

**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, March 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 3:30 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Chair Beki Quintero, Ward 5 Representative- In person attendance

Vice Chair Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative- Virtual attendance

Commissioner Kathy Dong, Mayor's Representative- In person attendance

Commissioner Kathy Altman, Ward 3 Representative- In person attendance

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative- In person attendance

**Absent:**

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative-

**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

Aaron Sanchez, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sara Turpen, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

**Other:**

Collin Chesston, Department of Transportation and Mobility

Judith Boehm, Constituent

Chris Dixon, Constituent

Rebecca Glysson, Tucson Clean and Beautiful

Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park and Alliance for Ecological Park Management

2. Approval of Minutes: February 25, 2026

**Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Altman to accept the February 25, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion carried with a 5-0 roll call vote. (Commissioner's Antonio Ramirez and Darin Gregg were 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*

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*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".*

Judith Boehm spoke to the Commission about the Armory Park Center and advocated for the return of its Saturday operations.

Robin McArdle addressed the Congregate Nutrition Program and the Silverlake Park renaming proposal and requested their inclusion in the next agenda.

#### 4. Loma Verde Park / Alamo Wash Greenway

Transportation and Mobility, Senior Project Manager Collin Chesston provided updates on the Alamo Wash Greenway program, focusing on potential impacts to Loma Verde Park. An alternatives analysis was conducted for the full 9-mile project, with particular attention to park impacts. The preferred alternative, presented to Proposition 407 Parks and Connections Oversight Commission, recommends a 10-foot-wide shared use path in Loma Verde Park, consistent with voter-approved Proposition 407. Staff concluded that this option provided is the best user experience while minimizing impacts on turf, trees, and park amenities. Neighbor concerns include turf loss, potential conflicts with the disc golf course, and playground safety. Staff anticipate these concerns can be mitigated through design adjustments. In response to feedback, staff developed two alternative options. The first option includes a 5-foot sidewalk within the park combined with a Bicycle Boulevard on adjacent streets. The second option does not include sidewalks minimizing park impacts; however, requiring people to travel across grass or along the street. This option includes a Bicycle Boulevard on adjacent streets as well. Both options require a shared use path in the southwest corner due to street connectivity constraints. Conceptual illustrations were provided to demonstrate potential impacts and alignments.

The Commission expressed concerns about tree preservation and playground safety, with a suggestion that design and seating should support safe use by families.

The Parks and Connections Oversight Commission is scheduled to decide on the preferred course of action at their next meeting on April 20, 2026.

#### 5. Park Operations Structure

Deputy Director Greg Jackson presented an overview of modifications to the park operations structure intended to improve coordination, address staff challenges, and support greater alignment across departmental priorities. With 114 staff, the Park Maintenance divisions now include West, Central, East, Trades/Construction Maintenance, Sports Maintenance, Irrigation and Park Assistance Community Engagement (PACE). The new PACE position will focus on homeless protocol and collaboration with TPD and Housing First, as well as engagement with neighborhood associations.

The department has realigned staff with relocating a Parks Maintenance Coordinator and groundskeeper to the PACE program and has received approval for five over-hires to address turnover and support key staff areas. Additionally, the number of compounds has also been reduced, allowing larger crews to report to each location.

The restructuring maintains coverage across all parks while improving efficiency in completing core tasks. Transitions were completed smoothly, and ongoing evaluation and feedback will guide future adjustments.

#### 6. Recognizing Parks History Process

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Director Lara Hamwey provided an update on the Danny Lopez Park construction project and signage program. The construction project encountered issues related to the site's archaeological sensitivity zone, and staff are coordinating with City leadership and the Tohono O'odham Nation on remediation to allow the project to proceed. Signage plans related to the park renaming remain on hold pending cultural guidance, with a focus on incorporating ceremonial elements. Existing signage has been removed. Meanwhile, Friends of Danny Lopez Park secured a grant for a new interpretive sign and are collaborating with the selected public artist to integrate design elements.

An update was also provided on the broader program for commemorative signage program honoring individuals at City facilities. Sustainable installation options are being explored, and in consultation with the City Manager's Office, staff are developing a plan to implement one sign per ward each year. Implementation of the commemorative sign program will begin in the upcoming fiscal year.

### 7. Proposed Fees

Director Hamwey shared information on the proposed revised fee structure and updated discount program guidelines. The department conducted a cost-of-service assessment for existing programs, identifying areas where current fees do not fully recover costs and recommending new fees where necessary to achieve full cost service. The proposal will be presented to Mayor and Council at the April 7, 2026, meeting. If approved, the changes to initialize on July 1, 2026, and are projected to increase revenue collections, supporting the city's financial position in fiscal year 2027.

### 8. Reports / Announcements

#### a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Maurice Roberts mentioned the March 24, 2026, Ward 6 meeting and his presentation regarding the mission of Parks and Recreation and key initiatives.

Chair- Beki Quintero shared event details, including a Story Time activity scheduled for April 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m. in the Children's Peace Garden located at the Manuel Herrera Jr. Park, and the Dia de La Ninez celebration on April 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Mission Manor Park.

#### b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

The Parks Maintenance teams are managing seasonal weed growth and preparing the park for Easter and the upcoming summer months, ensuring all irrigation systems are operational as well.

Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Kennedy Park improvement project on March 21, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Eggstravaganza, at Doris Thompson Park, 10:00 a.m. on March 21, 2026.

The Battle of the Bands on March 22, 2026, at the Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park.

The Aquatics Division is preparing for summer programs with its third lifeguard class of 23 participants, and a separate class of 29 participants. Currently, there are 101 new lifeguards. Splash pad projects at Mission Manor Park and Santa Rita Park are progressing well.

An update was provided on the Skillbridge program, and the department has identified candidates for GIS internships.

The department launched a Speed Interview program on March 31, 2026, with an additional session on April 8. Participants rotate through a series of brief mock interviews, and the program is designed to support staff development.

The department hosted the Rodeo Roundup Summer Job Fair on February 20, 2026, and March 13, 2026.

Family Fun Night at Cherry Avenue Recreation Center, March 27, 2026, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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In preparation for the KIDCO summer program, staff will participate in orientation and training which will be held on May 26-29, 2026. The summer KIDCO program begins on June 1, 2026.

The department is assisting the City Manager's office in organizing an employee softball tournament at Lincoln Park on April 11, 2026.

The El Rio Center is hosting a Health and Safety Fair on April 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Recruitment is underway for a Deputy Director position.

c. Director

Director Hamwey noted that the city will continue budget discussions focused on strategies to address the significant deficit, and with the recommended budget to be announced on May 19, 2026.

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Armory Park Center

- Saturday Operation Hours
- Congregate Meal Program

Budget Update: Division Allocations- Previous Year and Current Year Comparison

Tucson Clean & Beautiful: Adopt-a-Park Program

Meeting Schedule

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 22, 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 5:05 p.m.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Altman, duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioner's Antonio Ramirez and Darin Gregg were absent)**