

## 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 25, 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 3:40 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Chair Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative- In person attendance  
Vice Chair Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative- In person attendance  
Commissioner Kathy Dong, Mayor's Representative- In person attendance  
Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative- In person attendance  
Commissioner Kathy Altman, Ward 3 Representative- In person attendance  
Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative- In person attendance

**Absent:**

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative- Virtual attendance

**Staff Present:**

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks and Recreation  
Andi Padilla, Tucson Parks and Recreation  
Jasmine Chan, 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:**

Richard Hernandez, Constituent  
Angie Cathemer, Constituent  
Babara Jones, Friends of Danny Lopez Park  
Raul Ramirez, Constituent  
Max Torres, Constituent  
Frank Sotomayor, Constituent  
Anthony Nelson, Constituent  
Jean Ramirez, Constituent  
Kimiko Washington, Constituent  
Rene R. Lopez, Constituent

Edgar Soto, Pima Community College, Southern Arizona Sports, Tourism and Film Authority (SASTRA)

Kendall Kroesen, Alliance for Ecological Park Management (AEPM)

Rebecca Glysson, Tucson Clean and Beautiful

Marica Garcia, Constituent

Eva Carrillo Dong, Constituent

Rene R. Redondo, Constituent

Victor Rivera, Barrio Sin Nombre

Robin McArdle, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: January 28, 2026 (action item)

**Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Altman to accept the January 28, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion was approved by a voice vote, 6-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent)**

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".*

Comments were received from a range of community members on the current facility renaming and proposals.

Barbara Jones spoke before the commission to express concerns about Danny Lopez Park, including the presence of Stinknet, fire activity and littering.

Kimiko Washington provided comments advocating for a commemorative memorial at the Mission Manor Park Aquatic Center for the youth who lost their lives in local parks, with a recommendation to incorporate the name of her son as a tribute to those remembered.

Robin McArdle addressed the commission regarding an initiative to rename the Silverlake Park to Jerry Neely Park, and senior congregate meal programs.

4. Park Renaming Proposals (action item)

The survey results summarizing public comments on the facility naming proposals listed below were previously distributed in the meeting packet.

a. Kennedy Park Softball Complex to Stacy Redondo Fields

The public feedback showed strong overall support for the name change.

**The motion to approve the naming proposal and forward it to Mayor and Council for approval was introduced by Commissioner Antonio Ramirez and seconded by Vice Chair Manon Getsi. The motion carried unanimously, with all commission members voting in favor, 6-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent)**

b. Mission Manor Park to Raul M. Grijalva Park

The public input demonstrated strong community interest and a variety of viewpoints with notable opposition expressed.

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez motioned to request that Mayor and Council rename Mission Manor Park to Raul M. Grijalva Memorial at Mission Manor Park. Additionally, Commissioner Ramirez recommended installing a memorial tribute to Raul M. Grijalva within the park, featuring a monument with photographs and written text highlighting the history, and legacy of Raul M. Grijalva, along with QR code linking to recorded reflections. The proposal also includes hosting an unveiling event at the park to formally dedicate the memorial.

There was discussion largely centered around acknowledging the communities' concerns and honoring the feedback against the proposal. There were recommendations to retain the current name of the park.

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez clarified the motion, recommending retention of the park's name and the inclusion of a memorial tribute to Raul M. Grijalva, including signage, a photographic and written monument, a brief historical timeline, and QR code linking to recorded reflections. Additionally, the proposal includes an unveiling event at the park. Commissioner Kathy Dong seconded the motion. All commission members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent.)

The commission expressed that this approach balances honoring Raul M. Grijalva lasting contributions to the community while preserving the historical identity of Mission Manor Park.

