

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, June 25, 2025

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Meeting ID: 287 415 006 171 Passcode: oG27yS3f

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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Beki Quintero at 3:30 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 4:00 p.m.)

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

Adrian Jaramillo, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sara Turpin, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Cecile Roullet, Amphi Neighborhood Association

Ellen Parrish, Amphi Neighborhood Association

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

2. Approval of Minutes: May 28, 2025 (action item)

A brief discussion took place concerning a few corrections to the minutes. One correction involved updating Commissioner Robin McArdle's attendance record. Another correction changed "Mission Road" to "Missiondale" in agenda item 12. Reports and Announcements.

Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Vice Chair Manon Getsi to accept May 28, 2025, minutes with amendments. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 4-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg 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".

Cecile Roulet addressed the commission regarding the May 31, 2025, pool party held at the Amphi pool. Cecile Roulet shared concerns about insufficient public awareness, reduced swim hours, and the lack of adequate recreational amenities at the pool.

4. Proposal to Name Morris K. Udall Baseball Field #3 to Chase Rideour Field (action item)
Deputy Director Greg Jackson provided a brief overview of public feedback on the proposed naming of Morris K. Udall Baseball Field #3 to Chase Rideour Field.
Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Vice Chair Manon Getsi to accept the proposal to name Morris K. Udall Baseball Field #3 to Chase Rideour Field, and to forward the proposal to Mayor and Council for approval. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 4-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent. There is no representation for Mayor sector)
5. Tucson Parks and Recreation Awards- action item
There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of deferring the agenda item, as relevant staff were unavailable and there was uncertainty of specific details for the item. By consensus, the commission agreed to move the item to the agenda of the next meeting.
6. Amphi Neighborhood Park
The agenda item is in response to concerns raised during the previous Call to the Audience regarding the potential sale of the Amphi Neighborhood Park. The agenda item was brought forward for continued discussion.
Deputy Director Greg Jackson provided background context and an update. The Amphi Neighborhood Park was previously operated by the city under a long-term lease with the Catholic Diocese. The lease expired approximately two years ago. The city continued operations while attempting to renew the agreement. After the church declined to renew, the city ended park operations on October 31, 2024. The church is in the process of separating the park area from its larger property. The city is interested in purchasing the separated parcel. Once the parcel is defined, and if the church is open to sell, the city will pursue acquisition using impact fees
7. Tree Planting Planning
Tree planting initiatives were discussed following concerns raised at a previous Call to the Audience by constituent, Katie Brown. Katie Brown emphasized the importance of selecting and placing trees based on how residents use park spaces, prioritizing shade in high-use areas. Suggestions included engaging the community through interactive tools such as sticky boards and identifying a community liaison for feedback. The city acknowledged Tucson Clean and Beautiful's role in tree projects, with the urban forester involved in planning. Staff supported inviting Tucson Clean and Beautiful to a future meeting.
8. Himmel Park- Irrigation
This item was brought forward from the previous Call to the Audience due to concerns regarding limited water access to the bocce courts at Himmel Park. Parks Area Supervisor, Adrian Jaramillo, shared information about the current irrigation availability within the park. Staff are currently

assessing potential solutions for providing water access near the bocce courts. Once a feasible option is identified, staff will follow up with the constituent who originally raised the concern. One option under consideration is the installation of quick-connect fitting like those used on athletic fields. This type of fitting allows for connection of hoses or irrigation lines.

9. History on Parks-Mechanism to collect/receive information

The committee postponed discussion of the agenda item which was brought forward at the last meeting. At the previous meeting, the Commission discussed the potential implementation of QR codes on signage at parks named after notable individuals such as Jesse Owens Park, to provide visitors with accessible information about the park's history and notable figures associated with it. It was mentioned that the Public Information Office, Sierra Boyer, is currently developing sign designs that incorporate QR codes, allowing visitors to scan and access detailed content. These digital resources would offer in-depth information and direct users to additional information. The Commission acknowledged the importance of this project and expressed support for its advancement. However, due to the absence of Sierra Boyer at this meeting, the agenda item was tabled for further discussion at the next session.

10. Budget Update

Commissioner Maurice Roberts shared information regarding ideas for funding opportunities through the National Fitness Campaign and GoFundMe initiatives. Commissioner Maurice Roberts also spoke about subcommittee logistics including scheduling, meeting format, and staff support. Deputy Director Greg Jackson explained previous engagement with the National Fitness Campaign program. In 2020, the city explored funding from the National Fitness Campaign, which required a 2:1 match from recipients. Plans were paused due to COVID-19. Greg Jackson added that there were procurement issues as well.

Commissioner Manon Getsi requested clarification on quorum requirements and permissible communication among members. Commissioner Manon Gestí also requested that the subcommittee information shared at the previous meeting be sent to the board.

