

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, January 28, 2026

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 217 038 807 113 73 Passcode: YY7jR7MR
Dial in by phone [+1 213-293-2303](#) United States, Los Angeles Phone conference ID: 766 772 725#

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Beki Quintero at 3:34 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Chair Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative- In person attendance

Commissioner Kathy Altman, Ward 3 Representative- In person attendance

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative- Virtual attendance

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative- In person attendance

Absent:

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative

Vice Chair Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Andi Padilla, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Jasmine Chan, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Stephanie Kopplin, Tucson Parks and Recreation

John Bonillas, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Adrian Jaramillo, 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:

Kendall Kroesen, 2018 Parks and Connections Bond Oversight Commission

Sheila Bowden, Friends of Ft. Lowell Park

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

Barbara Jones, Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Debbie Hicks, Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Frank Sotomayor, Constituent

Raul Ramirez, Constituent

Goria Jean Ramirez, Constituent

Rebecca Glysson, Tucson Clean and Beautiful

Victor Rivera, Constituent

Anthony Neben, Barrio Sin Nombre

Maria Garcia, Constituent
Raphael Lauret, Constituent
Frank Sotomayor, Constituent
Barbara Sotomayor, Constituent
Madeleine Golde, Constituent
Donna Nooger, Constituent
Nathan Armani, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2025 (action item)

Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner Darin Gregg to accept the November 20, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 4-0. (Vice Chair Manon Getsi and Commissioner Antonio Romero 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".

The commission received comments from Kendall Kroesen, Sheila Bowden, Jennifer Shopland and Barbara Jones regarding the newly implemented initiative, Alliance for Ecological Park Management. The individuals implemented the program, a group of volunteer partner organizations supporting science-based, ecologically appropriate management of parks.

Constituents, Frank Sotomayor and Gloria Ramirez spoke to the commission regarding the renaming proposal for the Joaquin Murrieta Park to Salomon R. Baldenegro Park.

4. 2025 Annual Report and Attendance Report

The 2025 Annual Report and Attendance Report were included in the meeting packets previously. There was no discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner Darin Greg to accept the 2025 Annual Report and Attendance Report. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 4-0. (Vice Chair Manon Getsi and Commissioner Antonio Ramirez were absent. There is no representation for Mayor sector)

5. Capital Projects Presentation

Project Manager Stephanie Kopplin delivered a comprehensive overview of project progress in the Capital Planning and Prop 407 programs, including public engagement efforts. Various projects will incorporate nature play and habitat elements, understory planting, and tree canopy expansion.

6. Tucson Presidio Trust/Cannon Display

The agenda item is related to a proposed initiative for a cannon display in Fort Lowell Park. There was no discussion as the speaker withdrew the proposal.

7. Budget/Fundraising Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Maurice Roberts provided an update on the recent subcommittee's activities. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026, and will include discussion of the "Tucson Parks Community Engagement Series" proposal, offering an approach to promote the department's programs and secure external resources. The proposal had been shared previously by Commissioner Darin Gregg for review and discussion preparation.

8. TPRD- Caregiver Policy

The agenda item introduced and discussed the department's new "Participant Caregiver and Assistive Support" policy, circulated in prior meeting documentation. The purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines to support patrons who require one-to-one assistance. The policy sets forth standards of conduct, permitted accommodations, and the required signed acknowledgement to be retained on file. The policy is applicable to all departmental facilities and will be shared with participants receiving caregiver support.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Chair Beki Quintero welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Kathy Altman to the committee.

Chair Quintero announced the 24th birthday celebration for the Peace Garden at the Manuel Herrera Jr. Park on February 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

The Park Maintenance Division is renovating ball fields and preparing facilities for the upcoming spring season.

The Aquatic Division is preparing for summer operations and hiring with its first swim test on February 7, 2026, and a Swim Safety Instructor (SSI) certification program is underway.

The Aquatics Division received a three-star rating from StarGuard ELITE, an aquatic risk prevention agency that conducts comprehensive audits of lifeguard performance and safety practices. A five-star rating is the top performance rating scale.

Senior Olympics Festival concludes this weekend. The program introduced wheelchair basketball, which has been very successful.

The Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the Reid Park Zoo will host the LEGO Build program at the Morris K. Udall Center on February 28 and April 25 from 1-3 p.m., and at the Donna Liggins Center on February 27, 6-8 p.m. and April 18, 12-3 p.m. The program is open to ages 5-11 years old and encourages hands-on building and creativity.

In preparation for summer programming, the department is conducting recruitment job fairs for various positions. The job fairs will be held at the Parks and Recreation Administration building on February 20, 2026, and March 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The department submitted its first Skill Bridge job description for a GIS position to support asset management. Staff are reviewing candidate skill sets and availability, with the goal of onboarding an intern within the next few months. The Department of Defense Skillbridge program administered through U.S. Department of the Interior, connects transitioning service members with public and private sector organizations to provide internship opportunities that build resumes and professional experience.

Staff toured the Pima College manufacturing facility and met with Technologies and Workforce Development team to explore internships, job shadowing opportunities, and certification programs available for staff development.

With support from a grant, the mobile meals program will deliver meals to Quincie Douglas Center for the coming five months.

The Keeling Desert Park project is currently in the bidding phase for construction and includes the addition of a half basketball court and new lighting. The playground replacement project at Bristol Park is awaiting a construction schedule from the contractor. Playground replacements at Doris J. Thompson Park are underway and are expected to be completed by the end of the week. The Palo Verde Park playground replacement is complete and ready for use.

Director

Director Lara Hamwey reported details on an amendment of Tucson Code, Sec. 21-4 enabling distribution of prepackaged food and refreshments in City of Tucson parks without a permit. The item is on the February 3, 2026, Mayor and Council agenda for review.

Director Hamwey noted that the department will conduct a site tour with Arizona State Parks to review capital projects being considered for submission when the funding application window opens on March 1, 2026.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Renaming Proposal- Joaquin Murrieta Park to Salomon R. Baldenegro Park

Subcommittee Report- Program Updates

Alliance Ecological Park Management- Staff Liaison

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 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 4:52 p.m.

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