

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, March 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 3:33 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Vice Chair Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative (left the meeting at 4:36 p.m.)

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative (arrived at 3:34 p.m.)

Absent:

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 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

Adrian Jaramillo, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sara Turpin, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Psillas, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Justin Hamilton, Homeless Protocol Outreach, Housing and Community Development

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

2. Approval of Minutes: February 26, 2025 (action item)

Motion was made by Commissioner Manon Getsi, duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to accept the February 26, 2025, minutes as submitted. All committee members were in favor. The motion passed with a voice roll call, 5-0. (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. Santa Rita Park / Homelessness- discussion

The agenda item was submitted at the request of Commissioner Maurice Roberts. There are concerns surrounding the closure of Santa Rita Park and homelessness in the park. The construction of park renovations begins on April 21, 2025.

Department of Housing and Community Development, Homeless Protocol Outreach Supervisor Justin Hamilton provided information on the various outreach efforts and protocols in place to address homelessness. Justin Hamilton shared a schedule of outreach programs that regularly visit the park, offering a range of services to support individuals experiencing homelessness. The Parks and Recreation Department is also in collaboration with Housing and Community Development to address homelessness. As the park's closure approaches, staff are organizing increased support from Housing and Community Development and sustaining ongoing outreach.

There was a discussion.

5. Employee Retention Plan- discussion

There was discussion on employee retention within the Parks and Recreation Department. A detailed report on staff turnover and retention was shared in advance of the meeting. Director Lara Hamway provided a brief overview of the report's data during the committee meeting. The information outlines the reasons for separation, organized by year and categorized by specific causes. It was also reported that over the past year, the department saw its highest number of non-permanent employees' transition into permanent roles.

It was noted that exit interviews are made available for departing employees. Exit interviews are entirely voluntary. In addition, employees have several channels through which they can share concerns or receive support.

6. Partnerships with Recreation Centers for Programs and Services

Deputy Director Dawnee Moreno shared information on the various partnerships for programs and services offered at the city recreation centers. Dawnee Moreno provided an extensive list of the collaborations with different organizations.

7. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Maurice Roberts thanked Administrator Jasmine Chan for attending an Armory Park Neighborhood Association meeting to provide information on Santa Rita Park efforts.

Commissioner Maurice Roberts shared information on the Sculpture Festival at the Brandi Fenton Park on March 29-30, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Maurice Roberts spoke about Armory Park and its improvement project.

The project is in permitting status currently. Construction begins in July 2025.

Chairperson Beki Quintero shared information on the Musical Star Night activity. The event will take place in the Peace Garden of the Manuel Herrera Jr. Park on Saturday, March 29, 2025, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Robin McArdle recognized Congressman Raul Grijalva and his service to the Tucson community.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

The Aquatic Division hired thirteen new specialists for the summer as well as two Pool Supervisors. The department hired thirty lifeguards as well.

The Catalina Pool is scheduled to reopen on April 1, 2025. Staff are transitioning from bromine to Pulsar for water treatment.

The Park Maintenance division is preparing for spring and summer as well as the monsoon season.

Staff are participating in the Egg Hop event at Quincie Douglas on April 5, 2025, to share concept plans of the new play experiences for Silverlake Park and Mirasol Park. To add, staff will be sharing various project information at the Las Vistas community yard sale on March 31, 2025, and again at the Cyclovia event on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Santa Rita Park is closing on April 21, 2025, to begin construction of the park improvement project.

Jasmine Chan shared information on the Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Pima County to Manage the Proposition 407 Historic Preservation Project at Fort Lowell Park. Pima County has secured construction bids for the project in alignment with voter approved bond scope, and an amendment is required to raise the reimbursement cap. Mayor and Council will review the item for approval at the April 8, 2025, meeting.

Business Operations Administrator Andi Padilla provided additional updates on recruitment. The department is in the process of summer hiring. The swim instructor position is currently under review with Compensation and Classification. Recruitment will open soon with a goal of filling 66 positions. The department hired 26 KIDCO Recreation Workers. A total of 213 candidates have been invited to interview over April 3 and 4, 2025, with an anticipated need to hire approximately 88 individuals. There were seven candidates hired to fill the Senior Recreation Worker positions. There were 94 individuals invited to an interview for the Sports Event Worker position on April 3 and 4, 2025. A total of 40 individuals are required to meet staffing needs. There were 11 people who were invited to an interview on April 1, 2025, for the Therapeutic Program Coordinator.

Dawnee Moreno shared information on the Open Houses. Four open houses were held at various recreation centers, drawing strong participation with over 800 people in attendance.

The department organized spring break camps that served 250 youth.

The Parks and Recreation Department will host the High School Battle of the Bands on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Doris J. Thompson Park will host the Eggstravaganza on April 12, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 3rd annual City of Tucson Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Lincoln Park. The coed tournament has 16 teams competing.

c. Director

The department is going through its reaccreditation process through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park

Association (NRPA). This marks the third time going through the process. There are over 155 standards that require documented evidence of compliance. A closing meeting is scheduled, and the CAPRA team has demonstrated a strong level of confidence to recommend the accreditation though the official designation wouldn't be granted until the NRPA conference in September 2025.

Lara Hamwey provided information on the renaming proposal for the Morris K. Udall Baseball Field #3 to Chase Ridenour Field. The item is in the 45-day comment period.

No action was taken.

8. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Santa Rita Park

Partnerships with Recreation Centers for Programs and Services

Funding Memorandum

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 23, 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.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (There is no representation for Mayor sector)