awards

The nominations for the TPRC awards were provided previously in the meeting materials.

Ms. Hamwey explained that there were two individuals (Pasto Sean Bailey and Maria Vianey Cardenas) with no mention of direct park nexus in the nominations. Executive Assistant, Diana Schroeder reached out to the two people to ask about the connections to parks. Ms. Schroeder will then share the information with the board when it is available, and responses are received.

It was decided to move the item to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to move the topic to the next meeting on October 25. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4).

8. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero mentioned that Barrio Nopal Park will be on the agenda as an action item for the October 3, 2023, Sunnyside Regular Governing Board meeting. The subject is "City of Tucson-Purchase Agreement for 3.83 Vacant Property".

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson provided updates on the various projects below.

The Lincoln Dog Park and playground are under construction, currently. The project could be completed this fall. It will be the largest dog park with nearly 6 acres. The Lincoln Park light upgrades on the softball fields 1-4 and two soccer fields have been awarded. The contract for the new baseball fields and soccer fields has been awarded as well. Staff are expecting a groundbreaking to take place sometime in late October, early November. The power to the Estevan Park lights has been upgraded. Staff received bids back for the Ft. Lowell Park splash pad and bathhouse. There are bids out for two more splash pad projects including one at Jesse Owens Park and one at Freedom Park. A groundbreaking at Joaquin Murrieta Park is planned for October 24.

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno reported information on department programs and events such as the following: The City-wide event, Boo Bash will be held at Lincoln Park on October 21 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. The new pool hours for winter start on October 1. The splash pads will close October 31. The department is currently advertising an inclusive hiking club through its TR program, and sign-ups are taking place now. The registrations for the School's Out, fall program for youth in TUSD began. The program takes place September 25 through October 13. The department had its fall showcase for the Ready, Set, Rec program at La Madera Park on September 23. There were approximately 300 people in attendance. There are two Aqua Pumpkin Patch events planned for October 14 at the Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) and on October 15 at the Clements pool. Quincie Douglas Center will host a Trunk-or-Treat event on October 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Moreno also mentioned that the department hired a new Recreation Superintendent, Dean Hoskins.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes shared information on the Mexican Baseball Fiesta program which will be here for the next three weeks. The Korean baseball team, Dinos confirmed they will be back again this year as well. Mr. Hayes added that the department is participating in a Clean-up Tucson program with

the Department of Transportation and Tucson Clean & Beautiful from October 16 through November 15. The Arizona Conservation Corps reached out to the department concerning a possible government shutdown, and assistance with teams in the Grand Canyon National Forest to work on October 3rd for approximately eight days. The department plans to help with providing work for the teams. The teams will be assisting with landscaping throughout several parks.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Ms. Lara Hamwey mentioned that there are staff attending the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) conference on October 9 through 12. Ms. Hamwey and staff including Ms. Dawnee Moreno and Ms. Sierra Boyer will be presenting for two different education sessions. One presentation is on giving yourself grace in leadership role and the second presentation is on aquatics and how the department revamped its aquatic division as well as recruitment and marketing processes. Ms. Hamwey also spoke about the department's capital team. There are three new Project Manager's and two other potential Project Manager's that positions are being offered to them. In addition, the department finished oral board interviews for an Administrator position to assist in chief of staff role. The hiring interviews for the position will take place October 2nd.

No action was taken.

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items:

Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission Awards
Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan- Project Manager
Mission Manor- Splash Pad and Pool Update
Glass Recycle Bins

No action was taken.

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

No action was taken.

f. 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.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)