

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, February 26, 2025

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 287 415 006 171 Passcode: oG27yS3f

Dial in by phone [+1 213-293-2303](#) Phone conference ID: 112 850 077#

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Beki Quintero at 3:34 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative
Vice Chair, Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative
Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative
Commissioner, Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative
Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative

Absent:

Commissioner, Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Greg Jackson, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Dawnee Moreno, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Andi Padilla, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Jasmine Chan, Tucson Parks and Recreation
John Bonillas, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Aaron Sanchez, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Dean Hoskin, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista
Bill Mackey, Worker Architect

2. Approval of Minutes: January 22, 2025 (action Item)

There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Antonio Ramirez duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to accept the January 22, 2025, minutes as submitted. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (There is no representation for Mayor sector)

3. Call to the Audience

At this time, any member of the public is allowed to address the Committee. Speakers are limited to three (3) minute presentations. Pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, individual Committee members may ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda, or respond to criticism made by speakers. However, the Committee may not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during "call to the audience".

No one wished to address the commission.

4. Proposition 414- information

City of Tucson, Public Information Officer, Andy Squire provided information on Proposition 414- Safe and Vibrant City. The proposal is a half-cent sales tax increase for the next ten years. If approved by voters, the City's sales tax rate will increase to 3.1%. It is estimated that the initiative will generate \$800 million over ten years. The tax revenues will help fund public safety and community investment projects. The Proposition 414- Safe and Vibrant City will be on the March 11, 2025, ballot.

A question-and-answer session took place. No action was taken.

5. Himmel Park Tennis Court- Hitting Wall (action item)

Bill Mackey, Worker Architect, provided information on a proposal to install a memorial hitting wall in Himmel Park. The initiative is a community effort to honor Carl Mickler. Carl Mickler was an avid tennis player and instructor for youth tennis programs. Bill Mackey shared photos of the Himmel Park tennis courts and location for the wall installation. The wall will be positioned at the northwest corner of the tennis courts.

A motion was made by Commissioner, Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner, Antonio Ramirez to support the wall project in Himmel Park. Motion was carried by a voice vote 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor sector)

6. Employee Retention Plan

The agenda item was postponed to the next meeting due to the extensive agenda. For extended agendas, Vice Chair, Manon Getsi recommended that meeting materials be distributed to the commission one week in advance.

No action was taken.

7. 2024 Annual Report (action item)

The 2024 Annual Report was provided in the meeting packet. There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to approve the 2024 Annual Report. Motion was carried by a voice vote 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor sector)

8. 2024 Attendance Report (action item)

The 2024 Attendance Report was provided in the meeting packet. There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to approve the 2024 Attendance Report. Motion was carried by a voice vote 5-0. (There is

no representation for the Mayor sector)

9. Signage for facilities recognizing history and honored people

Director, Lara Hamwey, spoke on the agenda item. Dr. Ron Spark introduced the topic during the previous Call to the Audience. Dr. Ron Spark voiced concerns about the absence of signage at city facilities recognizing honored individuals. Staff are investigating the most effective approach to implementing a well-suited program with standardized signage. When a process is established, the information will be shared with the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission for review, and approval to move the item to Mayor and Council for adoption.

There was a brief discussion. No action was taken.

10. Lifeguard Recruitment Process

Deputy Director, Dawnee Moreno provided updates on recruitment. The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department continues with recruitment efforts. The department is hosting a "Job Madness" summer job fair at the Parks and Recreation administration building on March 14, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Staff previously carried out three rounds of lifeguard recruitments. Staff expect to hire approximately fifty additional guards for the summer.

There was a brief discussion held regarding pool covers and their impact on pools.

No action was taken.

11. Santa Rita Park Update

Administrator, Jasmine Chan provided updates on the Santa Rita Park Master Plan. The project includes a new splash pad and renovations to the sports fields and lights, playground, restroom, ramadas and walking path. The groundbreaking for park improvements is scheduled for April 24, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The planned closure date for the park is late April 2025. The project investment is \$7.4 million dollars.

