

## 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, July 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

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### 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:**

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

Jasmine Chan, Administrator

John Bonillas, Parks Superintendent

Dean Hoskin, Recreation Superintendent

Aaron Sanchez, Recreation Superintendent

Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer

Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant

### 2. Approval of Minutes: June 26, 2024 (Action Item)

There was no discussion.

**Motion was made by Chair, Steve Poe, duly seconded by Commissioner Manon Getsi accept the June 26, 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

Henry Trejo addressed the commission with concerns regarding Murrieta Park and the conditions of the softball fields and the park. Mr. Trejo requested an update on the park and its improvement project.

Anna Marie Patti representing the Garden District Neighborhood spoke to the commission regarding a proposed park located at property 1933 N. Bell. There is a naming request to name

the property, Kha Dang. Ms. Patti also spoke about Kha Dang and the person's involvement with the community.

Constituent, Jonathan Paul Salvatierra with the San Antonio neighborhood shared thoughts on various initiatives concerning the City of Tucson and the Parks department.

**No action was taken.**

#### 4. Rio Vista NRP Prop 407 Improvements

Project Manager, Matthew Christman provided an extensive list of updates on various projects that have been completed in the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park as well as future projects that are planned for the park. Mr. Christman also shared information on the park master plan timeline and descriptions of the different activities.

Commissioner, Robin McArdle spoke about a letter from Desiree Golden regarding an incident at the Rio Vista Park on May 11, 2024. Ms. McArdle also mentioned letters written by Commissioner, Manon Getsi which shared information and concerns regarding Ms. Golden's letter and the park. Ms. McArdle shared thoughts regarding the letters and mentioned that it all speaks to the master plan and ongoing concerns from stakeholders. Ms. McArdle asked, how we can change this to be a process that continues to involve all stakeholders?

Commissioner, Manon Getsi read the two letters she had written. The letters were shared with the department and committee, previously. Ms. Getsi mentioned that she agrees with Commissioner, Robin McArdle and said that it's the people who have the most intimate knowledge of the area that probably need to be listening to the most. Ms. Getsi also said that we're casting out a wide net of information, and that's great, but then the information is to filter back which Ms. Getsi believes that it has not been done effectively.

Commissioner, McArdle stated that she wants conversation and resolution of how to move forward more effectively.

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero mentioned that she believes it's a safety concern and asked if we went to Mayor and Council, would they make changes for safety reasons?

Director, Hamwey clarified information and explained that the city adopted a plan that gave a path forward. Based on that plan then a design is created. That design is what we're in process of. Matt detailed what has been done so far and what is to come. Ms. Hamwey also said that we must be distinctive in terms of where we started; what is adopted, and then what is the path forward. The master plan went through the commission as well as Mayor and Council, and once approved then it is handed over to Watershed Management. Watershed Management commenced with the design and had done multiple iterations based on the master plan, which is our guiding document.

Chair, Steve Poe commented that there are issues that have not been resolved. Mr. Poe has not been to the park recently as he is out of town. Mr. Poe said if there have been incidences that would reoccur with the current layout then some adaptations need to be done, and if they're not within the plan, then we may need to look at that and make some recommendations to the council to amend it.

There was an extensive discussion.

Director Hamwey said, this is a good discussion point for an agenda item on what would the TPRC want to see come out of while in construction, continued engagement because it is understood that this is the pain point.

Vice Chair, Quintero mentioned that she has never been to Rio Vista Park and would like to visit the park. Commissioners expressed interests in the department to provide a tour of the park in September. Commissioner, McArdle requested to add Rio Vista Park to the next agenda to include an update on signs and plans to avoid future accidents.

**No action was taken.**

5. Regulations on Baseball Field Fence

The agenda item was brought forth from the previous TPRC meeting. At the last meeting, Commissioner Getsi shared a personal experience while walking by field 5 in Reid Park.

Director, Hamwey explained that she researched information from three different groups to find that the recommendation of measurements comes from the size of the field and layout of the field, and it is not specifically for fencing. Ms. Hamwey added that the field was built for the Colorado Rockies which confirms that it was built for adult use. Ms. Hamwey mentioned that she does not have the ability to say she was able to find the baseball regulation and fencing height requirements because nothing exists.

There was a brief discussion which included questions regarding when the field was built.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes explained the time frame when the field was built and when the Rockies were utilizing the field. Mr. Hayes mentioned he will pull the plans for the field for Ms. Getsi. The information will be emailed to Ms. Getsi.

