

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, May 28, 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 3:35 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 Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative (joined at 3:40 p.m.)

Absent:

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 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

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Barbara Jones, Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Debbie Hicks, Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Kathryn Leavey, Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Katie Brown, Constituent

Ellen Parrish, Amphi Neighborhood Association

Ted Mruk, Constituent

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

2. Approval of Minutes: April 23, 2025 (action item)

There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Antonio Ramirez to accept the April 23, 2025, minutes. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 5-0. (Commissioner Maurice Roberts was absent. 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".

Katie Brown addressed the commission regarding tree planting initiatives and proposed strategies for planning.

Ellen Parrish spoke to the commission with concerns about the potential sale of Amphi Neighborhood Park, noting that the Catholic Diocese chose not to renew its lease.

Ted Mruk spoke to the commission, noting the lack of accessible water near the bocce courts in Himmel Park. Ted Mruk advocated for installation of water service, emphasizing its benefits.

4. Volunteer Re-vegetation Project / Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Barbara Jones, representing the Friends of Danny Lopez Park, shared a PowerPoint presentation introducing the organization and outlining a proposal for a revegetation project titled the Habitat Enhancement Plan. The Friends of Danny Lopez Park is a group of dedicated volunteers committed to improving the park through various community led initiatives. The proposed Habitat Enhancement Plan is a pilot project focused on restoring and enhancing the natural habitat in the park. The program focuses on habitat restoration, revegetation, expanding the tree canopy and offering educational signage, and cultural history programs.

5. Loma Verde Park

The agenda item addressed concerns from the previous Call to the Audience about the Alamo Wash Greenway's impact on Loma Verde Park. Department of Transportation and Mobility Project Manager Collin Chesston explained that the greenway is part of a long-planned urban trail connecting the Rillito River Path to the Aviation Bikeway. A public meeting held at Loma Verde Park presented a concept drawing showing a paved path through the park. The design was shared as part of a related Sahuaro Bike Boulevard project, which follows a similar route in places of the Alamo Wash Greenway. In response to the community concerns about the impact on Loma Verde Park, a follow-up meeting was held with the Loma Verde Neighborhood Association to hear feedback and address questions. No final decisions have been made regarding the design or route of the greenway. There are multiple route alternatives being considered, including one with minimal or no impact to Loma Verde Park. One option could reroute the trail through Park Place Mall, though feasibility it is still being evaluated. Public meetings focused specifically on the Alamo Wash Greenway will be held in the fall, with dates to be announced.

6. Memorandum for Funding Assistance

The agenda item was carried over from the previous meeting for continued discussion on establishing a subcommittee to support the Parks and Recreation Department with initiatives related to safety, cleanup, and broader community concerns regarding park conditions, including issues such as unhoused individuals, drug activities, and sanitation. The focus of the subcommittee

is to explore solutions for improving safety, sanitation, and cleanliness within parks, as well as identify potential partnerships and resources to support and enhance park maintenance and improvement.

Commissioner Manon Getsi shared a letter written by Jose Luis Munoz. The letter raises concerns about understaffing, safety, and cleanliness at Reid Park, highlighting the presence of used needles and safety risks. The letter urges increased resources and support for park staff to maintain the park's safety and accessibility.

Vice Chair, Manon Getsi moved to write a letter to Mayor and Council addressing the growing concerns about sanitation conditions in the parks, due to increased usage by unhoused and the general public, and to help Tucsonan's better understand how they can deal with the problems they are experiencing with unhoused and drug use.

Commissioner Darin Gregg seconded the establishment of a subcommittee to review sanitation requirements and issues in the parks, and to write a letter to Mayor and Council outlining the information with potential recommendations.

Motion was approved by a voice vote, 5-0. (Commissioner Maurice Roberts was absent. There is no representation for Mayor sector)

There was discussion on selecting members for the subcommittee. It was the consensus of the committee to select Vice Chair Manon Getsi, and Commissioner's Darin Gregg and Maurice Roberts. Deputy Director Greg Jackson reminded the commission on the processes required for agendas, legal action reports, and minutes.