- c. Mission Manor Aquatic Center to Ramona F. Grijalva Aquatic Center  
Public feedback showed majority of respondents expressed opposition to the proposed name change.  
Commissioner Antonio Ramirez moved to name the Mission Manor Aquatic Center to Ramona F. Grijalva Aquatic Center. Commissioner Kathy Dong seconded the motion. A voice vote was conducted, resulting in a tie, with Commission members, Beki Quintero, Manon Getsi and Maurice Roberts voting in opposition and Commissioner's Kathy Altman, Kathy Dong and Antonio Ramirez voting in support. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent)  
Those in opposition expressed that their vote reflected the prevailing sentiment of the community, which was majority against the item.
- d. Joaquin Murrieta Park to Saloman R. Baldenegro Park  
Community feedback indicated a majority supported the name change, and minority expressing opposition.  
Commissioner Antonio Ramirez motioned to request that Mayor and Council rename Joaquin Murrieta Park to Saloman R. Baldenegro Memorial at Joaquin Murrieta Park. Commissioner Antonio Ramirez also recommended installing a monument featuring photographs, written text, and QR code accompanied by an unveiling event. Commissioner Kathy Altman seconded the motion.  
A voice vote was held, with Commission members Beki Quintero, Manon Getsi, Maurice Roberts and Kathy Dong voting against the motion, and Commissioner's Kathy Altman and Antonio Ramirez voting in favor. The motion was unsuccessful due to majority of votes in opposition.  
There was discussion. Majority of the commission showed agreement in upholding the survey findings and public feedback supporting the renaming of the park.

A secondary motion to approve the renaming proposal, Joaquin Murrta Park to Salomon R. Baldenegro Park was made by Commissioner Antonio Ramirez and seconded by Commissioner Kathy Dong. The motion carried unanimously, with all commission members voting in favor, 6-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent)

A brief intermission occurred as members of the public exited the meeting. During this time, Commissioner Antonio Ramirez temporarily left at 4:55 p.m. to speak to constituents. He returned at 5:05 p.m.

5. Ecological Alliance Park Management/Department Liaison

There was a brief discussion about naming a staff member as the liaison for the Ecological Alliance Park Management program. The department will designate a representative.

6. Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee presented the proposal for Tucson Employee Community Engagement Series, offering an approach to promote the department's programs and secure external resources. The proposal seeks to increase awareness and attract private investment through a phased approach including a Tucson Parks and Recreation open house, targeted partner events, and public QR- driven donation campaign.

There were comments expressed about possible risks associated with QR codes, along with the potential budgetary implications for the department in launching the program and coordinating events.

Director Hamwey will bring the proposal before the city manager for feedback.

Vice Chair Manon Getsti presented a motion to forward the proposal to Mayor and Council. The motion carried unanimously, with all commission members voting in favor, 6-0. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent)

7. Park Operations Structure

The commission deferred the item to the next meeting, due to extended discussions on earlier agenda items.

8. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Kathy Dong was formally welcomed to the Commission.

Commissioner Maurice Roberts shared information regarding the Ward 6 Open House on February 17, 2026.

Chair Beki Quintero raised questions regarding park restroom accessibility and the placement of nighttime locks at Rudy Garcia Park due to inappropriate activity occurring on site.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Parks Maintenance Division is gearing up for the spring season by ensuring irrigation systems are fully operational and preparing the sports fields for the upcoming softball season.

Staff are monitoring splash pads to ensure they are ready for their April 1, 2026, opening.

The splash pad projects at Mission Manor Park and Santa Rita Park are currently in the permitting phase. Additionally, funding has been secured to repair the sand filters at Jacob's swimming pool.

The boilers at the Clements pool have been repaired. They are nearing the end of their useful lifespan. Staff are currently pricing on replacement options and are working on replacing the pump.

Staff successfully completed the required training to renew and maintain teaching certifications for the senior chair exercise program.

The El Rio Center hosted a Valentine's Day celebration, welcoming seniors from multiple city recreation centers to participate in the festivities.

The department conducted a summer job fair on February 20, 2026, drawing 140 attendees and receiving 97 applications. A second job fair is scheduled for March 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Eggstravaganza event is scheduled for March 28, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Doris J. Thompson Park.

The Battle of the Bands event will be held on March 29, 2026, at the Outdoor Performance Center (OPC) in Reid Park at noon.

Spring adult softball and volleyball leagues are currently underway.

The team is actively preparing for the spring youth camps in March and summer programs in June.

c. Director

On February 24 and 25, 2026, the City Manager facilitated a two-day Supervisor Summit at the Tucson Community Center (TCC) for supervisors and leadership team members with approximately 150 participants. An additional session is scheduled to take place in March. Mayor and Council discussions have included a focus on budget, with a recent retreat session and ongoing dialogue at study sessions addressing the citywide deficit.

The Director also shared that the Reid Park Zoo announced they welcomed a new baby giraffe.

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Senior Congregate Meal Program

Loma Verde Park

Recognizing Parks History- Process

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 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

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 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 Darin Gregg was absent)**