



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



January 10, 2014

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department  
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona

Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Commissioners present were Jan Johnson (Vice Chair), Richard Barker, Anita Kellman, Karen Cesare, Victor Rivera and Enrique Serna. Commissioners absent were Peter Chesson and Tom Drzazgowski,

Staff present: Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, George Kuck, Kerry Baldwin, Steve Anderson, Joe Barr, Joy Mehulka, Shelley Rose, Valerie Samoy-Alvarado and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, to approve the December 13, 2013 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Call to the Public: Former Commissioner Chuck Catino told the commission that he had enjoyed serving on the commission and the main reason he had resigned was that his supervisor told him to so that he could be recognized. He also said that he would still pursue legislation to provide funding to parks and recreation. Chair Lundin also informed the commission that the Board of Supervisors moved to rename the Canoa Preserve Park as the Chuck Catino Park.

### Commission Discussion/Action Request

- a. Budget update for the coming year and problems that NRPR may be facing. Deputy Director Robert Padilla provided the commissioners with a snapshot of the current budget that shows that NRPR will probably go over budget by approximately \$300,000. This is primarily due to Fleet Services implementing a minimum flat rate charge. In addition, mileage rates increased 21% from the previous fiscal year. NRPR has advised county administration regarding the potential budget exceedance. Mr. Padilla also provided the commission members a budget summary of the 2014/15 proposed budget. NRPR is requesting three supplemental packages for Open Space Management, New Project Inception and for the Historic Hacienda de la Canoa Project. A key component of next fiscal year's budget is the probability of the Regional Flood Control District funding the entire river park system. This would shift the cost burden from NRPR to RFCD. Mr. Padilla also stated that the FY 2014-15 budget was developed with the understanding that RFCD would pay for maintaining the river park system. However, this would require Board of Supervisors approval of a 3-cent increase to the Flood Control tax levy. There were no questions from the commissioners.
- b. Division Reports: There were no questions from the commission members.

### Commissioner's Report

- a. **Beat Cancer Boot Camp:** Commissioner Kellman asked Vice Chair Johnson to speak about her experience at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Beat Cancer Boot Camp. Vice Chair Johnson said that she loved the stories about how Beat Cancer Boot Camp helped the survivors and created another venue which brought them together. It was also noted that the Boot Camp started with eight people and now has approximately 150.
- b. **Canoa Preserve Community Park:** Former Commission Member, Chuck Catino, informed the commissioners that with the funding from the ASARCO mining fines and a CDBG grant two more covered bleachers have been installed and that there will be drinking water available. NRPR staff, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Flint have completed approximately a mile of trail. Commissioner Catino will also talk to Mr. Robert Vaughn to inquire as to what his division could do to save some money. There is an upcoming fun day at the park with nine teams playing. Donations will be accepted and there will be free coffee and doughnuts served.

**DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:** Division Managers will report on their recent activities related to the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department. This item will be informational only and no action will be taken at this meeting. If further discussion is necessary, those items requiring discussion may be placed on a future Commission meeting agenda.

1. **Recreation (Joe Barr)**

Winter lifeguarding class was offered December 20 – December 29, 2013 at the Thad Terry Pool. Twenty-five students registered and 23 passed the class and are now eligible for employment. Additional lifeguarding classes will be offered at the Kino and Thad Terry pools in March and April. Mr. Barr explained that it is very important to get life guards and that they work year-round to ensure that there are enough life guards available.

The tension structure of the shade sail at Ellie Towne Community Center underwent preventative maintenance. Three new staff members were hired for NRPR's Ajo operation. Mr. Mike Riggs will start work Monday, January 13, 2014 as Park Manager II, and Mr. Luis Velarde will start the same day as a Trades Maintenance Technician. Ms. Merrill Meadows will start on February 10, 2014 as Neighborhood Recreation Center Coordinator. Commissioner Cesare asked whether the employees would live in Ajo and Mr. Barr explained that that was an important component of the job because if the employees did not live there they would be considered outsiders.

