

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, May 27, 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

Vice Chair Manon Getsi, Ward 2 Representative- Virtual attendance

Commissioner Kathy Dong, Mayor's Representative- Virtual attendance

Commissioner Kathy Altman, Ward 3 Representative- In person attendance

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative- Virtual attendance

Absent:

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 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

Aaron Sanchez, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sara Turpen, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Elliot Welch, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

Susana Zamora, City Clerks Office

Rebecca Glysson, Tucson Clean and Beautiful

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

Kimiko Washington, Constituent

Brittney Manor, Constituent

Susan Knight, Constituent

Judy Olsen, Constituent

Michael Caoustarau, Constituent

Kendall Kroesen, Alliance for Ecological Park Management

Gabriel Holguin, City Council Ward 5 Office

2. Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2026

Motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Altman duly seconded by Vice Chair Manon Getsi to accept the April 22, 2026, minutes as presented. All commission members were in favor of the motion, 5-0. (Commissioners Darin Gregg and Antonio Ramirez 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 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, urging the community to honor his legacy and reflect on victims of violence.

Judy Olsen spoke in opposition to proposed fee increases at the Edith Ball adaptive Aquatic Center, highlighting affordability concerns, reduced class times, and high demand for therapy pool classes, and urged the City to senior discount programs and restore additional classes.

Susan Knight thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for restoring two therapy pool classes at Edith Ball Adaptive Aquatic Center, while urging the City to address high demand, long waitlists, and concerns over proposed fee increases.

Michael Cousineau addressed the Commission in support of installing latches on access points at the splash pad facilities and highlighted concerns regarding the safety of children.

4. Open Meeting Law- City Clerk's Presentation

Susana Zamora, City Clerk's Office- Boards and Commissions provided an overview of Arizona's Open Meeting Law, emphasizing transparency, public access, and procedural requirements. Copies of the Arizona Open Meeting Law and Robert's Rules of Order cheat sheet were previously distributed.

5. Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule item was not discussed due to the absence of the requesting Commissioner and was deferred to a future meeting.

6. Master Plan

Director Lara Hamwey provided an update on the department's efforts to develop a comprehensive parks master plan. The City is in the process of finalizing an agreement with a firm to craft the plan, which will be funded through impact fees. The plan will focus on city-owned parks, gather community input, evaluate existing assets and programs and identify service gaps, to support future planning and potential funding initiatives. Public engagement will involve the Commission as the process moves forward.

7. Summer Pool Operations: Schedule

Staff reviewed the summer pool schedule, incorporating feedback from last year's survey and

prioritizing the free Learn to Swim program in partnership with Pima County Health Department. The Amphi pool hours were reallocated to Thompson and Jacobs pools due to needed repairs, keeping Ward 3 swim availability stable. Adjustments were made at Purple Heart Pool to accommodate school schedules. Therapeutic pool classes remain limited this summer, with potential expansion next year. Staff emphasized efforts to stabilize schedules and respond to community input.

8. Proposed Fees

Director Lara Hamwey provided an update on the proposed fees initiative. Pickleball negotiations are underway with Tucson Area Pickleball to assume maintenance responsibilities and explore potential expansion at Udall Park. In aquatics, the proposed therapy pool fee component was removed. In addition, a revised lap swim pass will offer punch and monthly options in response to community feedback, with implementation planned for September 1, 2026. The effective date for summer program fee changes will be moved to January 1, 2027, to align with administrative processes. The youth sports team fee remains under consideration to support cost recovery and improve field management, and allocation processes. Director Hamwey noted ongoing community input and stated additional updates will be provided at future meetings. Adoption of the fee changes is anticipated at the June 9, 2026, Mayor and Council meeting.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Vice Chair Manon Getsi shared details regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony for park improvement projects at Palo Verde Park on May 29, 2026, 5:30 p.m., and a celebration on May 30, 2026, 9:00 a.m. for the unveiling of the basketball courts, which will be named in honor of Judith Blair.

Commissioner Maurice Roberts congratulated the department on its efforts with the Armory Park improvement project. Commissioner Roberts added that Tucson Water commended Tucson Parks and Recreation for its strong communication and collaboration during the project. An update was also provided on Santa Rita Park, which is anticipated to reopen in August 2026. The Friends of Santa Rita Park organization is scheduled to hold a second meeting next week to discuss youth leagues and family-oriented programming. Concerns regarding ongoing homelessness issues in the surrounding areas were also noted.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Staff are actively preparing for the upcoming summer programs, set to begin June 1, 2026.

The Aquatics Division has also been gearing up for the season, hosting a staff orientation attended by over 200 team members. The summer pool schedule will run May 31 through August 1, 2026.

Recreation program highlights include a Cinco de Mayo event at the Armory Center with approximately 150 participants, and a Mother's Day activity held at the El Pueblo Center, attended by 80 participants.

The city softball league recently concluded its season, with 39 teams finishing their final week. The league will resume in the fall. Meanwhile, the city volleyball league, which operates out of Randolph Center, currently has ten teams and will continue through June 2026.

All ward offices will have a dedicated cooling center beginning next week, including Archer, Donna Liggins, Freedom, Randolph, Udall and El Pueblo. These centers will be open daily, including Sundays and holidays, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program runs from June 1, 2026, through the end of September 2026.

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c. Director

Director Lara Hamwey reported that the department submitted the six sites as part of the new congregate meal program and are awaiting next steps. Updates were also provided on the planned reopening of Santa Rita and Armory parks, including ongoing discussions regarding operations and programming. The Friends of Santa Rita Park continues to meet regularly to support positive park activation efforts, with the next meeting scheduled for June 27, 2026. Council Member Lane Santa Cruz is also working closely with community groups and parks staff to support programming opportunities. A marketing campaign is planned to help rebrand Santa Rita Park, and additional discussion is expected at the June meeting. The park is anticipated to reopen in mid-August.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Splash Pads

Pools- Temperature Mitigation Efforts

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

b. 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 Vice Chair Manon Getsi, duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Altman to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioners Darin Gregg and Antonio Ramirez were absent)