

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, September 4, 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 3:35 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
Commissioner, Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative
Commissioner, Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Director
Greg Jackson, Deputy Director
Mike Hayes, Deputy Director
Dawnee Moreno, Deputy Director
Dean Hoskin, Recreation Superintendent
Aaron Sanchez, Recreation Superintendent
John Bonillas, Parks Superintendent
Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer
Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant
Eric Barrett, ARC Studios, Inc.
Thomas Johnson, City of Tucson
Juliana Kipps, Equestrian
Dennis Roodvoets, ARC Studios, Inc.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner, Robin McArdle, duly seconded by Chair, Steve Poe to accept the July 24, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor and Ward 1 sector)

3. Call to the Audience

No one wished to address the commission.

No action was taken.

4. Los Reales Park Master Plan (action item)

Mr. Eric Barrett with ARC Studios, Inc. provided a presentation with a detailed overview on the Los Reales Park Master Plan. The initiative is a new park undergoing a master planning process for future park amenities. The planned park space is located next to the Los Reales Sustainability Campus. The land use concept was presented during the meeting as well. The investment is approximately \$1.8 million in impact fees.

There was a public meeting held for the initiative at the Little Town Community Center. This provided opportunity for public feedback and submittal of ideas. In addition, an on-line survey was offered to the public for input. There will be additional public input opportunity as the plan transitions into Phase II.

Motion was made by Chair, Steve Poe, duly seconded by Commissioner Robin McArdle to move forward with the master plan. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor and Ward 1 sector)

5. Murrieta Park Project Update

This item was discussed at the previous meeting and a constituent inquiry of the two-softball fields on the southern side of the Murrieta Park. The constituent expressed concerns about the leveling and flooding within the fields. Director, Hamwey explained that ARPA funding has been allocated to upgrade irrigation to the fields. Staff plan to address the concern, but staff must wait until the contractor releases the site as work is still being done. It is forecasted that staff may not have possession of those fields until sometime next year. It was added that, the department is in the process of hiring a Sports Field and Turf Supervisor. This person will be assigned to addressing those fields.

A map of the park was shared during the meeting.

No action was taken.

6. Budget Report FY25

Director, Hamwey provided a PowerPoint presentation on the FY25 Parks and Recreation General Fund Budget \$40,183,522. The presentation included a high-level overview of information.

No action was taken.

7. Outdoor DeMeester Center (OPC)

Administrator, Jasmine Chan provided an update on the project. The consultant, Swaim Associates are already on contract, and they are working on some concept plans and associated preliminary budgets for each of those based off the stakeholder input that occurred last year with special events people. Staff will re-engage with stakeholder groups in October to present those concepts and budgets. The department will come back to the commission with the information after the public engagement activity. Staff anticipate coming back to the commission in January, and staff are reaching out to the special events people in October.

No action was taken.

8. Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

Commissioner, Robin McArdle introduced the agenda item. The committee visited the park, and each committee member shared concerns about various items regarding the park such as the trails, grass overgrowth, rock placements, and dogs off leash. Ms. McArdle shared photos with areas of concern. Administrator, Jasmine Chan reported that some frames have been installed. The design of the trail map

signs are being finalized. The finalized information will be shared with stakeholder groups including neighborhood association and Friends of Rio Vista. The map imagery will be shared with the TPRC board as well.

Commissioner, Getsi inquired about removing the white rocks in the Rio Vista Park and opening an additional trail closer to the barn. It was expressed that the rocks are a hazard and opening an additional trail will provide another outlet.

Chair, Poe shared a concern with a riprap that he discovered while at Rio Vista Park. The layer of rock is located in an expansive area near the border of Cactus Road on the east side of the park.

Commissioner, McArde requested to keep the subject matter on the agenda.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

The City of Tucson Park and Recreation launched the “Leash Up. Clean Up” initiative. This campaign is in celebration of Responsible Dog Ownership Month, and the information was shared with the TPRC committee before the meeting. Vice Chair, Beki Quintero thanked staff for sharing the information.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Staff provided information on various department initiatives. The recreation centers were closed in August for its annual cleaning. Recreation Centers, Armory, El Rio and Oury experienced roofing issues from a storm. The roofing project at Armory has started.

The cooling centers wrapped up in August and the recreation centers are no longer providing those additional operation hours. The program was taking place at Freedom, Donna Liggins, and El Rio Center. Staff attended the APRA Conference on August 26-28.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes reported that staff worked to repair a leak at the riparian in Ft. Lowell Park. It was mentioned that woodchips will be installed to all the playgrounds in the TUSD school sites. The city park playgrounds will be replenished with woodchips as well.

Aquatic Program Manager, Orlie Johnson provided an update on the Aquatic Division. The eight seasonal pools that are open during summer only have been closed. There were three additional pools open through the month of August. Those pools include Menlo, Mansfield and Freedom. Currently, there are four extended season pools open. The pools that are located at Udall, Quincie Douglas and Amphi are kept open for high school practices which will continue through November 10. The splash pad in Ft. Lowell Park has opened. Mr. Johnson also reported information on the different aquatic programs.

Parks Superintendent, Dean Hoskin spoke briefly on the summer, Track and Field program and the KIDCO program which came to an end. The school year KIDCO program and fall Leisure Classes have begun.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Director, Hamwey provided information regarding the city’s “Leash up. Clean up” campaign which is an initiative to promote responsible dog ownership. September is responsible dog ownership month.

Ms. Hamwey shared that the City Manager appointed a new Assistant City Manager, Christina Swallow. Ms. Swallow has been with the city for a little over a year, and was the previous Director, for Planning and Development Services as well as former Director of the Nevada Department of Transportation.

Ms. Hamwey mentioned that the department will receive \$2.9 million dollars for Jacob's Park project. The funding is from a federal grant application through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP). The funding is matching dollars to Prop 407 funds. It was mentioned that the Land Water Conservation grant will be considered for the new park near Los Reales.

No action was taken.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Dogs off leashes for the October TPRC agenda

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park- Sign Update

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

September 25, 2024.

No action was taken.

c. 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.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Motion was made Chair, Steve Poe, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 1 sector)