

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 24, 2024- 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: 283 040 291 165 Passcode: XAivqS

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Poe at 3:33 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

Absent:

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

Jasmine Chan, Administrator

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks & Recreation

Other:

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

2. Approval of Minutes: November 29, 2023 (Action Item)

Motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to accept the November 29, 2023, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 4-0. (Commissioner Azul Navarrete was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

3. Call to the Audience

No one wished to address the commission.

No action was taken.

4. 2023 Annual Report (action item)

There was no discussion. The report was provided previously in the meeting materials.

A motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to accept the 2023 TPRC Annual Report. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 4-0. (Commissioner Azul Navarette was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

5. Unauthorized Vehicles- Signage

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero shared concerns with all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) that are driving on the grass in Manuel Herrera Park. Ms. Quintero also inquired about signage regarding vehicles. Ms. Quintero mentioned that there are no signs in the park.

Public Information Officer, Sierra Boyer shared verbiage from a park sign. The park sign states, "Park in designated parking lots only." "No motorized vehicles on park grounds." "TCC 21-3(4)(3)." In addition, the park signs have a QR code which links to all park rules. It was also mentioned that TPD will need to be contacted for enforcement of rules.

Commissioner Manon Getsi shared concerns with mountain bike riders in Himmel Park. Ms. Getsi explained that bike riders have got extensive, and they ride the same loop, repeatedly. The amount of youth riders has increased to over 40 bikes going fast in areas where people walk. There is only one adult monitoring from what Ms. Manon has witnessed. Ms. Manon has never heard this adult voice any concern for the youths crossing pedestrians' pathways or stopping people walking. Pedestrians are forced to stop multiple times just to cross the park. Mr. Getsi added that the bike riders are tearing up the grass and affecting the air. Ms. Getsi has seen the activity happen multiple times, and said they get paid to do it in Himmel Park.

Director Hamwey responded by saying that she is not aware of an organized event that occurs at the park. Ms. Hamwey also said it is a city-wide issue, and the department has done the physical barriers such as boulders, bollards, cables, and posts. TPD encourages to do the landscape architectural solutions because TPD sometimes are called out and by the time they come out then the people are gone. Staff will look at Himmel Park to address the bike riding situation as well as Manuel Herrera Park and James Thomas Park for updated signs in the park.

Commissioner Getsi suggested that a sign is placed in all parks.

No action was taken.

6. Rodeo Parade Route- Rudy Garcia Park

A copy of the new route for the Rodeo Parade was shared on screen. Ms. Hamwey provided the route specifics with the commission. Ms. Hamwey said that the City Manager's Office has been working closely with the rodeo parade committee because there had to be a shift. The shift was due to the railroad because accommodation could not be made for an extended closure for the parade. Ms. Hamwey added that the parade will be staged in two locations. One location will be in front of the El Pueblo Center, on Irvington Road and on Drexel Road.

No action was taken.

7. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

The TPRC Chair, Beki Quintero commented on the Zoo Lights, and thanked staff for the event. The event was very well attended.

Commissioner, Manon Getsi mentioned the December 20th, Department Annual Awards Luncheon, and commended Lara for the efforts with the event and awards.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno provided information on the following events:

- Santa's Calling which took place on December 5-7, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There were over 800 calls made to children.
- Youth JAWS program- Junior Active in Wheelchair Sport. The program is offered through the Therapeutics Recreation Center.
- The School's Out Winter Break Camp offered at the various facilities for ages 5-11 and offered during school breaks. The camp hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- The department is wrapping up the Senior Olympics program. The program was held at various venues throughout the city on January 6-28.
- It was mentioned that the department is having an entrance into the Rodeo Parade this year.

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson provided the following project updates.

- The Lincoln Park LED light project for the two soccer fields and the tennis court resurfacing project at Gollob Park have been completed.
- There are eight projects plus six playground projects in construction.
- The project at the Iron Horse Park is wrapping up, and a soft opening will take place in February.
- A groundbreaking event took place at Christopher Columbus Park on December 11th The project is currently under construction.
- The splash pad projects at Jesse Owens Park and Freedom Park are taking place and are slated to be completed in May or June.
- The project for John F. Kennedy Park is in the bidding process.
- There are eight projects in permitting. A couple of the larger projects includes Santa Rita Park, Jacobs Park, Mission Manor, and Cushing Street Skate Park.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes provided information regarding the pond in Ft Lowell Park. There were leaks in the pond and sealant will be applied to the pond. The pond will re-open next week.

Mr. Hayes also reported that the Korean baseball team, NC Dinos, will be here for the next 6 weeks. The team will be utilizing the Annex fields and minor league clubhouse.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Director, Lara Hamwey provided Information on upcoming town hall meetings regarding Rates and Fees. Executive Assistant, Diana Schroeder will send a calendar with the town hall meetings to the board. Ms. Hamwey explained that after the town hall meetings take place then the item will be brought back to the Mayor and Council meeting on April 9 which will determine if the city will be moving forward with the new fees.

Ms. Hamwey said there were four staff that passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course. There are now six internal staff that have the certification. In addition, Ms. Hamwey provided information regarding playground closures as well as updates to the parking lot projects in Reid Park. There are solar arrays that are in the process of being moved from the Reid Park Zoo parking lot. This is part of the readiness for the Pathway to Asia which is anticipated to commence this spring. In addition, Reid Park opened a brand-new parking lot that is behind the Parks and Recreation administration building.

Chair, Steve Poe requested a list of playground closures to be e-mailed.

No action was taken.

8. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items:

Cost for Bilingual Signs. The item is at the request of Commissioner Manon Getsi and regarding the duck signs in Reid Park.

No action was taken.

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 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.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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