

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, October 23, 2024- 3:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

**In-person at the Tucson Parks & Recreation Administration Office, Mesquite Conference Room
and Teams Virtual**

Join on your computer [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 286 700 686 38 Passcode: TAI4Wz

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Or call in (audio only) [+1 213-293-2303](#) United States, Los Angeles Phone Conference ID: 465 484 285#

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero at 3:33 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Commissioner, Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Commissioner, Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner, Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Director

Greg Jackson, Deputy Director

Mike Hayes, Deputy Director

Dawnee Moreno, Deputy Director

Dean Hoskin, Recreation Superintendent

Aaron Sanchez, Recreation Superintendent

John Bonillas, Parks Superintendent

Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer

Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant

Joe Barr, Project Manager

Matthew Christman, Project Manager

Corey Martinez, Parks Area Supervisor

Other:

Terry De Carolis, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Sue DeArmond, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Ron Spark, Parks and Connections Bond Commission

Mary Bird, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Melanie Campbell-Carter, Rillito Bend Neighborhood Association

John Kovacik, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Murray DeArmond, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Stephen Brigham, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
Michael Shaw, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista
Susan Behrendt, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
Gary Westcott, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
David Tiers, RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
Ray Jordan, Ward 5 Representative with Tucson Commission on Disability
Lindy Brigham, President of RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
Sara Studd, Mountain First Neighborhood

2. Approval of Minutes: September 25, 2024 (Action Item)
A motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the September 25, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor and Ward 1 sector)
3. Call to the Audience
Ray Jordan spoke to the commission regarding concerns with pedestrian access into Reid Park. Sara Studd inquired about the colors used to paint benches and tables in Mitchell Park. Sara Studd requested to change the color to a neutral tone.
David Tiers addressed the committee regarding various park initiatives with respect to Rio Vista Natural Resource Park. David Tiers thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts and enabling the park plan.
Lindy Brigham spoke about information regarding the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park. Lindy Brigham thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the work with the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan and attentiveness to the community.
No action was taken.
4. Rio Vista Update- discussion
A meeting took place involving Ward 3 Council Member, Kevin Dahl, Parks and Recreation Department, Director- Lara Hamwey, and TPRC committee members- Steve Poe, Manon Getsi and Robin McArdle. The topic of discussion was Rio Vista Natural Resource Park and the park master plan. The commissioners shared information on the different discussion items including installation of 365 plants, irrigation, grass maintenance around rocks, path stones, as well as path size and removal of paths.
No action was taken.
5. Dogs off Leashes- discussion
The agenda item was a request from Chair, Steve Poe and an inquiry about initiatives to enforce leash laws. The Parks Department is promoting the Leash Up Clean Up Program. The purpose of the program is to educate the public and bring awareness to the importance of leash and litter laws. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to work collaboratively with Pima Animal Control (PAC) and Tucson Police Department (TPD) on issues with dogs off leashes. Director, Hamwey submitted a request to TPD to investigate and target the parks that have increased activity, and process citations.
Chief, Chad Kasmar is invited to the next meeting and will provide an update on the Community Service Officer Program (CSO).

6. Santa Cruz River Park- discussion

The agenda item was brought forward from a previous request by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero. Vice Chair, Quintero asked about maintenance near the loop at the Santa Cruz River Park. There are concerns regarding facility conditions and public safety. Director, Hamwey mentioned the county was going to use the space as part of the loop project, and a developer was involved. Director Hamwey will speak to the City Manager's Office about the situation and maintenance. Director, Hamwey requested to bring the item back to a future agenda when more information is available. Commissioners agreed with Ms. Hamwey.

No action was taken.

7. Tucson Parks & Recreation Commission Awards (action item)

The nominations for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission Awards were shared with the committee previously. There was a discussion. The board requested clarification on two nomination submissions which include a submittal for David Mattausch and Tucson Clean and Beautiful. The nominations are recorded as self-nominations. Staff will investigate information and follow up with an email providing clarification.

