

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, September 24, 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 3:33 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative
Vice Chair Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative
Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative
Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative
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
Dean Hoskin, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Aaron Sanchez, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Sara Turpen, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Barbara Jones, Danny Lopez Park
Sheila Bowden, Friends of Ft. Lowell Park
Rebecca Johnston, Tucson Clean and Beautiful
Katie Gannon, Tucson Clean and Beautiful
Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

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

Motion was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to accept the July 23, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 4-0. (Commissioners Antonio Ramirez and Darin Gregg were 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".

Barbara Jones, Friends of Danny Lopez Park, addressed the Commission with program updates regarding Danny Lopez Park. The Friends of Danny Lopez Park is collaborating with Watershed Management Group for a grant opportunity titled "Restoring Riparian Habitats and Natural Cooling for Underserved Neighborhoods." This partnership will support habitat restoration work at the park. The group is currently finalizing terms of a partnership agreement. Additionally, the group is partnering with Tucson Bird Alliance to evaluate accessibility of park spaces.

Sheila Bowden, President of Friends of Ft. Lowell Park spoke to the Commission about concerns related to irrigation and the condition of trees in the park. It was noted that the poor tree health is due to insufficient rainfall and irrigation. Sheila Bowden advocated for a resolution to the issues.

4. City Clerk Presentation- Open Meeting Law and Subcommittees

Danny Garcia, Management Assistant with the Tucson City Clerk's Office, delivered a comprehensive presentation on Open Meeting Law as it pertains to Boards and Commissions and subcommittees.

Resources for Boards, Commissions and Committees (BCC) are available on the Boards and Commissions website: www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Clerks/Boards-Committees-Commissions

5. Pima County Connecting Children to Nature Network

Monica Brinkerhoff, Associate Vice President, Early Childhood Education United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona along with Xochitl Coronado-Vargas, Tucson Water Public Information Coordinator, and Parks and Recreation Administrator Jasmine Chan provided a presentation on the Pima County Connecting Children to Nature program. The program is a partnership effort involving the Children Nature Network, NLC- National League of Cities, and Kaboom to launch a program broadening inclusive access to nature for children. The City of Tucson was selected through a competitive application process to join the program. The city's collaboration was awarded two years of strategic planning support and funding to implement community-driven initiatives connecting children and families to nature-based experiences and learning opportunities. The Children's Equity Nature Index helped support early childhood centers in priority areas and guided parks and recreation in identifying playground projects. The committee consists of 22 members and continues to develop its plan.

The commission provided feedback with suggestions to integrate music, sound, and interactive elements into the program.

6. Tucson Clean and Beautiful- Presentation

Rebecca Johnstone and Katie Gannon with Tucson Clean and Beautiful (TCB) gave a presentation on its initiatives and collaboration efforts and ideas with Parks and Recreation for tree planting

projects. These include designing tree planting areas in the park, engaging the community for a planting day, offering support for workshops and launching an adopt-a-park program to organize cleanup activities. Additionally, TCB offers the expertise of arborists and landscape architects to support planning processes.

There was a brief discussion on strategies for connecting on the community engagement aspect, as well as potential collaborations for upcoming park projects.

7. Ft. Lowell Park / Irrigation Issues- Presentation

This agenda item was brought forward due to concerns with irrigation and tree conditions in Ft. Lowell Park. Commissioner Manon Getsi spoke about the presence of dead trees along the south park entrance, as well as in other areas of the park. It was explained that a project near the southwest area of the park involves a turf reduction initiative. To add, it was determined that the irrigation installation is insufficient. Efforts are being made to obtain a quote for bubblers and drip line installation. Joined efforts are also being made with Storm to Shade and Urban Forestry to address the challenge of transitioning trees that were originally nurtured by turf irrigation.

Deputy Director Greg Jackson proposed the idea of establishing a process to validate conditions when an irrigation project is carried out.

8. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Maurice Roberts provided a brief update on the subcommittee discussions. There were two meetings held to discuss fundraising ideas. Commissioner Roberts suggested a staff presentation to provide information to explore the organization of an educational activity highlighting the department's services and offerings.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

The aquatic division expanded its fall swim lesson program. There are approximately 298 participants enrolled in the swim lesson programs. A Special Olympic swim event took place during the weekend of September 21st with over 200 participants. An additional water safety instructor program will be offered in October.

The El Pueblo Center hosted an event in celebration of Mexican Independence Day with over 100 people in attendance.

A swim competition was held at the Adaptive Recreation Center with 36 athletes with gold medal winnings.

The Cherry Avenue Center and Udall Center hosted open house activities in September. Udall Center sold 609 memberships during their open-house event. The membership sales brought in \$47,000 in revenues, which was an increase from the previous year. The Oury Center and Clements Center will host open houses in October.

Quincie Douglas hosted a reopening celebration of a remodeled area on September 10, 2025.

A Schools Out Camp is currently in session during the Vail School District fall break.

The grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Intermountain Sensory Park will take place on October 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

The groundbreaking for the Francisco Esquer Park project is scheduled for October 29, 2025, 10:00 a.m. The project includes a new dog park funded through Housing and Community Development Department. The project also includes a bridge and walking path.

A survey activity for the Udall Park improvement project will be offered during the

September 26, 2025, Farmer's Market. To add, the survey will be offered during the Symphony performance in Udall Park on September 27, 2025.

Staff are undergoing overseeding projects at the tournament fields in Lincoln Park and the Reid Park complex. Vendors are installing woodchips at the various playgrounds.

c. Director

Fire restrictions have been lifted for the parks allowing grilling to resume.

The Boo Bash celebration is scheduled for October 18, 2025, at the Clements Center. The Quincie Douglas Center will host a Halloween activity on October 10, 2025.

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Budget/Fundraising Subcommittee

Amphi Park Update

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

c. Location:

Hybrid Format- In-person at the Tucson Parks & Recreation Administration Office, Mesquite Conference Room, 900 S. Randolph Way and Microsoft Teams Virtual

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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