

## 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, November 29, 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 Chair, Steve Poe at 3:35 p.m. Those present and absent were:

#### **Present:**

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative (joined the meeting at 3:38 p.m.)

Commissioner Azul Navarrete-Valera, Ward 1 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:**

Julie Barbier Bularzik, Constituent

Kevin Bitten, Constituent

Richard Block, Constituent

Wyatt Botkin, Pima Education Golf League

Daniel Brockert, Constituent

Katie Brown, Member of Vista del Monte Neighborhood Association

Andrew Christopher, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association

Zee Conroy, Constituent

Dan Davis, Pima Education Golf League

Bill Dupont, Colonia Solona

Anna Don, Constituent

Joan Gonbein, Dell Ulrich Golf

Brian Hagan, Pima Education Golf League

Spencer Harding, Constituent  
Monica B. Johnson, Del Urich/Desert Trails  
Kara Lehmann, Constituent  
Dora Maldonado, Staff Member, Mayor and Council  
Kevin McNava, Pima Education Golf League  
Sheryl Nelson, Del Urich  
Larry Pagel, Greens Committee  
Pete Polley, Constituent  
Alizabeth Potucek, Constituent  
Steve Reff, Pima Education Golf League  
Chris Seiberlich, Dell Women's League  
Jeff Singleton, Pima Education Golf League  
Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista, Board of Directors  
Jim Sims, Pima Education League  
Tim Steller, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: October 25, 2023 (Action Item)

There was no discussion.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the October 25, 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

There were various constituents that spoke to the commission regarding the proposed Randolph Park and Golf Complex Opportunity Plan. There were ten constituents that expressed opposition to the project. A document "Opposition to the Randolph Pathway Project" was provided as well. There were six constituents that were in support of the Randolph Park pathway project.

Ms. Katie Brown, member of the Vista del Monte Neighborhood Association addressed the commission regarding concerns with the McCormick Park improvement project.

**No action was taken.**

4. Reid Park Duck Pond

This item was brought forward due to an inquiry during the previous TPRC meeting. There are health concerns for the ducks and public feeding. There were mentions about signage in the parks as well.

Director, Hamwey reported that she reached out to the animal welfare specialist at the Reid Park Zoo to ask what ducks eat. Some of the food includes grains, corn, lettuce, and aquatic plants.

Ms. Hamwey mentioned that there is signage that is posted, and the signs encourage people to not feed the ducks. The signage in Ft. Lowell Park talks about what is appropriate to feed ducks, which is consistent with the information from the Reid Park Zoo. These same signs have been ordered for the pond in Reid Park. Ms. Hamwey also asked the specialist about the possibility of feeders. The feeder's break often and are laborious in terms of refilling and keeping up with them. In addition, it may increase the number of animals when beginning a supply of a reliable food source. Ms. Hamwey spoke about a news release involving the Reid Park Zoo and a bird that contracted Avian Influenza. There is a concern that feeders would attract more ducks to the area because Waterfowl is a primary carrier of influenza. Ms. Hamey said, for the moment, the signage that is planned to post would be

the best solution.

Commissioner, Getsi shared concerns with the placement of the signs, and a suggestion to have the signage in spanish as well. In addition, Ms. Getsi asked if it is possible to create some kind of union with the U of A to have somebody to come and talk to people about what the ducks should eat and not to eat. It was also suggested that someone from the zoo to come out to the park and talk to people about the ducks and food.

Ms. Hamwey mentioned that staff will be figuring out the proper placement of the signs, and part of the reason for the high signage is due vandalism. It was the intent to provide educational opportunity on-site, knowing that people will continue to do nice things for the ducks. Ms. Hamwey added that she can ask the zoo to periodically hold education opportunities within the park. It was also mentioned that as part of the Reid Park master plan process, it was talked about for opportunity to do more educational engagement within the park itself.

A copy of the duck sign was shared in the chat. Executive Assistant, Diana Schroeder will email a copy of sign to the committee as well.

**No action was taken.**

#### 5. Park Fees

Director Hamwey spoke on the item and shared a copy of the proposed fee changes with the committee. Ms. Hamwey explained the fee changes in detail. The proposed fee changes are scheduled for review during the Study Session, Mayor and Council meeting on December 12, 2023. The Mayor and Council will then advise if the department is good to proceed with golf and zoo fee changes. A public hearing will be held for the initial fees related to ramadas and tennis. To follow, these fee changes will go to a Notice of Intent, and the department will coordinate town halls with one per ward and one virtual meeting. There will be seven public meetings in total for the public to opine on the proposed fees. After the public meetings, the proposed fees will go to another public hearing for approval during the April 9, Mayor and Council meeting.

**No action was taken.**

#### 6. Randolph Opportunity Study

This item is regarding the Randolph Park and Golf Complex Opportunity. Deputy Director, Greg Jackson introduced the agenda item and reported that the department met with groups of stakeholders in March or April. Mr. Jackson explained the various stakeholders. There were five different meetings, and a kick-off meeting as well. Based on feedback, there were six guiding principles established. A copy of the "Guiding Principles" was shared on-screen with the committee. Director, Hamwey explained in detail, the six guiding principles reflecting the input of stakeholder groups.

**No action was taken.**

#### 7. Reports / Announcements

##### a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

There were no reports provided.

**No action was taken.**

##### b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno provided information on the November 18<sup>th</sup> Family Festival in Park and the November 25-26, Arts & Crafts Fair in Reid Park. The different recreation centers hosted holiday events. Ms. Moreno also spoke about the the Santa's Calling program which takes place on December 5-7, and the registration for the Senior Olympics program which begins November 6.

Parks Superintendent. John Bonillas mentioned that staff continue to address issues that were brought up at the last meeting regarding the different city dog parks. Ms. Hamwey added that the department received a nice letter for Mr. Bonillas and staff giving kudos for listening and responding to their inquiries.

**No action was taken.**

c. Director

Director, Lara Hamwey briefly spoke about staffing, and said that the department has increased its marketing office by one person with Public Information Officer, Angela Pittenger. Ms. Hamwey added that Capital is fully staffed with six persons.

**No action was taken.**

8. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items:

Unauthorized Motorized Vehicles- Signage

Rodeo Parade Route- Rudy Garcia Park

**No action was taken.**

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

There was discussion about the December 27, 2023, meeting. It was consensus of the board to hold the next meeting on January 24, 2024.

f. Location:

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

9. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.**

**Motion was made 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 Maor and Ward 4)**