



## **2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission Hybrid Meeting** **Monday, April 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**

**In-person: Parks & Recreation Mesquite Room - 900 S. Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716**

**Or Virtual:**

To join the Parks + Connections BOC- Microsoft Teams Meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone,  
Click On: [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 282 879 952 868 Passcode: j8YiHf Dial in by phone [+1 213-293-2303](#) United States, Los Angeles Phone conference ID: 325 178 586#

### **MINUTES**

Present				Absent
Ron Spark Ward 6	Krista Romero-Cardenas City Manager	Jose Munoz Mayor	Willie Blake Ward 5	Ryan Anderson City Manager
Kathy Kretschmer City Manager	Lisa Vega Ward 1	John Anderson Ward 3		
Nicole Fyffe City Manager	Harold Coleman Ward 2	Kendall Kroesen Ward 4		

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Commissioner Lisa Vega joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Chair Ron Spark initiated introductions to welcome new committee member, Harold Coleman.

#### **2. Call to Audience**

Jim Sims addressed the committee regarding the funding allocation for the irrigation improvement project at the Randolph North Golf Course and renovation projects at the David Bell multi-use path.

#### **3. Approval of January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

There was no discussion.

Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen, to approve the January 13, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.

#### **4. 2024 Annual Report**

The 2024 Annual Report was included in the meeting materials distributed in advance of the meeting. There was no discussion.

Commissioner John Anderson motioned, duly seconded by Commissioner Willie Blake, to approve the 2024 Annual Report. The motion was approved unanimously, 10-0.

#### **5. 2024 Attendance Report**

The 2024 Attendance Report was included in the materials circulated prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Kendall Kroesen motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lisa Vega, to approve the 2024 Annual Report. All committee members supported the motion, 10-0.

## **6. Jacobs Park Update**

The agenda item was at the request of Vice Chair Krista Romero-Cardenas to review the Jacob's Park Master Plan and compare it to the elements in the first construction phase, with attention to shade structures, tree planting and irrigation.

Parks and Recreation Administrator Jasmin Chan provided clarification on which elements from the master plan that are not included in the first phase of projects. These projects include shading and lighting at the basketball court adjacent to the YMCA program center; the renovations of one tennis court surface with the second being repurposed into a futsal court; the addition of new LED lights on two existing multipurpose fields and LED light upgrades at the Ochoa Soccer Complex; and installation of a skate park. Additionally, the volleyball court project; expansion of the maintenance yard; and the new pedestrian crossing with lighting at the Ochoa Soccer Field Complex, as outlined in the master plan are not included in the current phase. The parking lot resurfacing projects will include the east parking lot at Jacobs Park. The plan will introduce nine ramadas and fifteen picnic tables as well as shade structure installations over all bleachers. The plan will also include the installation of 310 trees; each will be equipped with an irrigation system. Notifications of park closures and schedules will be distributed and posted for public awareness.

## **7. Midtown Bicycle Boulevards Package Route Changes**

Project Manager Faffs Riederer presented recommendations for proposed change requests related to the Kenyon/Eastland bicycle boulevard and to Calle Marte/33<sup>rd</sup> Street/Calle Marte/29<sup>th</sup> Street bicycle boulevard. There are two proposed changes to the Kenyon/Eastland boulevard. The project team is seeking adjustment, shifting the voter approved route on Paseo Dorado to Columbus Boulevard, and moving it along South Bryant Avenue. The change will enhance safety by enabling bicycle boulevard users to cross Columbus Boulevard at a single point instead of having to travel an additional block. The second recommendation is to modify the voter-approved route that utilizes Kenyon/Eastland and 19<sup>th</sup> Street to use the existing Timrod Bicycle Boulevard between South Venice Avenue and Craycroft Road. The change will eliminate two proposed bike hawks, while maintaining two existing bike hawks. Project Manager Faffs Riederer outlined the justifications in detail for the changes which includes: the proposed new route is slightly less direct resulting in a north and south inefficiency of approximately 1600 feet; the voter-approved route passing through private property, necessitating the purchase of an easement or right-of-way; potential cost savings of \$880,000; and the suggestion from local residents who raised concerns about duplicating an already functioning bicycle boulevard located just 800 feet away, arguing that these funds could be better allocated elsewhere.

**Commissioner John Anderson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Willie Blake, to approve the proposed change requests for the Kenyon/Eastland bicycle route. The motion passed unanimously, with all committee members in favor, 10-0.**

Project Manager Faffs Riederer shared recommendations for proposed change requests to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street/Calle Marte/29<sup>th</sup> Street bicycle boulevard. The project team recommended shifting the route at Kolb Road to one block north to Calle Ileo. The justification for the change includes several factors. First, there is an existing signalized intersection at Kolb Road and Calle Ileo approximately 275 feet from the voter-approved route crossing at Calle Marte and Kolb Road. While the appropriate crossing treatment of Kolb at Calle Marte is a bike HAWK, the city prohibits bike HAWKS within 660 feet of a signalized intersection. The proposed change enhances route directness and provides cost savings. Implementing a new bike HAWK signal is estimated at approximately \$440,000, while converting the intersection to be bike-friendly is approximately \$250,000. These investments are expected to improve safety.

