

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, June 24, 2026

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 217 038 807 113 73 Passcode: YY7jR7MR

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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Beki Quintero at 3:32 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- Virtual attendance

Absent:

Commissioner Antonio Ramirez, Ward 1 Representative

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Robert Norris, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Andi Padilla, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Jasmine Chan, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Dean Hoskin, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Aaron Sanchez, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Adrian Jaramillo, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Danielle Alkola, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Other:

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

Barbara Jones, Friends of Danny Lopez Park

Enrique Vega, Constituent

Gabriel Holguin, City Council Ward 5 Office

2. Approval of Minutes: May 27, 2026

Motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Altman duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to accept the May 27, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion carried by voice vote, 5-0. (Commissioners Darin Gregg was absent. There is no representation for the Ward 1 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".

Enrique Vega addressed the commission and expressed his interest in renaming Rodeo Wash II Park to Henry M. Vega Park.

4. Splash Pads Status Update

Staff provided a follow-up to concerns raised by a community member during the previous meeting's Call to the Audience regarding the gate to the Jesse Owens Park splash pad. The concerns centered on the gate remaining open and potential child safety issues. Staff explained that the gate remains open due to the height of the access mechanism that is not accessible by wheelchairs. Staff confirmed that the facility is currently ADA-compliant and accessible, and noted the need to identify a modification that would allow the gate to be secured without limiting independent access. Staff are exploring ADA-compliant solutions.

5. Pools- Temperature Mitigation Efforts

An update on pool temperature mitigation efforts was requested from the previous meeting. The Aquatics report previously distributed to the Commission was referenced. The optimal pool temperatures vary by use type (lap, therapeutic, and family use) and are influenced by user ratios, including higher lap swimmer usage at Catalina Pool. The discussion included potential use of aerators to reduce temperatures; however, concerns were raised regarding cost, operational requirements, security and water and chemical loss due to evaporation in the ambient temperatures. Staff noted the need to continue evaluating feasible, site-specific solutions.

6. PACE Program Developments

Director Hamwey introduced the new Park Assistance and Community Engagement (PACE) Supervisor, Danielle Alkola. Staff provided an update on the program, a coordinated effort to address encampments in parks. The unit responds to community reports, conducts site visits, coordinates debris removal, and works with other departments as needed. Staff also highlighted ongoing engagement with neighborhood groups to better understand community concerns and improve responsiveness.

7. Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission Award Program (action item)

Staff presented the annual Commission Award Program, which recognizes individuals, teams, nonprofits, and businesses for their contributions to the City's parks system. Nominations are submitted by the public through an online form and promoted through City communication channels. The Commission discussed the nomination process and expressed support application format.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Dong duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to proceed with the award program nomination period on September 2, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0. (Commissioners Darin Gregg was absent. There is no representation for the Ward 1 sector)

8. Meeting Schedule

The Commission discussed the current meeting schedule following a request to revisit meeting timing due to attendance constraints. Concerns were raised regarding accessibility, quorum, and participation while others emphasized the importance of maintaining a consistent, long-standing meeting time to support staff schedules, public access, and continuity of Commission operations. The value of hybrid participation and in-person engagement was also noted. No action was taken, and the item was discussed for informational purposes.

9. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Roberts announced the grand reopening of Armory Park on July 2, 2026. The renovation project was highlighted as a significant collaborative effort with City staff and design teams, resulting in an improved park with new features and amenities. The event will include musical performances and food trucks.

Vice Chair Getsi reported attending the ribbon cutting celebration for the Palo Verde Park improvements and the unveiling of the Judith "Mama" Blair basketball courts, noting strong community turnout and positive feedback.

Chair Beki Quintero reported significant tree damage from a recent storm and acknowledged staff for their assistance and response.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Staff reported an early monsoon season and noted preparations are underway for incoming storms. Field improvements at Palo Verde Park are nearing completion with reopening expected soon. Staff also continue irrigation efforts to maintain turf during extreme heat along with routine pruning maintenance and general park upkeep.

Staff introduced an employee engagement initiative to elevate staff voices through monthly department roundtable meetings. Over approximately 10 months, staff shared barriers, successes, and improvement ideas, which were summarized and presented to leadership for discussion and action. Two presentations were completed for Recreation division and one for Parks division. Key themes included communication gaps and operational/scheduling challenges affecting workflow. Leadership and staff used the feedback to explore improvements in scheduling, decision-making, and communication processes. The program will continue into a second round. The initiative was selected for presentation by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Summer KIDCO is underway, with a talent show scheduled for June 26, 2026, and the Summer Explosion event planned for July 10, 2026, at the Kennedy Park Fiesta grounds. Registration for the fall KIDCO program opens July 25, 2026, with many sites expected to fill quickly. Staff are preparing to transition from summer programming to the school-year programs, which will serve 19 sites.

The fall/winter sports field allocations (August-February) have been completed, with permits being distributed to more than 80 user groups. Cooling centers opened June 1, 2026, at five recreation centers, providing daily cooling spaces through the end of September. Following the summer season, recreation centers will temporarily close for three to five days for deep cleaning and facility maintenance. Staff also noted upcoming programming, including El Pueblo's Father's Day event.

The groundbreaking for the Cushing Street Skate Park will take place on June 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The construction on improvements at Mirasol Park is underway, with projects at James Thomas Park, Rudy Garcia Park and La Madera scheduled to begin in July 2026.

Swimming lessons are at full capacity, and swim team participation remains strong throughout the summer season. Planning is underway for fall aquatics programming.

c. Director

Director Hamwey highlighted a partnership with Pima County that enabled free swim lessons this summer and may support expanded programming for youth with disabilities in the fall and future seasons.

The Director welcomed the department's new Deputy Director, Robert Norris, and provided updates on the upcoming opening of Santa Rita Park in mid-August. It was noted that the park already has established user groups committed to utilizing the facility. A community outreach campaign has been launched to gather ideas and partnerships to help activate Santa Rita Park and Armory Park with ongoing programming and events.

10. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Maurice Roberts brought forward an agenda item for discussion regarding budget and revenue strategies related to recreation center utilization, revenue generation, and service expansion opportunities.

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, July 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

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Dong, duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioner Darin Gregg was absent. There is no representation for the Ward 1 sector)