

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, December 3, 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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Or call in (audio only) [+1 213-293-2303](tel:+12132932303) 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, Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Commissioner, Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Absent:

Commissioner, Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, 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

Other:

Chad Kasmar, Chief, Tucson Police Department

Stacie Schaner, Assistant Police Chief, Tucson Police Department

Naomi Lee, Staff Member, Mayor and Council Ward 3 Office

2. Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2024 (Action Item)

A motion was made by Commissioner, Robn McArdle, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the October 23, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by roll call, 3-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 6 sectors)

3. Call to the Audience

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista, addressed the commission regarding the Rio Vista Park

Natural Resource Park. Jennifer Shopland thanked the commission for their contributions to Rio Vista Natural Resources Park. Jennifer Shopland recognized Chair, Steve Poe for his service with the commission. Steve Poe's term with the commission has concluded. Steve Poe served a continuous period of 8 years of tenure with the commission.

Mark Albrect spoke to the commission about the Randolph Park Reimagined project. Mark Albrect shared concerns with the different project initiatives in the program.

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero requested an update on the golf course project as a future item.

No action was taken.

4. Proposed Renaming of Mansfield Park- action item

Director, Lara Hamwey introduced the agenda item. There is a proposal to rename Mansfield Park to Doris J. Thompson Park. Constituent letters for the renaming proposal were shared previously with the committee. The renaming proposal was brought forward to the committee for review and approval to move forward to Mayor and Council agenda.

Commissioner, Robin McArdle shared thoughts regarding the collective value of the Mansfield Park community.

A motion was made by Commissioner, Manon Getsi, duly seconded by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero to approve the proposal for the renaming of Mansfield Park. Commissioner, Robin McArdle chose to abstain. Motion was carried by roll call, 2-1. (There is no representation for the Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 6 sectors)

5. Columbus Park- discussion

Director, Hamwey provided an update on the Christopher Columbus Park project. The park is in the process of receiving new fields. The project is interconnected with the Prop 407 initiative. The project will require a 404 Permit as a portion of the project infringes on an archeological sensitive area. A 404 permit is a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that is required for development projects that impact certain wetlands and washes. In addition, it is also required to notify consulting parties which involves 13 tribes, and to complete a damage assessment with a plan of action. The Arizona State Museum and State Historical Preservation Office are also involved in assisting with the permit processes. A meeting took place with tribes on October 1st. There were six tribes in attendance. The feedback from the meeting will be gathered and reviewed. Staff will prepare a plan to move forward. The project is on hold for the meantime, and for preparation of the permit requirements. The Parks and Connections Bond Oversight Committee (PCBOC) has been informed of the permit requirements.

Commissioner, Robin McArdle requested monthly updates on the program.

No action was taken.

6. TPRC Awards- action item

Director, Hamwey provided a brief review of the program and status of the nominations. Director, Hamwey reported that Lana Butler passed away. Mr. Butler was one of the award nominations. Staff will notify Ms. Butler's family of the award program and nomination approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner, Robn McArdle, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to approve the nominations except for one which was a self-submittal. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was passed by 3-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 6 sectors)

The award presentations will be distributed at the Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon on December 18, 2024. The event will be hosted at the Tucson Convention Center.

7. TPD CSO Program- discussion

Tucson Police Department, Chief Kasmar and Patrol Services Bureau, Assistant Chief, Stacy Schaner provided information on the Tucson Police Department (TPD), Community Service Officer (CSO) program. The CSO's are non-sworn, uniformed personnel who assist the police department with law enforcement-related tasks. The CSO's are unarmed, and respond to the lower-level service calls. TPD implemented the Precision Oriented Policing program (POP) to help with activating the parks as well as obtaining more presence in the parks. The TPD Analysis Division works in cooperation with the City of Tucson Public Safety Communications Department to emit automated dispatches for park patrol efforts. The CSO's respond to these service calls. The program began with a soft opening in April 2024. Staff began tracking information in July 2024. Since July, there have been 5,400 park deployments. The CSO program processed 73% of service calls.