The project team shared an additional change request proposing a modification to the previously approved route.

Instead of using 29<sup>th</sup> Street and South Avenue Guillermo, it is recommended to adopt a new route that follows Calle Marques, South Prudence Road and East Palma Street. The adjustment utilizes residential streets instead of a collector road, enhancing rider comfort and safety. In addition, the revised route will bring Deitz School students to the front entrance of the building. The route is slightly shorter and more direct as well.

Commissioner Lisa Vega motioned, seconded by Commissioner John Anderson, to approve the proposed change requests for the Calle Marte/33<sup>rd</sup> Street/29<sup>th</sup> Street bicycle route. The committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

**8. El Paso & Southwestern Greenway (St. Mary's to University route)**

Project Manager Faffs Riederer provided a map and latest developments on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway project. This proposed path will connect the University Boulevard at Main Avenue to the Kino Sports Complex. The Project Manager also shared that the map previously provided to voters did not illustrate the connection between the end of Hughes Street and University Boulevard at Main Avenue. There are constraints associated with crossing the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. To address this, the project team has commissioned an alternative analysis and planning-level cost estimate of three possible routes: 1. An asphalt side path along the west side of Main Avenue. 2. A two-way cycle track on Main Avenue. 3. A 5<sup>th</sup> Street bicycle boulevard. These options are being considered and discussed with the Ward 1 office. The Department of Transportation and Mobility held outreach to the Dunbar Spring and Barrio Anita Neighborhood Associations through email communications and hosted two public events to gather community feedback. Among the proposed routes, the 5th Street Bicycle Boulevard garnered the most support and encountered the least opposition.

**9. Camino Miramonte- Palo Verde Bicycle Boulevard**

Project Manager Collin Chesston introduced a project change request for the Camino Miramonte- Palo Verde Bicycle Boulevard project, proposing a small change in the route alignment. Instead of using Howard Boulevard between Bellevue Street and Speedway Boulevard, it is recommended to shift the route to one block east, using Jones Boulevard. The modification is anticipated to improve user comfort; increase route directness, and eliminate costs and coordination associated with reconfiguring an existing bus pull-out and moving a bus facility on Speedway Boulevard. The project team has collaborated with the Ward 6 office to discuss the proposed project change request. The information was also shared with the community through two public meetings and various communication channels.

Vice Chair Krista Romero-Cardenas moved to approve the second proposed change request for the Camino Miramonte- Palo Verde Bicycle Boulevard. Commissioner Lisa Vega seconded the motion. The committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

**10. Program Update: Finance Detail and Timeline-**

Business Services Deputy Director Aaron Williams provided a financial summary through April 11, 2025, highlighting key developments. A second issuance totaling \$3.8 million dollars has been made. The city is approaching the end of fiscal year 2025. Due to budget constraints and economic uncertainties, the next bond issuance is anticipated to be in fiscal year 2027, a shift from the previously planned fiscal year 2026. The city has allocated funds from the general reserves to support operations throughout this period. Additionally, to honor voter-approved initiatives, the city plans to implement cost-saving measures across projects and explore additional funding sources to fulfill these commitments.

Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, seconded by Commissioner John Anderson, to accept the financial report. The committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed, 10-0.

**11. Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule**

- July 21, 2025
- October 20, 2025
- January 19, 2026 (MLK Holiday)

Alternative date suggestions: Monday, January 12 & 26 and Tuesday, January 20

It was consensus of the board to tentatively schedule the January 2026 meeting on January 12, 2026.

**12. Future Agenda Items**

- Randolph North Golf Course
- El Paso & Southwestern Greenway

**13. Commissioner and Staff Announcements**

Chairman Ron Spark shared that he sent a letter of gratitude to Frank Flasch for his dedicated service to the committee. Chair Spark also recognized the Ward 1 newsletter, honoring Commissioner Lisa Vega. To add, Chair Ron Spark announced upcoming park events including a groundbreaking ceremony for Santa Rita Park revitalization project on Thursday, April 24 at 9:00 a.m.; the opening of the Freedom Park Splash Pad on Saturday, May 3 at 10:00 a.m.; and the groundbreaking ceremony for the improvements at Jacobs Park on Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Vice Chair, Krista Romero-Cardenas, shared information on the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) survey. The survey aims to gather community input on regional transportation and mobility priorities.

Commissioner Willie Blake announced the pet wellness event at the Quincie Douglas Center on April 26 and 27, 2025. The Pima Animal Care Center will provide free services during the event.

Commissioner Lisa Vega mentioned the re-opening of Joaquin Murrieta Park on May 31, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Lisa Vega also reminded the committee about the upcoming Tucson Mariachi Conference on April 23 through April 27, 2025.

**14. Adjournment**

Chair Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

-LAST ITEM-