**No action was taken.**

6. El Pueblo Survey- Results

The survey results were shared with the committee, and Administrator, Jasmine Chan provided an overview of the information. There were over 136 responses and 75 of the those came from less than three miles from the park. The survey showed top interests for amenities which includes playground with shade, community garden and covered basketball court. The secondary top amenities include lighting followed by a ramada with picnic tables. The third top amenities were a paved path and natural plantings. Deputy Director, Greg Jackson submitted for a Tohono O'odham Gaming Grant for funding a Ninja course.

It was mentioned that there are some challenges on the site as it relates to stormwater, and staff are thinking about what amenities would fit well with having to accommodate large volumes of water coming through during major storm events, and the 407 funding does include for a splash pad. There are different renovation items including irrigation, parking, signage and replacement of the playground with shade.

The El Pueblo Park is on the south end of the El Pueblo Center which includes neighborhood center, activity center and the senior center. Pima County houses a library in this area as well. There are several federal grants that contribute to the complex. One of the grants is for facilities improvements related to the community safety hub and making the interior of that work more in congruence with the city programs that are currently operating in the space. A second federal grant will fund is for campus improvements.

**No action was taken.**

7. Naming Request- Kha Dang Park (action item)

Director, Lara Hamwey shared information on a name request for property 1933 N. Bell, Tucson, Arizona.

**Motion was made Chair, Steve Poe, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to expedite the naming request forward to Mayor and Council for review and approval. The motion was carried by 4-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4).**

8. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner, McArdle commended a back-to-school event that took place at Quincie Douglas Center. There were over 2,500 people in attendance.

Chair Steve Poe inquired about the Outdoor DeMeester Performance Center listed in the Capital planning reports which is listed as scope being defined. Mr. Poe requested to add the item to the next agenda to discuss the process of the scope being defined.

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero spoke briefly about the back-to-school event at El Pueblo Center.

There were over 1,000 backpacks distributed. The event was in conjunction with Council Ward 5 Office. Ms. Quintero thanked staff for the efforts with the event.

**No action was taken.**

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Staff reported information on various recreation programs. Staff are in the last week of KIDCO. Staff wrapped up summer programming with Summer Explosion at the Kenndy Park. Some recreation centers will be closed in August for cleaning week. The track and field program are also coming to an end. The program typically has between 80- 150 participants. The pools are open until August 31 then staff switch to fall schedule. Currently, there are approximately 30 lifeguards. There were 1,603 children registered in summer swim classes. Last year, there were 1,088 youth registered in swim classes. The synchronized swim program doubled in registrants from a year ago. The pools had approximately 60,026 guests. The Quincie Douglas pool was the busiest with 99, 525 visitors. The aquatic division hosted a neighborhood event for a back to school at Palo Verde on July 27. The aquatic unit also collaborated with Tucson Fire Department on July 17 at Sunnyside to do extractions and spinal exercises.

Parks Superintendent, John Bonillas spoke briefly about parks maintenance. Staff have been doing storm cleanup and negation, as well as working with contractors to get emergency services. There were 70 trees that were affected by the storm. It was also said that crews are installing woodchips in all playgrounds.

**No action was taken.**

c. Director

Director, Hamwey reported information about the opening of the Wagging Tails Dog Park located in Lower Lincoln Regional Park. The event was held on May 23 and there were over 100 dogs at the event. On July 27, the Council Ward 4 Office will be doing an unveiling of the public art that is associated with the projects. The art consists of an artistic puzzle of three dogs and a 3D bone. Ms. Hamwey also informed the board of a Mayor and Council agenda item for the August 27, 2024, meeting. The item talks about fees. There are older fees in the code and the information is being updated. A schedule of fees will be on file with the clerk's office as well as through the department's website. There is also the Pima County Early Childhood program which is on the August 7 Mayor and Council agenda as well. This is the third renewal, and the city provides funding support. The parks department does not have any involvement with the program other than preparing and submitting the Mayor and Council communication.

**No action was taken.**

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items

Murrieta Park Update  
Outdoor Demeester Performance Center (OPC)  
Aquatic Survey  
Budget Report FY25

**No action was taken.**

e. Next Meeting Date:

There was discussion regarding the next meeting date (August 28) which coincides with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association Conference (APRA). There were a few dates discussed and the preference is September 4th. Commissioner, Getsi will check a calendar for availability.

**No action was taken.**

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.**

10. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 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)**