Deputy Director Greg Jackson explained that subcommittees operate like Commissions, including meeting scheduling and minute-taking. It was also noted that subcommittees to report their findings to the Commission. Greg Jackson suggested inviting the City Clerk's Office to present on Open Meeting Law and compliance procedures.

11. Congregate Meal Program/PCOA

Director Lara Hamwey reported that PCOA lost \$3 million in state funding, resulting in reduced congregate meal services. Sites at El Rio, Donna Liggins, and the Armory were affected. Meals will continue at recreation centers, Freedom and Clements. Catholic Community Services continues to operate at Quincy Douglas and El Pueblo. The sudden notice during the city's budget adoption left little time for contingency planning. The meals at Donna Liggins Center will be funded for one year through the support of Ward Offices 3 and 5. Quincy Douglas will receive meals via a mobile provider through August 2025. Transitions start June 30, 2025. El Rio participants will be accommodated through the program at Armory Park Center and will be offered transportation to the center. Among PCOA's resources is a program near the El Pueblo Center. Despite funding cuts, services at Donna Liggins Center and Quincie Douglas Center continue, helping to limit disruptions. The department is evaluating the long-term impacts of program cuts.

Commissioner Robin McArdle provided extensive feedback about the cuts to the federally funded Congregate Meal Program and addressed concerns with service disruptions and lack of clarity from PCOA. Commissioner Robin McArdle referenced Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) which provides funding for various nutrition services, including congregate meals and home delivered meals. The importance of the program was also noted, and it was also pointed out that PCOA's cost per meal seems inflated as it includes in-kind expenses such as staff time and facility usage. Commissioner Robin McArdle expressed interest in having discussion with PCOA regarding financial information. Robin McArdle requested as a future agenda item to continue discussion.

12. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez mentioned the Dia de San Juan celebration on June 24, 2025. Chair Beki Quintero thanked everyone involved with the Mission Manor Park groundbreaking event on June 24, 2025.
No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

A total of 1,493 youths participated in the swim lesson program, while the swim team enrolled 46 youths, and the synchronized swimming program had 107 participants. All programs saw an increase in participation compared to the previous season.
The Nadia Jane Baker Splash Pad, along with Clements and Palo Verde pools, were upgraded with UV secondary sanitizers.
The pony field in Ft. Lowell Park has undergone renovation, and staff are currently working on improvements to the outfield. In addition, wood chips are being replenished across city playgrounds. Staff are also preparing for the upcoming monsoon season.
Various recreation centers held theme-based activities around Father's Day. Centers continue to provide activities for seniors as well.
An open house was held at Armory Park Center with giveaways; July will have a Quincie Douglas open house.
Various facility upgrades are underway with new windows at Therapeutics Rec Center, new workstations for staff at Udall Center, partitions at El Rio Center, security enhancements at El Pueblo Center and Archer Center, and a garden shed at Clements.
Cooling centers remain open daily, including holidays, to help residents stay safe from the heat.
Summer KIDCO is three weeks in programming and operations continue to do well.
Coordination with PCOA mobile meals team at Quincy Douglas is set; seniors are excited to have breakfast and lunch service back temporarily.
Spring baseball and softball rentals are ending soon which will allow for field maintenance before fall.
The Summer Explosion event will be held on July 11, 2025, at the amphitheater in Kennedy Park. Participants will showcase their talents.
Verona Paul Park's building expected mid-July completion with a grand opening on August 16. Armory Park construction is expected to begin in late summer with no full parking closure; permits are in place.
The completion of the Barrio Nopal Park project will take place in mid-July. The grand opening for the park is scheduled for August 16, 2025, 9:00 AM.
The department is reviewing bids for the Armory Park project. Construction begins late summer. It was noted that the project will not involve complete park closure.

c. Director

At the June 17, 2025, meeting, the Mayor and Council approved ordinance amendments to prohibit camping in washes and public parks. These changes will take place 30 days after the meeting. The city is currently coordinating implementation efforts.

Additionally, Director Lara Hamwey discussed a proposed ordinance to designate all playgrounds and splash pads as "play areas," restricting access to individuals accompanied by children. This aims to prevent misuse of facilities, such as sleeping or washing clothes in these areas. The proposal is being developed in collaboration with the City Attorney's office and will be added to a future agenda once further progress is made.

No action was taken.

13. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Tucson Clean and Beautiful for Trees

PCOA Congregate Meal Program

No camping in parks and play areas

TPRC Awards

History on Parks-Mechanism to collect/receive information

Budget Subcommittee/Fundraising Update

City Clerk presentation on open meeting laws and subcommittees

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, July 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

A motion not to hold a meeting in August was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Antonio Ramirez. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 5-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent. There is no representation for Mayor sector).

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

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