

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, June 26, 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

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero at 3:55 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 (Joined the meeting at 4:04 pm)

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Director

Mike Hayes, Deputy Director

Dawnee Moreno, Administrator

Dean Hoskin, Recreation Superintendent

Aaron Sanchez, Recreation Superintendent

Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer

Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant

2. Approval of Minutes: April 24, 2024 (Action Item)

There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Chair, Steve Poe, duly seconded by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero to accept the April 24, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 4-0. (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. Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission Awards (action item)

Executive Assistant, Diana Schroeder introduced the item and provided details of the program including categories and timeline information.

The board members briefly discussed the timelines for the program.

Motion was made by Chair, Steve Poe, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to approve the start date of September 1, 2024, for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission Award program; and to include a two-week program with the following categories, Individual, Team and Non-profit. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 4-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

5. FY24 Program Reports

Director, Lara Hamwey spoke about educating the commission on items as well as Mayor and Council. Ms. Hamwey explained that the State changed the funding mechanism of the state tax revenue that the city receives to a flat tax. Last year, the city received approximately \$18 million less than the city anticipated. The city received notice from the state that what was projected to receive in the November time frame is \$2 million less. The department's perspective is that staff will begin doing a really good job educating Mayor and Council on its programs such as costs to deliver programs and at the current level. Ms. Hamwey continued to say because there is anticipation that in January staff could have to talk about a forecast of fiscal year 25 being tighter and decisions will have to be made on where programs will be scaled back to fit a budget. It was mentioned that the best-case scenario is the number comes in where the city wants it to come in and nothing happens to the department's budget and continue moving forward to next July as status quo. Ms. Hamwey said the commission will start to see when the department does a Mayor and Council report that highlights a particular program; what the program does; how much the program is costing; how much money is allocated to it, and how much is forecasted available for the rest of the fiscal year then staff are going to share that report with the commission as well. In addition, staff are putting together a comprehensive guide on its pool and costs to operate. In August, the department will be launching its first ever product usage program survey to better understand how people use the pools and their values. The survey will be on site at the different pool locations. Ms. Hamwey also said that Public Information Officer, Sierra Boyer has been working with the Equity office and making sure the information in the survey is meeting what has been determined to be the best way to gather demographic information. Ms. Hamwey said the intent is that everybody will be aware of what the impacts would be and the why's behind the impacts. The link to the survey will be shared with the commission.

6. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Mr. Poe inquired about the Catalina Park restroom restoration project that is recorded in the Capital Planning report. The status of the restroom is listed as historical review. Ms. Hamwey explained that both Deputy Director, Greg Jackson and Administrator, Jasmine Chan are in conference, and will do her best to answer. Ms. Hamwey explained there are certain locations where there's historical significance attached to the park or the amenity. When this happens, it must navigate through a historical review process before staff are able to proceed with any work that is scheduled to be done and depending on the results of the review, then determination for the extent of work can be made. Commissioner Poe asked Ms. Hamwey to inquire with Greg when he returns to ask what historical significance Catalina Park has. Commissioner, Manon Getsi shared information concerning an experience Ms. Getsi had in Reid Park and about nearly being hit by a baseball in the head. Ms. Getsi mentioned that she sent a letter in May about the experience, and never heard back. It was explained that the incident happened near a field on the northwest side of the park. Ms. Getsi said the field has

much lower fences and there were adult men practicing on the field. Ms. Getsi asked how often the men practice on the field. Director, Hamwey mentioned she did not know the frequency that the space is used. Ms. Hamwey also apologized regarding the letter and thought that she had responded. Administrator, Dawnee Moreno explained that the MLB, a men's baseball league had rented the field. The League operates for approximately 16 weeks and the organization uses it at least 6 to 8 months out of the year depending on the number of teams. Ms. Hamwey said that we could commit to following up with Ms. Getsi with current fence height and regulations for the type of play requires will be made.

Commissioner McArdle complimented the pickleball program at the Donna Liggins Center. Ms. McArdle inquired about a situation with an equestrian and a bird watching group, and concerns with trails. Director, Hamwey explained she was not aware of it and recommended adding the topic to an agenda for discussion. The subject will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero shared information on the July 20, Back to School event at Manuel Herrera Park. The event will include a fire truck to wet the kids; hot dogs, and the Ready, Set, Rec program.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Recreation Superintendent, Aaron Sanchez reported information on various events that took place such as Mother's Day celebrations, Cinco de Mayo fiestas, and a "Do over Prom" event held at the Donna Liggins Center. The program was offered to people 50 years old and over. Mr. Sanchez also reported that staff wrapped up the KIDCO end of school year program. Staff prepared for summer programming and staff got off to a good start with orientations and training. In addition, staff hosted a huge open house at the Clements Center. The event brought in quite a few membership sales, and it was one of the biggest turnouts with \$14,000 in membership sales.

Recreation Superintendent, Dean Hoskin reported that May was the end of the KIDCO program, and at the same time staff were ramping into summer. Mr. Hoskin mentioned that the Leisure Classes are operating as normal. Staff are in the process of still hiring instructors. Staff are working towards the fall classes as well. Ms. Hamwey mentioned the Summer Explosion program which takes place at Kennedy Park on July 12 after the end of the Summer KIDCO program.

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno reported information on the Junior Staff in Training program which registrations filled to max capacity. Ms. Moreno also reported that currently there are 313 swim guards with Scuba School International (SSI) certifications. The summer began with 320 swim guards. There were 1,175 youths that participated in the learn to swim classes. The swim team attendance has increased this year by 50%. There are 218 youth registered for the swim team. The participation numbers for the Synchro program increased as well. Last year, there were 10 girls and this year, there are 31 boys and girls in the Synchro program. The program will host a water show at the end of July. Ms. Moreno added that crews are assisting with an upcoming neighborhood event for the City Council Ward 1 Office on June 28 at the Menlo Pool. A similar event took place last month at the Mansfield Park swimming pool. In addition, the crews are collaborating for a drowning prevention event with Tucson Fire Department on July 25. More information is forthcoming. It was mentioned that the Tucson Fire Department utilized the city pools for water rescue training.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Director Hamwey reported that beginning July 1, Mr. Tim Thomure will be our official new City Manager. Also, the HR Director has left the city, and an interim HR Director has been recently appointed to keep things moving forward before staff does national recruitment. There was the

launch of a new recruitment and hiring module back in March.

Ms. Hamwey said summer has been focused on trying to deliver to all the audiences that want to be cool in whatever capacity, that is indoor and outdoor.

No action was taken.

7. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan- Update

Regulations on Baseball Field Fence

Mission Manor Survey- Results

No action was taken.

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, July 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.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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