

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, February 28, 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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1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Poe at 3:35 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair, Steve Poe, Ward 6 Representative

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative

Commissioner Azul Navarrete-Valera, Ward 1 Representative (joined the meeting at 3:38 p.m.)

Commissioner Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

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Commissioner, Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Director

Greg Jackson, Deputy Director

Mike Hayes, Deputy Director

Dawnee Moreno, Administrator

Jasmine Chan, Administrator

John Bonillas, Parks Superintendent

Sierra Boyer, Public Information Officer

Diana Schroeder, Executive Assistant

Other:

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

Brittney Gooby, Gripset Skate Company

Judy Laviolette, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: January 24, 2024 (Action Item)

Motion was made by Commissioner, Robin McArdle, duly seconded by Commissioner, Manon Getsi to accept the January 24, 2024, minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. Motion was carried by 5-0. (There is no representation for Mayor and Ward 4)

3. Call to the Audience

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista, Board of Directors spoke to the committee regarding the

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan. Ms. Shopland shared concerns regarding the initiative.

Brittney Gooby with Gripset Skate Company provided information regarding interests in a new skate park. Ms. Gooby mentioned that she spoke to Council Member, Paul Cunningham with a proposal. Ms. Gooby shared ideas for any future planning initiatives as well.

No action was taken.

4. Cost for Bilingual Signs (Re: duck signs in Reid Park)

Director, Hamwey briefly spoke on the item. The item was brought forward from discussion during the previous meeting regarding needs for adding duck signs in Reid Park. Staff ordered four bilingual signs. The signs are in production and will be installed in Reid Park.

No action was taken.

5. Capital Updates

Deputy Director, Greg Jackson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the "Parks + Connections Bond, Prop 407, and Capital Projects Update". Mr. Jackson provided an extensive overview of the Prop 407 projects. An update was provided on the Non-Prop 407 Projects as well.

Vice Chair, Beki Quintero requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to be emailed to the committee.

No action was taken.

6. Strategic Plan Updates

Administrator, Dawnee Moreno provided updates on the Strategic Planning. There are six sections to the Strategic Plan and staff of various levels are involved in the planning processes. The six sections include: Facility Maintenance and Improvement, Community Involvement, Department Image, Leisure Programs, Management and Operations, and Professional Growth. Ms. Moreno provided a vast list of program accomplishments in detail as well. Some of the achievements include: The Leisure Program section established a recruiting pool of staff that attend job fairs. The program is doing very well. The department will have its own job fair to showcase its positions that are open for summer on March 15.

The department is currently working on reviving a mascot for the department. The process will involve public engagement.

An ADA checklist is provided to staff who are involved in special events. The process will help with accommodation. In addition, the Therapeutics staff made a training video to engage people and to ensure accommodation for everyone.

The department completed a community survey which was done by the Leisure Class section. The feedback of the survey will help the department determine program offerings.

Staff established an internal incentive program which is based on a point system and staff can earn different prizes. Points are obtained by attending training and educational programs.

The department allocated monies for community engagement which has never been done previously. There is now a specific budget line item for these expenses. The Community Involvement section established this initiative. The committee has also developed a marketing plan for each of the recreation centers. Open houses are being offered at the various recreation centers during the month of March. The open houses are advertised through different media communications.

The Facility Maintenance and Improvement Group.

The Department Image section provided efforts with installing a television with a running loop of photos and information in the front lobby of the Parks and Recreation Administration office. Televisions will be installed in the lobbies of recreation centers as well.

The Facility and Improvement section worked on a new and improved park maintenance procedure which was the previous core services and checklist. The procedures are new and improved with the Cartegraph, OpenGov Cloud software used for recording various items. The committee has also established a service schedule which is based on the number of hours for tasks.

Ms. Moreno spoke briefly about the Professional Growth section and mentioned that a retreat with various training was held for Recreation Assistants. The section is also working on a checklist for orientation and new employees.

The Community Involvement team implemented a hiking program. The first activity took place on February 24 at the Feliz Paseos Park.