Mr. Barr spoke about a new program that was proposed by Pima Council on Aging called Enhance Fitness® which is a proven program in which participants experienced statistically significant total medical savings compared to a cohort matched by age and gender. Mr. Barr mentioned a few events that would be forthcoming in the next few months, one of which is Ted Walker Youth Day at Old Tucson Studios on January 30, 2014. He also spoke about the Shooting Sports Program at the Clay Target Center where they hosted various matches for 4H. There were 102 entries, 86 archery entries and 16 small-bore rifle entries. The program was very successful. One unfortunate event was that Tucson Mountain Rifle Range was burglarized again in December. The padlocks from the gate and office door were cut and any and all items of value were taken. Approximately \$1600.00 worth of items was stolen, including the damage caused. Mr. Baldwin made a note of the fact that Tucson is becoming notable for its shooting sports program which is expanding and added that the World Cup for Shooting, a precursor to the Olympics, will be held in Tucson in April. Some people will also train at county

facilities. Commissioner Cesare asked how many children attended the Ted Walker Youth Day. She was told that last year over 4,200 children attended along with a horse training group. This year about 3,000 children from all schools are expected to attend. The commissioners are also invited to attend.

## 2. Natural Resources (Kerry Baldwin):

Mr. Baldwin asked if there were any questions regarding his report. Commissioner Johnson asked about the additional ongoing enhancement project where staff put in a 700' waterline at the new Esmond Station property. The county acquired a parcel of state land there and there will be a new regional park developed there. The park will be included in the new bond. This is a historic site of an old train depot and maintenance facility on the historic register. Additionally there will be soccer fields and there is a probability that a library and a larger county complex that will be developed on the site. The county acquired the water rights of the family who had a grazing lease on the property, thus in order for them to have water, the county put in the water line. Mr. Barr added that there would be a public meeting on January 16, 2014 regarding the master plan for this project. Mr. Baldwin told the commission that the development of this would be run through the Capital Improvement Project division located downtown. Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification regarding the oxygen diffuser system that was installed in the pond to boost oxygen levels. She was told that this was the Agua Caliente pond and was not at the Gilbert Ray Campgrounds. Mr. Baldwin also informed the commission that the county successfully acquired additional State Trust land to add to Tortolita Preserve, and the county has a proposal from Sasabe for a conservation easement of approximately 600 acres as well as another conservation easement of 450 acres at Agua Verde Creek between Colossal Cave and McKenzie Ranch. We are also doing a lot of work at the M Diamond Ranch. Commissioner Johnson inquired about the distance from the eastern edge of the Tortolita property to the Chalk Mine. She was told that it was approximately four miles.

## 3. Geo-Media (Joy Mehulka)

Commissioner Kellman said that she had to clarify that there was incorrect verbiage regarding the reason that the Beat Cancer Boot Camp Challenge was cancelled, was clearly because of the difficulty and lack of support that they got from staff at Pima County and that was the deciding factor and she wants to have it on the record. Ms. Mehulka said she disagreed with Commissioner Kellman's statement as there were other issues within her organization that prevented continued progress. Ms. Mehulka would also like to go on record to say our support staff have been excellent and have given support at every turn and that is not the reason it was cancelled. Commissioner Kellman did not agree as she stated that Ms. Mehulka did not attend every meeting and did not know what went on. She also stated that at every organization, leadership changes go on and that because there was one member who decided not to volunteer for this event, it was not the reason. The reason was we started planning this in early 2013 and up until change of staff at NRPR were then repeatedly set back with reasons that it could not continue the way it was. Commissioner Kellman also said that she had documentation and emails to back her up. She said that they wanted to do this event