There was a discussion regarding fencing and homelessness in the park. The City of Tucson, including the Housing First Program, Tucson Police Department, and Tucson Parks and Recreation are collaborating with the community to address homelessness and encampments in the park.

No action was taken.

12. Partnerships with Recreation Centers for Programs and Services

Deputy Director, Dawnee Moreno shared that the Tucson Parks Department has over 67 unique partnerships at the different recreation centers.

Commissioner, Robin McArdle requested to move the agenda item to the next meeting. To add, Commissioner, Robin McArdle requested information in a format categorized by each center.

13. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner, Antonio Ramirez discussed the February 19, 2025, Mayor and Council approved programs:

- Approval to rename the Cesar E. Chavez holiday to Cesar E. Chavez and Dolores Huerta holiday.
- Approving the Renaming of Christopher Columbus Park to Danny Lopez Park.

- Intergovernmental Agreement with Rio Nuevo to Fund Cushing Street Skate Park.
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona Department of Transportation to build Cushing Street Skate Park.

The project breaks ground on March 21, 2025.

Commissioner Ramirez shared information on the Fuga bike program, which will have its monthly bike ride at the El Pueblo Recreation Center on February 28, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

To add, the Dia de Los Ninos event will take place at El Pueblo Park on April 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Chair, Beki Quintero, thanked staff for their work with the Rodeo Parade.

Commissioner, Maurice Roberts attended the Restoration Celebration at the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park on January 25, 2025. Commissioner Roberts congratulated the Parks Department for their efforts on the program.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Administrator, Jasmine Chan listed park projects that are in procurement status, which include Santa Rita Park and Jacobs Park.

Lakeside Park has received a new playground. The park is also undergoing irrigation upgrades.

The Barrio Nopal project is currently under construction. The project is anticipated to be completed in late April 2025 or early May 2025.

Kennedy Park is currently undergoing construction for new ball fields and dog park. The renovation project for the Joaquin Murrieta Park is underway as well.

The multi-use path surrounding Reid Park has been upgraded with a new paved surface.

Jasmine Chan mentioned that she is part of the Pima County's "Network Connecting Nature" program. The program aims to engage children with nature and foster environmental awareness. The program is developing a survey for new play experiences and to provide additional programming with nature play activities.

Recreation Superintendent, Dean Hoskin shared information on the Senior Olympic Festival, which took place on January 4, 2025, through February 2, 2025. It was also reported that the Sports Unit issued park use permits for the spring semester.

Recreation Superintendent, Aaron Sanchez reported information on the open house activities. The Freedom Recreation Center kicked off the program with 77 participants. Randolph Recreation Center hosted an open house on February 20, 2025. The event included 370 participants and a mini health fair with seniors from various city recreation centers. Additionally, mini health fairs are scheduled to take place at the El Pueblo Recreation Center on March 4, 2025, and at the Therapeutics Recreation Center on March 13, 2025. On February 28, at 10:00 a.m., the El Rio Center will host an open house as well.

Staff are preparing for the spring camps to accommodate the Tucson Unified School District and Vail School District. The program provides a variety of activities for youth ages 5-11 years old.

All City facilities will be closed in observance of Cesar Chavez Day on March 31, 2025.

Aquatics Administrator, Orlie Johnson reported that the Parks Department hired two new Pool Supervisors. In addition, 30 people were interviewed for the Pool Specialist position. Staff also plan for Water Safety Instructor classes, and to hire 80 Water Safety Instructors. Staff met with the different City Council offices to discuss the summer pool schedules.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Director, Lara Hamwey shared that the parks department is collaborating with the Center for Mediation to facilitate community discussions about food distribution permits.

A virtual meeting is set for March 5, 2025, with an in-person meeting available on March 8, 2025.

No action was taken.

14. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items:

Santa Rita Park

Employee Retention Plan

Partnerships with Recreation Centers for Programs and Services

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

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.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Robin McArdle duly seconded by Commissioner, Antonio Ramirez to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried by a voice vote 5-0.

(There is no representation for Mayor sector)