

## 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, April 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: 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 3:38 p.m. Those present and absent were:

#### **Present:**

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Commissioner, Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

#### **Absent:**

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

#### **Staff Present:**

Lara Hamwey, Director

Greg Jackson, Deputy Director

Mike Hayes, Deputy Director

Dawnee Moreno, Administrator

Jasmine Chan, Administrator

John Bonillas, Parks Superintendent

Dean Hoskin, Recreation Superintendent

Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer

Jennifer Psillas, GIS Project Manager

Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant

Chris Mayle, Parks Area Supervisor

#### **Other:**

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

Judith Meyer, Constituent

Margie Mortimer, Constituent

### 2. Approval of Minutes: March 27, 2024 (Action Item)

**Motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to accept the March 27, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 3-0. (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. Park Ranger Program

Police Chief, Chad Kasmar spoke on the agenda item. The Park Ranger pilot program launched on December 18, 2018, with the focus to improve public safety, specifically in parks quality of life issues and challenges. The goal was two-person Community Service Officer (CSO) teams called Park Rangers. There was a total of ten CSO's to cover four divisions plus two additional in the downtown district. At one time, there were a total of 47 CSO's and staff were looking to increase the count by 10 for a total of 57 Community Service Officers. Mr. Kasmar explained the challenges in the program and in the community. Currently, there are approximately 125 Community Service Officers which augment approximately 850 deployable police officers. The primary responsibility at this point for the Community Service Officer's is to support 911 calls for service. TPD has transitioned into recognizing that CSO's could have a far more robust role within the community and within the Police Department. Through discussion and works of Parks leadership, IT, and Public Safety Communications Department, staff implemented "hotspotting" which means that staff use evidence-based strategies that track data. CSO's are dispatched to 911 calls, and there is a mixture of CSO's and officers who respond to parks every two hours beginning at 6:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. Staff can track the number of times that staff are called out as well.

Mr. Kasmar also mentioned that violent crime and property crime have decreased in the last three years. 911 calls have decreased as well.

Mr. Kasmar offered to report back in 90 days with an update.

**No action was taken.**

5. Water Fountain Report

Parks Area Supervisor, Chris Mayle provided an extensive summary of irrigation projects, and the different systems. The summary included information on management of the different irrigation initiatives as well as the various procedures for monitoring, repairing, and replacing items.

**No action was taken.**

6. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner, Robin McArdle reported information on the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan. Ms. McArdle said that at the last meeting, the commission supported a motion to have a meeting at the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park to get greater input on the master plan to allow the neighborhood to continue to have input in that process. Ms. McArdle also said that she hoped that it was going to be facilitated for more input, but it was presented in a report format. Ms. McArdle complimented Matt Christman on the presentation. Ms. McArdle said that since the last TPRC meeting, there have been modifications made to the master plan. Ms. McArdle added that the trails are all primary trails, and there are no secondary trails. There is a trail that was eliminated, and it was called a secondary trail in the master plan. It was mentioned that there was discussion about the irrigation of the 365 plants that some stakeholders continue to be concerned about. Ms. McArdle also mentioned that she will be meeting with Vice Mayor, Kevin Dahl next week and appreciates the time and commitment to this process. It was also said that there are letters of appreciation from stakeholders that have been sent to the department, city, and to the commission. Ms. McArdle said it is hoped that it is something that will continue to be the best practice for the

city.

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero mentioned the Barrio Nopal groundbreaking ceremony to take place on May 3, 2024. Ms. Quintero reported that a Bike Rodeo will take place on April 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event will begin at Apollo Middle School, and the children will ride with different community leaders. Ms. Quintero also shared information regarding a community shared project involving students from Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School and various agencies. Students studied two different parks (Brandi Fenton Memorial Park and Thomas Jefferson Park) and presented a PowerPoint presentation with findings. There were 14 students that submitted projects to the University of Arizona. The top five will receive awards at the U of A on April 24, 2024.

Chair, Steve Poe reported that he will be leaving town on May 4, 2024, and will be gone for the next few months.

**No action was taken.**

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson provided the following updates: The Cushion Street Skatepark is in design, and Rio Nuevo contributed another \$200,000 to the project. The goal is to reach \$1.5 million. The construction began at the Kennedy Park ballfields. Phase one of the Columbus Park project is well under construction. The light project of the two existing little fields is complete. The construction of the new fields is in progress and to be completed in the fall. The projects for the Ft. Lowell Park swimming pool and splash pad are moving along. The pool will open in June and the splash pad will open in July. The splash pad projects in Freedom and Jesse Owens Park are scheduled to open in June this year. The Lincoln Park dog park and playground has a ribbon cutting in the month of May. Staff are working on a new park at the Los Reales Landfill. There is a community meeting for the initiative taking place tonight at the Little Town Community Center. A survey for the new park will be offered to the public as well. There is a special event taking place at the El Pueblo Park on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A survey about park improvements will be offered to the public during the event.

Parks Superintendent, John Bonillas reported that a planting event took place at the rose garden in Reid Park. There were approximately 130 new roses installed with the assistance of a volunteer group. Staff are mulching for all the rose beds. Staff are planning next year's event. Mr. Bonilla's also said that staff are starting an aerification program and various fields will close intermittently. In addition, staff are focusing primarily on maintenance, currently.

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno provided the information: The Battle of the Bands program took place in Reid Park on April 7, 2024, 12:00 p.m. Staff continue to host the open houses at the different recreation centers. A Power Wheels event took place at Oury Recreation Center on April 13, 2024. Staff planned for a Cinco de Mayo event at the Armory Center on May 3, 2024. All the senior groups will come together and celebrate together.

Ms. Moreno introduced the new Recreation Superintendent, Dean Hoskin to the TPRC committee.

Aquatics Program Manager, Orlie Johnson reported that the department will open twenty pools. A significant number of swimming classes were added to the lists of offerings. Staff also added more stroke lessons to the courses. The aquatics division is in its last class for lifeguarding, which happens on Sunday, April 28, 2024. There were approximately forty people trained, currently, and on top of the ones that were certified. Staff plan to train twenty more people.

**No action was taken.**

c. Director

Director, Lara Hamwey reported that the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Pathway to Asia took place on Saturday, April 28, 2024. This will be a two-year project.

Ms. Hamwey spoke briefly about Council Member, Steve Kozachik. Mr. Kozachik stepped down

from Ward 6. During tomorrow's Mayor and Council meeting, the council will discuss the next steps with evaluating and selecting. There were twelve candidates, one withdrew and there are eleven candidates' total.

Ms. Hamwey mentioned that the department was selected to host the Vice President of the United States and one of her in-person events. The event took place at the El Rio Center.

**No action was taken.**

6. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items

There were no items discussed.

**No action was taken.**

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 22, 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 4:44 p.m.**

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