

## 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, March 27, 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: 286 700 686 38 Passcode: TAI4Wz

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

Or call in (audio only) [+1 213-293-2303](#) United States, Los Angeles Phone Conference ID: 465 484 285#

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero at 3:30 p.m. Those present and absent were:

#### **Present:**

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

#### **Absent:**

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

#### **Staff Present:**

Lara Hamwey, Director

Greg Jackson, Deputy Director

Mike Hayes, Deputy Director

Dawnee Moreno, Administrator

Jasmine Chan, Administrator

Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer

Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant

Matthew Christman, Project Manager

Joe Barr, Project Manager

#### **Other:**

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

### 2. Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2024 (Action Item)

**Motion was made by Commissioner, Robin McArdle, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the February 24, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 3-0. (Chair, Steve Poe was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**

### 3. Call to the Audience

No one wished to address the commission during the Call to the Audience.

**No action was taken.**

#### 4. Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

Project Manager, Matt Christman provided a comprehensive overview including updates on the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan. A "Rio Vista Master Plan Timeline" was presented during the summary as well as a "Rio Vista Design/Construction Timeline." The timelines provided descriptions and dates for various activities that have taken place. In addition, a map of the trail system was shared. The park improvement recommendations of high priority were provided as well. The consolidation of the trail network was the first recommendation of high priority. Mr. Christman provided a brief synopsis on the involvement of Watershed Management Group.

There was discussion regarding community engagement and collaboration process as well as concerns with Watershed Management Group and modification of trails.

Director, Lara Hamwey shared and read a letter from Vice Mayor, Kevin Dahl acknowledging concerns expressed at the February 2024 commission meeting regarding implementation process of the adopted master plan for the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park. Mr. Dahl included in the letter that the TPRD engaged Watershed Management Group based on expertise and work specified by the master plan for contractors to perform and where feasible, for volunteers and stakeholders to stay engaged in the work to be done at the park. Mr. Dahl has confidence in the Watershed Management Group and their role in supporting the master plan. In addition, Mr. Dahl requested that the vendors contracted are allowed to execute the plan and move forward while providing updates and volunteer opportunities when applicable.

There was further discussion and involving Ms. Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista. Ms. Shopland shared thoughts on the park master plan and trail process. Ms. Shopland mentioned that that the map of the trail system came up without input from the community and Friends of Rio Vista, and decisions to be made on what the trail network should be. Ms. Shopland also explained that they are asking to be involved in the design of the trail and in the modifications of the trail network.

Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Robin McArdle, duly seconded by Manon Getsi that the Parks Commission make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Department to plan and implement a public meeting based on the Rio Vista Park Master Plan that gives a higher level of detail, and feedback. **The motion was carried by 3-0. (Chair, Steve Poe was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**

#### 5. Reports / Announcements

##### a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Robin McArdle complimented the Eggstravaganza event and staff.

**No action was taken.**

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

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes shared information regarding the Save our Saguaros event at the Sentinel Peak Park/"A" Mountain. The event was in collaboration with the Desert Museum and involved a mural painting by number activity. The event took place on March 3. Mr. Hayes also spoke about a project involving goats and sheep to assist with agricultural control at the Sentinel Peak Park/"A" Mountain. The animals will help by eating the unwanted vegetation including buffe grass. Mr. Hayes mentioned that the Dinos were successful. The Dino's were using the Hi Corbett facility during its season. A high school tournament took place shortly after Dinos. Currently, staff are prepping for little league play at the various park facilities.

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno reported information regarding the egg hunt program at Quincie Douglas Center on March 9. There were over 6,000 eggs with candy and prizes distributed in the three separate egg hunts. There were approximately 150 youth in each age group. The Eggstravaganza on March 23 had approximately 800 youth at the event. The event is one of the largest attended in a very

long time. The event took place at Mansfield Park.

The department hosted a Summer Job Fair on March 15 with approximately 98 participants. Summer opportunities include KIDCO Recreation Workers, Lifeguards Park Maintenance, Sports Recreation Workers, and Therapeutic Recreation Workers. In addition, information was provided about the various open house activities as well. An open house will take place at the Marty Birdman Center on April 6, and at the Donna Liggins Center on April 13. The Recreation Center Open Houses will offer free activities, refreshments, facility tours and information on programs and events.

The annual health fair at the El Rio Neighborhood Center will take place on April 6. The community event is in collaboration with the University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy. Various free testing will be offered. It was also reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Battle of the Bands event will take place at the OPC in Reid Park on April 7, 12:00 p.m. There are 15 registrants in the program. It was mentioned that the Sports User Group meeting for fall sports programs is scheduled for April 11.

Ms. Moreno continued to say that the department will host its second annual Power Wheels competition on April 19 at the Oury Center. The program is for youth ages 3-8 years old, and participants will compete in power wheels around a racetrack to compete for a grand prize. There are 80 youth registered in the program.

The KIDCO program is wrapping up the school year, and staff are prepared for upcoming the summer KIDCO program.

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson reported that Barrio Nopal will be awarded on Monday, April 1, and a groundbreaking and construction to take place sometime in May. The John F. Kennedy Park improvement project was also awarded, and construction is to begin in May as well. It is anticipated that the Santa Rita Park and Jacobs Park projects are to follow next.

**No action was taken.**

c. Director

Director, Lara Hamwey commended Administrator, Dawnee Moreno for efforts with filling vacancies in the KIDCO and lifeguard divisions. All the vacancies have been filled. The department is hiring for Therapeutics and Sports.

Ms. Hamwey shared that a Community Planting Day took place at the Cele Peterson Rose Garden in Reid Park on March 24. There was a total of 126 rose bushes planted. Currently, there are close to 400 roses in the rose garden. The rose garden can hold 1,200 roses. The Parks Foundation provided funding from its fundraising efforts to purchase plants, mulch, and fertilizer.

A Mayor and Council meeting was held on April 9, and the City Manager will present the recommended budget for the fiscal year 2025 which begins July 1. The Mayor and Council will review the Parks and Recreation revised rates and fees during the meeting as well. If the approved then the proposed rate changes will go into effect beginning July 1, 2024.

Ms. Hamwey also mentioned that the sports fields and turf manager position is open for recruitment. The posting closes April 7. The position is the previous Parks Area Supervisor position.

**No action was taken.**

6. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items:

Park Ranger Program  
Water Fountain Report

**No action was taken.**

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**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.**

7. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**

**Motion was made Commissioner Robin McArdle, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by 3-0. (Chair, Steve Poe was absent. There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)**