but unfortunately there were roadblocks thrown at them and they could not continue. Commissioner Serna made a suggestion that there could be a subcommittee formed to see how the commission and NRPR could make it work. He also emphasized how important this program was for people suffering from cancer and the need to make programs like this work. Mr. Cawein said that NRPR would be happy to articulate the level of interaction that has occurred over the past year that are associated with Commissioner Kellman's event, all the different correspondence and communications and that NRPR has records of all that has occurred this past year to demonstrate the cooperation and work that NRPR has done, and present it to the commissioners if they desire it at this point in time. Mr. Cawein emphasized that NRPR wants to partner on these issues as it is critical that NRPR has good partnerships. Commissioner Serna wishes that ways be found to make it work. Chair Lundin said that the commission could look at it at a future meeting and form a separate subcommittee for this reason at a later time. Ms. Mehulka told the commission that staff had begun preparation for the installation of the first tile wall at El Paseo de los Arboles that had been badly vandalized. Additional panels will be installed over the next few weeks.

### **Addendum for January 10, 2014 meeting**

1. Recognize Chuck Catino's service on the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors action to rename the Canoa Preserve Park as the Chuck Catino Park: Chair Lundin took a formal moment to recognize Chuck Catino for his many years of service to Parks and Recreation as a whole as well as his park in Green Valley. Mr. Catino received a standing ovation. Mr. Cawein also presented Mr. Catino with a plaque and added NRPR's appreciation of his service. Mr. Cawein read the resolution from the Board of Supervisors authorizing renaming of the complex to the Chuck Catino Softball Complex. Mr. Catino noted that as it will have ramadas, picnic and recreation areas, a youth section, a dog park and playgrounds for the community, it would thus be called the Chuck Catino Park.
2. ECAP Presentation (Shelley Rose): Ms. Rose is the Recreation Program Coordinator at Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center as well as the Chair of ECAP – Employees Combined Appeal Program – that works with United Way. ECAP allows for donations via voluntary deductions from employee paychecks to over 270 charities. Employees can donate to any charity they want. This year the employees pledged to donate over \$450,000. Pima County donates more than Maricopa County. It was originally set up with the City of Tucson in 1969, but now the city has its own separate program. Ms. Rose showed the commission a short presentation about the program. She became Chair in 2009 and will be retiring in February 2014 after 19 years of service with the county. Chair Lundin thanked Ms. Rose for all her hard work and told her that many agencies are very grateful for the donations they receive. Mr. Barr added that her service was also greatly appreciated.
3. Year-end report 2013 events (Joe Barr/Joy Mehulka): Mr. Barr gave the commission a summary of some notable events held the past year as follows:
  - January 31 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ted Walker Youth Day at Old Tucson Studios
  - February 25 – Catalina Playground Dedication
  - March 2 – Historic Hacienda de la Canoa Dedication

- March 16 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual BCBC Challenge 2013
- March 26 – Canoa Preserve Park Dedication
- April 14 – Pima Prickly Park Celebration and Expo
- May 18 – Grand Reopening of Flowing Wells Pool
- June 22 – Grand Opening of Xtreme Funspot BMX Track at Mike Jacob Sports Park
- July 4 – Oct 28 Grand Reopening of 8 Community Centers ( pictures of Picture Rocks, Ajo, Catalina and Robles Ranch)
- July 18 – Grand Opening of Sporting Chance, Southern Arizona’s largest indoor sports facility
- August 1 – 2 converted soccer fields at Arthur Pack Regional Park
- September 28 – Grand Opening of BCBC Resource Center at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park
- October 5 – Dedication of Southeast Clay Target Center, Archery Range and Education and Training Range
- October 26 – Inaugural Anza Days at Historic Hacienda de la Canoa
- November 16 – Dedication of the Maeveen Behan Desert Sanctuary
- November 22 – Dedication of the Roy Schoonover Trailhead on The Loop
- January 3, 2014 – Grand Opening of the Tucson Soccer Academy Ann Kathryn Schmidt “Kickin It” Clubhouse at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):** Commissioner Cesare requested an update regarding the Rillito Race Park.

**ADJOURNMENT:** As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.