In addition to the CSO program efforts, the TPRD and TPD collaboratively attend quarterly connect meetings to strategize and discuss various efforts. The group also discusses information on top ten problematic parks. A Lieutenant is assigned to each of the four patrol divisions as a contact for parks issues that occur in their respective divisions. The Multi-Agency Homeless Coordinator, Mari Vasquez is in collaboration with TPRD and TRD quarterly meetings as well. There are several facilities involving homeless situations.

Commissioner, Manon Getsi requested regular updates on the top ten problematic parks.

A list of the ten parks will be shared following the next TPRD and TPD Collaboration meeting.

Chief Kasmar reported that TPD has affected over 4,500 narcotic arrests and approximately 500 deflections. TPD is also working with City Courts on a program which allows people to participate in court hearings on-site with a judge. Arrests are processed and TPD can then process an area as restricted. The program is an alternative to the jail program.

Chief Kasmar spoke briefly on the 414 Safe and Vibrant City Proposition. The item will be on the March ballot for voters' consideration. The proposition involves a half-cent sales tax rate increase for the next ten years, to fund a safer and more vibrant Tucson. If approved, the revenues will be split into five distinct categories with a portion of the funding allocated to public safety investments and community resiliency investments.

The city departments continue to collaboratively address situations and provide available resources to the community.

8. New Chair Election- action item

A motion was made by Commissioner, Manon Gestl, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to elect Vice Chair, Beki Quintero as Chair for the commission. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by a voice vote of 2-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 6 sectors)

It was the consensus of the committee to conduct an election for the Vice Chair vacancy at the next meeting.

9. Reid Park Eastside Accessibility- discussion

The agenda item is a follow-up to a previous constituent inquiry regarding accessibility to Reid Park. Prior to the start of the Reid Park Zoo expansion project, there was access to the park from the path through Zoo Court, which led to the Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) and the Reid Park Zoo entrance. Since the work began on the expansion, the path is no longer accessible. The constituent believed this was a temporary closure. The closure is permanent. There is an alternate path on 22nd Street and west of Lakeshore Drive. Signs with notifications will be installed in the park.

A QR code with information will be posted at the ARC for notifications as well.

10. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Director Hamwey recognized Chair, Steve Poe for his tenure with the commission and contributions to the department and City of Tucson. Director, Hamwey presented Steve Poe with a plaque of appreciation.

Commissioner, Robin McArdle provided information about a holiday event at the Quincie Douglas Center on December 14, 2024. There were over 2,500 toys collected for the event. The toys are provided by Amazon and the Toys for Tots program.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes mentioned that Southwest Paving will begin work to repave Lakeshore Drive on January 13, 2025.

The Parks division is working with center staff on various recreation facility renovations. Parks staff worked on an overseeding project at the Therapeutic Recreation Center. The outdoor area also received wood chips. Parks staff assisted with preparations for the annual Family Festival.

The extended season pools closed on November 10th. In addition, the ARC will be closed during the last week of December for the removal of bromine and installation of chlorine. Bromine will be removed from additional pools including the extended pools.

The recreation centers hosted various holiday themed based events in November. The Udall Recreation Center hosted the Atria Senior Living sponsored Thanksgiving Luncheon for approximately 45 seniors. Staff are preparing for winter programs as well.

The Armory Recreation Center is in the process of receiving new wood floors as well as new lighting and AV system in the multipurpose room.

The recreation centers will close at 2:00 p.m. on December 24th and 31st for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve holidays.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Director, Hamwey introduced the new Business Operations Administrator, Andi Padilla.

Lara Hamwey provided information on Mayor and Council item, Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation to build Cushing Street Skate Park. The Cushing Street project is near commencement. The bidding process is completed, and staff are in negotiations with the proposals. Rio Nuevo is donating \$250,000 to the skate park project.

11. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Employee Retention

Randolph Golf Course Update

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

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.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner, Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor. Motion was carried by 3- 0. (There is no representation for the Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 6 sectors)