

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, April 22, 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 Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative- Virtual attendance
Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative- In person attendance

Absent:

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Greg Jackson, 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
Emma Dumont, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Joe Barr, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Elliot Welch, Tucson Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Psillas, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Rebecca Glysson, Tucson Clean and Beautiful
Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park and Alliance for Ecological Park Management
Kimiko Washington, Constituent
Susan Knight, Constituent
Robin McArdle, Constituent
Kendall Kroesen, Alliance for Ecological Park Management

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Barbara Jones, Friends of Danny Lopez Park
Taylor Rivera, Tucson Clean and Beautiful
Mario Marroquin, Constituent
Martha Cantrell, City Council Ward 4 Office
Gabriel Holguin, City Council Ward 5 Office

2. Approval of Minutes: March 25, 2026

Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Dong to accept the March 25, 2026, minutes as presented. All commission members were in favor of the motion, 6-0. (Commissioner Antonio Ramirez 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".

Kimiko Washington spoke to the Commission about her petition to rename the Mission Manor Aquatic Center to Ocean Washington Memorial Aquatic Center in honor of her son. Kimiko Washington urged the community to honor his legacy and create a space for reflection on victims of violence.

Susan Knight thanked staff at Edith Ball Recreation Center and expressed concern over limited summer therapy pool classes, urging increased availability. Susan Knight emphasized the importance of year-round access for individuals with physical challenges and called for more therapy pools in the future.

Robin McArdle addressed the Commission about cuts to senior meal programs and discussed the Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) community lunch program, recommending the City to partner with PCOA to restore nutrition services at senior centers.

4. Tucson Clean & Beautiful: Adopt-a-Park Program

Tucson Clean and Beautiful, Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Rivera shared a presentation on the Adopt-a-Park program. The program is a community volunteer initiative that allows volunteer organizations to assist in the care of public and open spaces.

The program has seen strong community engagement, with numerous volunteer events and significant efforts to improve park conditions. There was emphasis on the program's success in promoting stewardship, improving park conditions, and building connections among neighborhoods. Looking ahead, Tucson Clean and Beautiful plans to expand the program in underrepresented areas and explore opportunities for adopting green stormwater infrastructure sites.

5. Wagging Tails Sponsorship and Engagement

Anita Menses, together with a local community group, introduced a sponsorship initiative for Wagging Tails Dog Park focusing on supporting the park's ongoing maintenance. The initiative seeks business partnerships to support irrigation system repairs, grass maintenance and general park care. It was noted that the Pima County Parklands Foundation has approved the foundation to act

as its fiscal sponsor. Through this partnership, Friends of Waggin' Tails operates with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, allowing to secure tax-deductible donations, apply for grants, and bring private funding to support the park.

The Commission was invited to support Friends of Waggin' Tails as a partner community group, and its fundraising and implementation plan for irrigation and landscaping improvements while the city continues core maintenance.

6. Armory Park Center

- Saturday Operation Hours

The discussion involved the subject of reinstating Saturday hours for the Armory Park Center, which were suspended due to budget constraints. Staff reviewed data, showing an average of 24 visitors on Saturday's primarily for table tennis and ballroom use. The need to compare Saturday attendance with weekdays was noted, though only Saturday data is available at this time. Currently, there is no commitment to returning Saturday hours. Staff has a meeting scheduled with Ward 6 to discuss potential solutions, including sponsorship opportunities. The team is actively exploring innovative solutions to address budget and programming gaps. Updates will be provided as progress is made.

- Congregate Meal Program

The discussion focused on changes to PCOA's congregate meal program, which closed services at several locations last year. Community partners have helped maintain meal services, supporting continued senior engagement, though this is not a sustainable solution. PCOA has introduced a new meal program with a fixed cost per meal, and the city is exploring participation. However, funding gaps remain, particularly for the meal expenses. Staff will attend an upcoming Q&A session for additional program details. The team is working to stabilize services and identify funding options, with further analysis and a briefing to Mayor and Council to follow.

7. Budget Update: Division Allocation

Director Lara Hamwey provided an update on the budget program, noting that the recommended balanced budget was presented at a recent Mayor and Council meeting, which includes a reduction for the next fiscal year. Impacts include reduced funding for parks equipment replacement, tree maintenance, decomposed granite work, and tennis operator support. Proposition 407 Phase II design funding will be adjusted, though smaller projects remain supported. Six full-time positions remain unfilled due to budget constraints, impacting both Recreation and Parks Maintenance, and reductions in non-permanent staff funding will also impact on Aquatics, Recreation, and Parks divisions. Staff are developing a strategy to stabilize services with remaining resources.

8. Proposed Fees

Director Lara Hamwey provided an extensive update on the proposed revised fee structure and discount program. The proposal moves programs closer to cost recovery while continuing to support affordability in core youth programs.

Event fees will gradually increase over time. A golf capital fee is also being proposed to support future infrastructure needs. In the sports division, field use fees will be restructured to improve accountability and better support field maintenance needs. Tournament and non-profit rates, as well as field lining fees will be adjusted to better reflect actual costs. To add, pickleball fees remain under review. Staff also discussed increasing the non-resident fee differential and noted that a peer city comparison was completed showing a wide range of approaches to recreation fees and service

delivery. Director Hamwey also provided an update on the aquatic program fees as part of the broader fee and discount structure. Learn to Swim remains discount-eligible with phased fee increases proposed to reflect rising staffing and operational costs. A potential private lesson option is also being explored. Aquatic fitness, lap swim, therapy pool access, pool rentals, and swim meet event fees will be adjusted to better align with cost recovery and year-round facility operations. Staff are also exploring partnerships including insurance-based wellness programs, and potential eligibility for discount support for certain aquatic services.

The proposed fees also include an updated discount program aligned with Tucson Water income-based model to improve consistency and maintain affordability for eligible residents.

Commissioners recommend adding cleaning deposits for facility rentals, and raised concerns about non-resident fee increases and potential impacts on participation.

Staff noted low historical use of discounts and expect revenue to increase despite expanded eligibility with ongoing monitoring planned. Feedback emphasized maintaining affordability for seniors and individuals with disabilities and exploring partnerships to support access. Staff will continue outreach and analysis ahead of final recommendations.

The fee proposal is currently in a 60-day notice of intent period beginning April 7, 2026. Adoption of the recommended fees is anticipated on June 9, 2026, with implementation beginning July 1, 2026, potentially phased in based on program cycles.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Maurice Roberts briefly shared that there are concerns about increased activity and disruptions related to individuals experiencing homelessness in the Camino Campestre areas. Staff noted that TPD is actively addressing the issue and will be informed of additional feedback to support ongoing response efforts.

Vice Chair Manon Getsi reported that TPD conducted enforcement activity at Reid Park on April 17, 2026, resulting in multiple arrests and significant debris removal, with ongoing efforts planned. Vice Chair Getsi also shared updates including plans for a new natural resource park on a vacant parcel near Speedway Boulevard and Houghton Road, and a future public park as part of a housing development near St. Joseph's Hospital with the developer agreeing to convey the park to the city following construction.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

There was no additional information provided.

c. Director

There were no additional updates.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Meeting Schedule

Subcommittee Next Steps

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 27, 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

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11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Roberts, duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Dong to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioner Antonio Ramirez was absent)