

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, April 23, 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 (arrived at 3:39 p.m.)

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 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

Other:

Rudy Castillo, Loma Verde Park

Beverly Tidwell, Loma Verde Park

Vivienne Castillo, Constituent

Lindy Brigham, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Lynn Montiel, Loma Verde Neighborhood Association

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

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

Commissioner Maurice Roberts proposed a minor revision to the March 26, 2025, minutes, to clarify the language in the first sentence of agenda item #7. Reports/Announcements. The sentence was revised to include the words 'Park' and 'Association' accurately reflecting that Commissioner Maurice

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner Manon Getsi to accept the March 26, 2025, minutes with the amendment. The motion passed with all committee members in favor of the motion, 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".

Rudy Castillo addressed the commission regarding Loma Verde Park and bicycle path initiative and its impact on Loma Verde Park.

Beverly Tidwell spoke to the commission about Loma Verde Park and expressed concerns over the bicycle path initiative.

4. Grow Tucson- Tucson Clean & Beautiful- discussion

Tucson Clean & Beautiful provided a presentation on the Grow Tucson program, a USDA Forest Service funded project. The program focuses on transforming Tucson's hottest communities into cooler, greener spaces. Currently, Tucson Clean & Beautiful is partnering with the Tucson Parks Department to explore tree planting opportunities in park facilities within the 29th Street Thrive and Sunnyside sectors.

5. Santa Rita Park / Homelessness- discussion

The agenda item serves as follow up to the previous meeting discussion with a request for an update on post closure status of Santa Rita Park. The park closed on April 21, 2025, for its renovation project. Director Lara Hamwey provided a brief update on the parks' progress and homelessness in the area. Fencing has been installed around the park's perimeter. There are no significant signs of where the homeless population may be relocating. City officials began outreach in January 2025 to engage with unhoused individuals and provide resources.

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for April 24, 2025, 9 a.m.

6. Partnerships with Recreation Centers for Programs and Services

The agenda item was continued from the previous meeting, where Deputy Director Dawnee Moreno discussed the department's collaborations with organizations that provide programs and services at city recreation centers. A list of organizations will be included in the meeting materials for the month of May.

7. Memorandum for Funding Assistance-discussion

The agenda item was introduced at the request of Commissioner Manon Getsi. Commissioner Getsi expressed interest in implementing an initiative to secure additional funding for park-related efforts and to provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council. There was discussion about ideas for fundraising programs and community partnerships. Discussion also covered the idea of forming a subcommittee. Deputy Director Greg Jackson explained that the process for forming

subcommittees follow the same procedures as commission meetings.

8. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez shared information on the Dia de Las Ninez celebration on April 26, 2025, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at El Pueblo Park. The event will include free food and refreshments, entertainment, games, and resource booths.

Commissioner Manon Getsi shared concerns regarding Rio Vista Natural Resource Park and food left at the southeastern side of trails in the park. Commissioner Getsi suggested signage indicating no feeding wildlife to be installed on the trails.

Chair Beki Quintero provided information on a bike ride activity to include youth from Challenger Middle School and Apollo Middle School on April 26, 2025. The event includes pizza, Eegee's, and refreshments.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Aquatic Program Manager Orlie Johnson reported information on the aquatic programs and facilities. The department opened three additional pools, including Quincie Douglas, Ft. Lowell Park, and Udall Park. All the splash pads except for those at Catalina and Palo Verde have also opened. Improvement projects are currently taking place at the splash pads in Catalina and Palo Verde Park. The Catalina splash pad will open May 1, 2025. The construction of the splash pads at Barrio Nopal and Joaquin Murrieta Park is progressing and the facilities will open in May as well.

The department hired an Aquatic Coordinator who will oversee the swimming lesson programs, aquatic fitness classes, and facility rentals.

An adult master's swim meet will take place at the Archer pool in May.

The Eggstravaganza event took place at Doris J. Thompson Park on April 12, 2025, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. There were approximately 3,000 people in attendance.

The Open House events continue to take place at the different recreation centers. Marty Birdman hosted an open house event in April. Donna Liggins is set to host an open house on April 25, 2025, while El Rio Center will host its event on May 2, 2025. The centers will be offering memberships 50% off during the open houses.

On May 10, 2025, the Armory Park Center will host a health fair.

Staff will host the second annual Second Chance Prom on May 17, 2025, at the Armory Park Center from 5-8 p.m. The event will feature live music, dancing, beer garden, prom themed activities and local vendors.

The groundbreaking ceremony at Santa Rita Park takes place on April 24, 2025, at 9 a.m.

The City of Tucson will celebrate the completion of the new splash pad at Freedom Park on May 3 at 10 a.m. The celebration coincides with the Annual Ward 4 Splash Bash at Freedom Park from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A groundbreaking ceremony for Jacobs Park will take place on May 9, 2025, from 10-11 a.m.

A groundbreaking event for the historic Fort Lowell Park project will be held on May 28, 2025, at 9 a.m.

A ribbon cutting for the grand reopening of Joaquin Murrieta Park is scheduled for May 31, 2025.

On June 6, 2025, the reopening of Quincie Douglas pool and slide will take place at 1 p.m.

All the summer class programs are available for online viewing. Registration for summer programs begins May 3, 2025. Registration for swim classes begins May 19, 2025.

The Parks Maintenance division has been busy with Easter cleanup efforts, while the staff is also preparing for the upcoming summer season.

c. Director

Tucson City Councilman Richard Fimbres announced he is not seeking reelection this year. A recruitment process is underway to fill the position.

The department is currently evaluating its fee structures and exploring potential avenues for revenue enhancement. A recent budget proposal suggested discontinuing the Ready, Set, Rec program. In response, staff are engaged in discussions to ensure the program's long-term viability while preserving its core mission of delivering mobile recreation services in parks. These deliberations may be included in the committee's agenda for review in the fall of 2025. Additionally, the Mayor and Council have expressed interest in convening a discussion on fees in the spring of 2026. The city manager proposed a budget aiming at fiscal year balance, though it's anticipated that filling future vacancies may require more time due to current budgetary constraints.

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Implementation of subcommittee focused on funding efforts-action item

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

b. Location:

Hybrid Format- In-person at the Tucson Parks & Recreation Administration Office, Mesquite Conference Room, 900 S. Randolph Way and Microsoft Teams Virtual

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

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