

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, July 22, 2026

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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- In person attendance

Commissioner Kathy Altman, Ward 3 Representative- In person attendance

Commissioner Maurice Roberts, Ward 6 Representative- Virtual attendance

Absent:

There is no representation for the Ward 1 sector

Commissioner Darin Gregg, Ward 4 Representative

Commissioner Kathy Dong, Mayor's Representative

Staff Present:

Lara Hamwey, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Greg Jackson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Robert Norris, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Andi Padilla, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Dean Hoskin, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Aaron Sanchez, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Orlie Johnson, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Sara Turpen, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Adrian Jaramillo, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Diana Schroeder, 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

Ruth Peeler, Constituent

Nancy Graham, Constituent

Susan Knight, Constituent

Kimiko Washington, Constituent

Judy Olsen, Constituent

2. Approval of Minutes: June 24, 2026

Motion was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Altman to accept the June 24, 2026, minutes as presented. All commission members were in favor of the

motion, 4-0. (Commissioners Darin Gregg and Kathy Dong were 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".

Several users of the Edith Ball Aquatic Center spoke during public comment, expressing concerns about increasing fees, accessibility, program quality, and the importance of aquatic therapy programs for seniors and individuals with health and mobility challenges.

Nicole Washington addressed the Commission regarding a request to name the Mission Manor Aquatic Center in honor of her son, Ocean Washington, who lost his life to gun violence.

4. Safe and Vibrant Parks

Director Hamwey provided a presentation on the Safe and Vibrant Parks initiative, which focuses on improving park safety, increasing community engagement, strengthening partnerships, and identifying future investments at parks experiencing increased concerns related to homelessness and park impacts. Recent engagement effort included collaboration with Parks and Recreation, Tucson Police Department, City manager's Office, homeless outreach partners, and community stakeholders.

Director Hamwey also provided updates on several parks including Estevan Park, where engagement with rugby users and community members identified potential improvements, expanded programming, and activation opportunities; Anza Park, with staff working to support positive park use and address community concerns; Fransico Elias Esquer Park, with improvements include a bridge, dog park, walking path, and other amenities; and Armory Park, where recent renovations include a pavilion, dog park, lighting, restroom, irrigation, and other park enhancements.

Additional updates include improvements at Reid Park and Santa Rita Park. Reid Park has multiple projects that are underway, including upgrades to restrooms, ramadas, playgrounds, and splash pad. The park also continues to receive coordinated support from the Tucson Police Department, outreach partners, and community safety teams to strengthen engagement, address concerns, and connect individuals with appropriate resources. The improvements in Santa Rita Park include a splash pad and playground, walking paths and sports fields, parking, landscaping, irrigation, and public art. Community partners and local sports organizations are helping support future activation efforts, with the park anticipated to open later in 2026, pending completion of the remaining work. Director Hamwey also highlighted the PACE program and partnerships with Tucson Clean and Beautiful, outreach providers and neighborhood groups to support park safety, cleanup efforts, resource connections, and increased community use of public spaces.

Director Hamwey emphasized the importance of continued collaboration, community engagement, and strategic investments to support safe, active and vibrant public spaces.

5. Budget and Revenue Strategies

The agenda item was brought forward at the request of Commissioner Maurice Roberts. The Commission discussed opportunities to support Parks and Recreation funding through revenue

generations, fundraising, partnerships, and improved promotion of programs and facilities. Commissioner Roberts highlighted the department's marketing efforts and suggested leveraging existing resources, exploring new revenue opportunities, and increasing use of recreation centers through community events and partnerships.

Director Hamwey shared current efforts to develop sustainable funding strategies through community partnerships, grant opportunities, volunteer-supported projects, sponsorships, and promotion of reservable spaces. Examples include partnerships for park improvements, grant applications for amenities, and potential sponsorship or adopt-a-playground programs, with an emphasis on measurable strategies that can increase funding and support continued investment in parks and recreation services.

6. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Vice Chair Getsi recognized Disability Pride Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of inclusivity, accessibility, and community belonging for individuals with disabilities, including financial barriers and the need for continued awareness and support. The Commission encouraged ongoing efforts to improve accessibility and inclusion within Parks and Recreation programs and services.

Following the comments recognizing Disability Awareness Month, Commissioner Roberts expressed support for increasing assistance and accessibility for individuals with disabilities and seniors and emphasized the importance of continuing to seek resources that benefit these communities. In a separate comment, Commissioner Roberts recognized the successful improvements at Armory Park, commending Parks and Recreation staff and project partners for their work and noting the positive community response to the renovations.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Maintenance crews continue addressing seasonal conditions, including storm impacts, tree maintenance, and routine park upkeep. Sports fields are being prepared for reopening in August.

Summer KIDCO concluded successfully, serving 976 participants. Registration for the school year KIDCO program begins July 25, with programs returning to 19 sites. Staff noted continued strong demand for the program.

The newly approved discount program was successfully launched with 340 households transitioning to the updated program.

An update was provided on the summer aquatics program, noting that more than three thousand participants completed swim lessons, with adaptive swim lessons also seeing strong participation. Additional instructor training is planned to expand aquafit and adaptive programming. The department reported numerous successful water rescues during the summer season and received its strongest StarGuard safety audit rating to date, recognizing staff performance. Updates were also provided on splash pad and pool improvement projects, including ongoing work at Archer, Santa Rita, and Sunnyside.

Recreation center updates included a senior luau at El Pueblo Senior Center and a Back-to-School Bash at the Marty Birdman Center. Staff also reported increased use of cooling centers and scheduled deep cleaning of recreation facilities. Fall softball and volleyball leagues are set to begin in August, and preparations are underway for the Arts and Crafts Fair. The department also highlighted end-of-summer program celebrations, and ongoing staff training, including leadership development and training on policies, processes, and procedures.

Capital Improvement projects highlights include upcoming construction of the Himmel Park

splash pad and improvements to the Reid Park DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center.

c. Director

Partnership efforts continue with City Council Ward 5 and the Tucson Rams at Rudy Garcia Park, including an upcoming engagement session to discuss current and future park investments. Preparation is also underway for the opening of Santa Rita Park, including coordination with community partners and stakeholders.

July was recognized as Parks and Recreation Month, with employee appreciation lunches held at various locations to recognize staff contributions and encourage connection across divisions. Staff noted this was the first year of the effort and will evaluate opportunities to improve future employee engagement activities.

d. Emailed Information

- KIDCO After School Registration, Begins July 25
- Grand Re-opening of Armory Park, July 2
- City of Tucson to Break Ground on Cushing Street Skate Park, June 30
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Completion of Historic Fort Lowell Rehabilitation and Preservation Project, June 12

7. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Therapy Pool Temperatures and Aquatic Center Update

Parks Master Plan Partnership Opportunity: Alliance for Ecological Park Management

Budget and Revenue Strategies

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, August 26, 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

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Manon Getsi, duly seconded by Commissioner Kathy Altman. to adjourn the meeting. All commission members were in favor of the motion. (Commissioners Darin Gregg and Kathy Dong were absent. There is no representation for the Ward 1 sector)