Commissioner, Manon Getsi made a motion, duly seconded by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero to postpone the voting for the awards until the November meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor and Ward 1 sector)

8. TPRD Vision & Mission (action item)

The TPRD Vision and Mission statements were shared with the committee. Staff reviewed and updated the statements previously during a Management Team meeting. The committee reviewed the Vision and Mission statements and staff recommendations for proposed changes. The board provided recommendations for changes.

A motion was made by Commissioner, Manon Getsi, duly seconded by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero to approve the recommended changes made to the TPRD Vision and Mission statements that now state: *Vision- A dynamic, proactive, and innovative system of parks, facilities, and services that enhances the overall quality of life for all. Mission- To enrich our community through innovative programs that are fun and inclusive in safe and beautiful sustainable places.* All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion was carried by 5-0 with a voice vote. (There is no representation for the Mayor and Ward 1 sector)

9. Meetings in November/December (action item)

The meeting dates for November and December are scheduled during the holiday week. The committee discussed alternative dates for the meetings.

Commissioner, Manon Getsi made a motion, duly seconded by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero to move the November 27, 2024, TPRC meeting to November 20, 2024, and cancel the December meeting. The November and December meetings will be combined. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for the Mayor and Ward 1 sector)

10. New Chair in Future- discussion

Chair, Steve Poe will reach the 8-year term in office on November 30, 2024. It was recommended to hold elections for a new chair during the November agenda, and for Chair to take effect in January.

No action was taken.

11. Future Capital Projects- discussion

The list of capital projects is included in the meeting reports. Director, Hamwey made a request for the board to notify the department in a month's advance notice with projects of interest to be discussed. The reports will be provided by request. This process will allow staff to bring projects forward that the board is interested in pursuing for discussion.

12. Reports / Announcements

- a. Vice Chair, Beki Quintero mentioned a neighborhood meeting she attended regarding parking lot improvements at the Rudy Garcia Park and Mission Manor Park.
- b. Commissioner, Darin Gregg spoke about the veteran's SkillBridge program and offered to provide information to the department for any interests. The SkillBridge program provides retiring and transitioning service members with the opportunity to participate in industry training programs while transitioning out of their military careers.
Director, Hamwey has an upcoming meeting regarding the SkillBridge program and will report back with information.

Commissioner, Manon Getsi requested information regarding the eastside access to Reid Park. Ray Jordan spoke to the committee about the concerns during Call to the Audience.

No action was taken.

- c. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Staff provided information on the department's fall and Halloween events. The department hosted its annual Boo Bash at Lincoln Park on October 18, 2024. There were over 4,000 people in attendance. There are two additional Halloween events taking place at the Santa Rosa Center and Marty Birdman Center on October 25, 2024.

The department is hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Armory Park on October 26.

The Family Festival takes place in Reid Park on November 16.

The fall softball leagues are in session, Monday through Thursday.

Parks Administrator, John Bonillas, reported information on various park maintenance projects. Staff are working on overseeding projects at the various parks. Staff are involved in a Capital project at City Hall as well. The project involves turf removal and maintenance of areas.

The Aquatics Program Manager, Orlie Johnson, shared information regarding the Star Guard Camp Phoenix conference and training. Three aquatics staff attended the training.

It was also reported that there are 50 hours of in-service training with 181 lifeguards, which was 724 lifeguard hours of training. The winter schedule will begin on November 12. The winter schedule is posted on the park's website.

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson, spoke about various parks projects including: The Jesse Owens Park splash pad opens Friday, October 25, 2024. The light project for the Ft. Lowell Park pony field is under construction. There are different projects in the bidding process such as the Cushing Street Skate Park, McCormick Park improvement project, Jesse Owens walking path improvements, David Bell path improvements, and the Kennedy Park Dog Park and playground projects.

No action was taken.

- d. Director

There were no updates.

No action was taken.

13. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

TPRC Awards

New Chair Election

Eastside accessibility to Reid Park

No action was taken.

b. Next Meeting Date:

November 20, 2024

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.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, duly seconded by Commissioner, Robin McArdle to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 1 sector)