

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 22, 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 3:30 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 (left the meeting at 4:20 p.m.)

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Robin McArdle, Ward 3 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, 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

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:

2. Approval of Minutes: September 24, 2025 (action item)

Motion was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to accept the September 24, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 5-0. (Commissioner Robin McArdle 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".

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park invited the committee and staff to attend the event, Wild Rio Vista: The Living Park at the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park on November 16, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Constituents, Raul S. Ramirez, Victor A. Rivera and Frank Sotomayor addressed the committee with comments regarding the proposal for the Joaquin Murrieta Park to Salomon R. Baldenegro Park.

4. Budget/Fundraising Subcommittee Report- discussion

Subcommittee members shared brief updates from the previous two meetings. In addition, the subcommittee proposed that the department host an open house as a community education and engagement event. The purpose of the event is to highlight the department's services, programs, and current initiatives. The subcommittee further recommended partnering with local non-profit organizations to utilize their networks for outreach and participation. This collaboration would provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about the department's ongoing challenges and explore ways organizations could assist with specific projects or areas of needs. Ideas for a time frame to host an open-house activity were briefly discussed.

5. Budget Update

Director Lara Hamwey gave a status report on budget initiatives. Additionally, correspondence with October 21, 2025, Study Session materials including FY26 Budget Update, Five-Year Forecast, and Spending Plan were shared with the Commission.

The department is undergoing budget reductions, resulting in eight full-time positions remaining unfilled for the rest of the year. Staff are exploring ways to strengthen capacity in teams that are currently short-staffed. In the Parks Division, several non-permanent positions were also left vacant. Some employees are in pre-employment process for full-time roles with the City, and there are additional opportunities to retain staff through two positions funded by the general fund. The department is actively developing creative solutions to support affected employees and help them remain employed. Along with reductions in staff positions, the recreation center hours will be reduced from operating seven days a week to six days a week. The department remains committed to maintaining services and supporting staff through adjustments.

6. Amphi Neighborhood Park- discussion

The agenda item was included at the request of Commissioner Robin McArdle for an update on Amphi Neighborhood Park and potential sale of the property.

Director Hamwey provided a brief update reporting that the Diocese intends to sell the property in two separate parcels and is currently in the application process with Planning and Development Department for the land division. Director Hamwey recommended deferring the agenda item to the next meeting as it was requested by Commissioner McArdle who is absent and collaborating with the neighborhood association advocating for their interest.

7. TPRC Awards- action item

The award nomination submittals were previously distributed to the Commission in the meeting packets.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to accept all nominations submitted for the award program, excluding the individual nomination in the team category. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioner Robin McArdle was absent. There is no representation for Mayor sector)

8. Commissioner Appointment Expirations- discussion

Staff reminded the committee of upcoming appointment expirations for Chair Beki Quintero and Commissioners, Maurice Roberts and Robin McArdle. It was noted that Commissioner McArdle will have served the maximum eight-year term and is ineligible for reappointment.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Maurice Roberts shared that the Armory Park Neighborhood Association expressed appreciation for Jasmine Chan's presentation on the Santa Rita Park and Armory Park projects. The association also requested that Jasmine Chan return to provide project updates at their next meeting on November 12, 2025.

Vice Chair Manon Getsi reported that she will be attending an upcoming neighborhood association meeting in her community. Vice Chair Getsi noted that the Arroyo Chico, Julie Keen and Colonia Solana neighborhood associations are exploring a potential collaboration to form a Reid Park alliance.

Vice Chair Getsi also shared that she attended a meeting with Pat Burns and Sheila Bowden, Friends of Ft. Lowell Park to discuss conditions of trees in Ft. Lowell Park.

Chair Beki Quintero shared details about the Dia de Muertos Storytime on November 1, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Manuel Herrera Jr. Park.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Splash pads will close on October 31, 2025.

Aquatics hosted an SSI Swim Instructor course resulting in ten newly certified swim instructors. Session II of aqua fit classes are in session.

The fall session of swim lessons has 298 registered participants.

The Quincie Douglas Center hosted the Trunk-or-Treat event on October 10, 2025.

Parks and Recreation Department held its Boo Bash event at Lincoln Park on October 18, 2025.

Santa Rosa to host a Halloween activity at the Santa Rosa Center on October 30, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Armory Park will host a breast cancer awareness walk on October 23, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Clements Center will hold an open house on November 7, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Registration for the 2026 Senior Olympic Festival begins November 3, 2025. The program takes place throughout the city on January 3-February 1, 2026.

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department will host the Fall Family Festival on November 15, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Reid Park.

The City of Tucson will host a groundbreaking activity for the improvement project at the Francisco Elias Esquer Park on October 21, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

A survey is available for a playground preference survey for Bristol Park. A survey for the playground replacement at Purple Heart Park is forthcoming.

c. Director

Director Lara Hamwey noted that the department was approached by the same company that provided services for the Ft. Lowell Park playground and is scheduled to provide services for Thompson Park in January 2025. The department's partnership with the company has resulted in a significant discount allowing the replacement of two playgrounds in the park.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Item

Amphi Neighborhood Park

Park Renaming Applications

b. Next Meeting Date:

There was discussion to move the next meeting scheduled for November 26, 2025, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. It was consensus of the board to move the meeting to Wednesday, November 19, 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

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 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. (Commissioner Robin McArdle was absent. There is no representation for Mayor sector)