7. 2025 Summer Pool Schedule and FY26 Schedule

The discussion covered the summer 2025 pool schedule and fiscal year 2026 planning. The pools open June 1st. The schedule was adjusted based on feedback from last summer, including the need for more access at different times and days. A significant portion of the budget, nearly \$1.2 million, is allocated for staffing and pool programming in the summer. In contrast, the budget for the rest of the year is lower at \$800,000. Attendance varies with peak usage in June and July, averaging 40,000 users, dropping to 3,000 in the winter months. The Learn to Swim program had over 1,600 youth last summer with expectations to exceed that number this year.

The Mission Manor pool project is scheduled for groundbreaking soon, which may impact staffing and budget needs. New splash pads are being added, and it is not anticipated to impact staffing costs significantly. Additionally, shifting to chlorine instead of bromine has led to cost savings. Efforts are being made to improve programming and access. In addition, the department intends to prioritize pools with high usage and those offering therapeutic services.

8. FY26/27 Budget

Director Lara Hamwey provided an update on the FY26/27 budget. The City of Tucson adopted its Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget during the June 6, 2025, Mayor and Council meeting. The Parks and Recreation budget remains stable; however, a significant change is the elimination of the Ready, Set, Rec program. The program is being cut due to financial constraints and fee-based options are not feasible as the operation costs does not justify the returns. The city is facing a tight financial forecast for the coming year beginning July 2026. Sales tax revenue is lower than expected, and there are significant budget commitments. There is a possibility of fee adjustments in late September or October, depending on the outcome of cost analyses. The department is exploring ways to sustain programs. There may be opportunities for sponsorships or other funding avenues. In addition, there are ongoing conversations about how to implement efficiencies and reorganize

staffing. Going forward, the department will adapt to a more constrained budget by reassessing programs and focusing on core services.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Chair Beki Quintero announced a clean-up event at the airport wash, along 12th Avenue to Missiondale on June 13, 2025.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Staff provided a brief overview of the Skill Bridge program, mentioning that the department is exploring potential internship opportunities. The process is underway with job descriptions drafted and the team reviewing a list of potential candidates. Staff are evaluating the feasibility of incorporating the program within the department.

The department is transitioning to summer hours for park maintenance staff. Staff are working on summer aerification program across all sports fields. Additionally, a pilot program for field renovations is underway at field 4 in Silverlake Park.

Staff shared information on the following programs: The Armory Park hosted the Step Forward wellness program with approximately 150 participants. The Armory Park Center hosted the Second Chance Prom in April as well. Santa Rosa hosted an open house last month, attracting 150 attendees. The Armory Center will host its open house in June. During the open house events, the department offers universal membership passes at half price.

Udall Center is hosting a resource fair on May 31, 2025. The event will provide information on community support programs and services.

The cooling centers program, available at locations across each ward, will begin June 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025, providing temporary relief spaces for the public during peak heat hours.

Staff are preparing for the summer KIDCO program, which serves youth ages 5-11 during June and July.

The Joaquin Murrieta Park is reopening on May 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., celebrating the completion of upgrades and renovations. The project includes a new splash pad, 4-field baseball and softball complex, concession building, two new playgrounds, ramadas, and walking path. The celebration of a new slide and pool improvements at Quincie Douglas pool takes place on June 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

The groundbreaking of Mission Manor Park is scheduled for June 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. The initiative will kick off the development of a new aquatic complex and stormwater infrastructure, as well as parking improvements.

The Jacobs Park revitalization project is currently under construction. Improvements include a new softball field complex, skate park, two additional soccer fields, futsal and pickleball courts, an expanded dog park, addition of a family picnic area with a playground, and restroom facilities. Additionally, the project will improve stormwater infrastructure and planting of 310 new shade trees.

Barrio Nopal is set to open in late June. The new park will feature a splash pad, shade structure, playground and restroom.

A playground was ordered for Palo Verde Park, which will be opening soon.

The aquatic team is currently attending orientation at the El Pueblo Center with 300 lifeguards participating. As a result, all pools are closed for the session. Additionally, 50 Swim School Instructor (SSI) lifeguards have been trained. Swim lesson program is 80% full and all KIDCO

sites are also full with wait lists.

Director

There were no additional updates discussed.

No action was taken.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Amphi Neighborhood Park

Tree Planting Planning

Himmel Park Bocci Courts- Irrigation

Budget Update

History on Parks- (Signage/QR Code- Mechanism to collect/receive information from community members)

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, June 25, 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.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

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