The Management and Operations Committee provided a presentation with updates on the Prop 407 projects during an all-department staff meeting. The purpose of the presentation is to engage and educate employees on what is happening. The committee is working on a zero-waste plan item with the city's energy office to figure out how to reduce the department's carbon footprint.

No action was taken.

7. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner, Robin McArdle spoke regarding the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan and requested a pause to find common ground and identify consensus between stakeholders and staff. It was mentioned previously during Call to the Audience that there is no common ground, and there are concerns with stakeholders being excluded from participation and implementing the master plan for the park. In addition, it was also mentioned that Friends of Rio Vista and allied stakeholders have concerns about a contract with Watershed Management and making changes to the park's ecosystem. Ms. Hamwey reminded the board that action cannot be taken because the item was not on the agenda. Ms. McArdle requested that the subject matter be placed on the next agenda. Vice Chair, Beki Quintero thanked staff for their help with benches in the Peace Garden.

The Children's Peach Garden is celebrating 21 years in the community, and Ms. Quintero invited everyone to attend a birthday celebration at the Peace Garden on Saturday, February 2nd from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. A flyer with the event information was shared during the meeting. Ms. Quintero also thanked the Ready, Set, Rec, staff for their services at the Manuel Herrera Park.

Chair, Steve Poe inquired about a water fountain issue with a location in his neighborhood, and asked where the item is on the list. Mr. Poe requested a list of drinking water fountains for repair or replacement for the previous five years.

Ms. Hamwey explained that a previous count showed there were approximately 400 in inventory and a good portion of them have failed through the years. Staff are assessing the number of water fountains in parks as well as putting out bids and trying to get contracts in place. There is a challenge with a lot of water fountains being tapped into underground cast iron pipes. A job is approximately \$15,000 to restore a drinking fountain because the cast iron must be removed and to be replaced with a safer and healthier course of water.

No action was taken.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Ms. Moreno reported the following activity and event information: The department held a third annual celebration for its Ready, Set, Rec program on February 24. The department partnered with the Peace Fair and the event was well attended with approximately 500 people in attendance. It was also reported that a pickleball tournament was held at the Donna Liggins Center with 23 teams. The Sports Unit is offering a new volleyball sports league. Games take place at Randolph Center.

The department is hosting its first Pub Trivia in Udall Park on March 8. The department partnered with Geeks of Trivia who travel around different places. The program is for ages 21 and over and includes pre-registration.

Spring break camps will be happening in many of the recreation centers. Spring break for youth begins March 11. Registration for the program began March 4.

The upcoming open houses take place at Therapeutics on February 29 and Cherry Ave Center on March 1. The department Easter event, Eggstravaganza takes place in Mansfield Park on March 23.

Deputy Director, Mike Hayes reported that the department partnered with the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum for a mural event approved by the Arts Foundation. The mural is a color by number art. There were 200 volunteers that helped with painting the mural. There were over 100 saguaros planted in the park as well. In addition, the department also partnered with the Audobon Society for a volunteer clean-up effort at a wash in Lincoln Park. Volunteers removed non-native materials and debris. The clean-up program will take place every other month at various locations.

Parks Superintendent, John Bonillas mentioned that staff prepared for the rodeo.

No action was taken.

c. Director

Ms. Hamwey reported that the Mayor, Regina Romero, invited Ms. Hamwey on a tour with the Mayor and representatives from the Department of Interior. The tour began at La Mar Park, which during this time last year was a vacant lot. The place has been transformed through efforts from Ward 1, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, activation from the neighborhood as well as investment from Mr. Carwash. There were trees planted and a basin was installed. The project encourages green storm water infrastructure as well. The tour also took place at Joaquin Murrieta Park. The tour provided an opportunity to explain the needs and challenges of the different park facilities.

No action was taken.

8. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

d. Future Agenda Items:

Rio Vista Park Master Plan

- Identify the common ground and plan to facilitate continued community engagement.
- Water Management Contract (Provide information that has transpired between the beginning of February and the next TPRC meeting.)

Park Ranger Program- Status update

No action was taken.

e. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

No action was taken.

f. 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.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Motion was made Commissioner Manon Getsi, 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 4)