

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, August 26, 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- 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 and Ward 4 sectors.

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

Sierra Boyer, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Diana Schroeder, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Julissa Galindo, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Lyssa Adams, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Leah Lyons, Tucson Parks and Recreation

Grace Logan, 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

Sheila Bowden, Friends of Ft. Lowell Park

Gabriel Holguin, City Council Aide Ward 5 Office

2. Approval of Minutes: July 22, 2026

Motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Altman duly seconded by Commissioner Maurice Roberts

to accept the July 22, 2026, minutes as presented. All commission members were in favor of the motion, 4-0. (Commissioner Kathy Dong was absent. There is no representation for the Ward 1 Ward 4 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".

Nicole Washington addressed the Commission regarding a request to name the Mission Manor Aquatic Center in honor of her son, Ocean Washington.

4. ARC Therapy Pool Temperature and Aquatic Center Update

Director Hamwey provided an extensive presentation with updates on the Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) therapy pool temperature and aquatic center operations, addressing concerns raised at the previous meeting. The therapy pool is consistently maintained at 90 degrees Fahrenheit, within recommended guidelines. The presentation also covered aquatic programming, enrollment, class durations, instructor training, recent program fee increases, fee recovery, and potential funding opportunities. Director Hamwey noted that the City shifted from a 100% cost-recovery model to a 15% fee increase in response to community concerns regarding affordability; however, current fees remain below full cost recovery, despite most classes being at maximum enrollment. Most classes are at maximum enrollment but remain below full cost recovery. Class durations were increased from 45 to 50 minutes. A review of registration records dating back to 2018 found no evidence of prior discounts for the classes. Efforts to identify external funding opportunities including healthcare-sponsored programs are ongoing to help reduce participant costs; however, one program was determined to be infeasible due to administrative costs. Ongoing staff training was noted as a continued need due to the non-permanent nature of the aquatic program team.

5. Park Master Plan Partnership Opportunity: Alliance for Ecological Park Management

The Commission discussed a potential partnership with the Alliance for Ecological Park Management to provide volunteer natural resource consulting services as part of the Park Master Plan process. The planning process will begin with an assessment of existing facilities, followed by community engagement to identify long-term priorities and guide development of the master plan. The plan may help inform future funding or bond proposals, with the consultant contract is funded through impact fees. Staff also discussed updating park classifications, including potential creation of a cultural resource park category, and noted that AEPM could provide input on park classifications and related terminology. Staff also emphasized that all stakeholders will remain actively engaged throughout the process. The kick-off meeting for the master plan program is scheduled to take place on September 3, 2026.

6. Budget and Revenue Strategies

The agenda item was moved following item 7. Therapeutic Recreation Program Overview. Staff provided a budget update, previously distributed in the meeting packet. Staff also reported receiving a formal resignation from Commissioner Darrin Greg and noted that discussions had begun with City Council Ward 4 and Ward 1 regarding potential replacements.

Commissioner Roberts emphasized the need for the department to proactively identify new revenue sources rather than relying on outside donations to address budget shortfalls. Commissioner Roberts suggested exploring opportunities to generate revenue through events and use of department facilities, as well as developing a process for staff and community members to submit revenue-generating ideas. Commissioner Roberts also proposed exploring partnerships with healthcare providers and insurance companies that may provide funding for recreational programs, including potential participation in programs similar to Silver Sneakers.

7. Therapeutic Recreation Program Overview

Staff provided an overview of the Therapeutic Recreation Program and its mission to develop and enhance lifelong recreational pursuits for individuals with disabilities through adaptive aquatic and inclusive recreation opportunities. The program primarily services individuals with developmental delays and intellectual disabilities while also offering programs for individuals with physical disabilities and aging related disabilities.

The program highlighted its commitment to inclusion and employment, noting that four individuals with disabilities have been hired to work on the team and assist with adaptive sports and recreation programs. Staff also discussed outreach efforts at local youth camp sites, where adaptive sports activities help children learn about inclusion, accessibility, and empathy.

The program participants in community events, including Boo Bash, Family Festival, and Extravaganza, provide adaptive recreation opportunities and designated low sensory areas for individuals who may need a quieter space. Staff also highlighted the Senior Olympics and adaptive wheelchair basketball opportunities which have attracted participants from outside the area due to the limited availability of similar programs.

The presentation emphasized the importance of expanding adaptive recreation opportunities and ensuring that individuals of all abilities have opportunities to participate, stay active, and engage with the community.

8. Reports / Announcements

a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioners shared positive feedback regarding a Ward 1 meeting on the park renaming process. Commissioners appreciated the opportunity to hear community input and noted that the meeting was well received and provided a meaningful opportunity for community engagement.

b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Ongoing efforts are being made to manage the summer heat and storm cleanup, with limited tree damage. Preparations are underway for fall overseeding, while sports complexes are preparing for increased ballfield activity. Staff also continue routine park maintenance and improvement projects.

Staff reported that recreation centers have completed summer closures and cleaning, with final cleanup efforts underway. Staff also highlighted raised garden beds at one center, supported by the maintenance team, and the second "Knowledge Bytes" coordinator training session featuring guest speakers.

The summer aquatics season concluded with 62 rescues and approximately 3,100 swim lessons. The extended pool season continues through November 7, 2026, along with ongoing aquatic fitness and swim programs. A four-star audit rating was received and fall lifeguard training is planned.

Upcoming recreation activities include badminton at El Pueblo, the September El Grito event, October Boo Bash, the November Family Festival, and a Ward 5 movie series. Cooling centers

will continue through September, and volunteer appreciation efforts were recently held.

c. Director

Santa Rita Park is scheduled to reopen October 2, 2026, with a ribbon-cutting celebration followed by a community movie night on October 2, 2026. The park will feature multipurpose fields, sports facilities, a walking path, splash pad, playground, and skate park.

Jacobs Park is anticipated to reopen October 15, 2026, with expanded sports and recreation amenities.

Two previously discussed facility naming's, Joaquin Murrieta and Stacy Redondo Softball Fields, are scheduled for City Council consideration in September.

d. Emailed Information

- Extended Summer Pool Schedule Released for August 2-30, 2026
- Celebrate Improvements at Francisco Elias Esquer Park- August 7, 2026
- Alliance for Ecological Park Management (AEPM):
 - i. Statement of Purpose and Goals- January 14, 2026
 - ii. Newsletter 2- Wide Support, New Opportunities- July 27, 2026
- August Parks and Rec Roundup

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items

Budget and Revenue

Meeting Schedule for November and December

b. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, September 23, 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 4:45 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. (Commissioner Kathy Dong was absent. There is no representation for the Ward 1 and Ward 4 sector)