



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING



March 14, 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 9:07 a.m on March 14, 2014.

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

Staff present: Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, George Kuck, Kerry Baldwin, Steve Anderson, Kelly Cheeseman and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Chris Cawein introduced and welcomed Kimberly Marohn, representing District 1, to the commission. Ms. Marohn informed the audience that she moved from New York to Tucson eleven years ago with her husband who is a native Tucsonan. She is a Real Estate broker and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, cycling, and sees great benefit of parks and recreation.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Purdon, to approve the January 10, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Commission Discussion/Action Request

1. Informational Update Report—Youth Programs and information on programs to be offered (Kelly Cheeseman): Ms. Cheeseman asked if the commission had any questions on the report she had prepared for them. She also told them that summer is the busiest time of the year because they have aquatics and the summer youth program which is very popular. Chair Lundin thanked her for the information that she provided which was exactly what he needed. Commissioner Purdon also said some parents who needed information for their daughter approached him and after contacting Supervisor Carroll's office for more information, realized Ms. Cheeseman's report was very timely, informative and greatly appreciated since it answered all of his questions.
2. Special Event Liquor Permit for Southern Arizona Kart Club 'Hard Charge Obstacle Course' event (Tom Moulton): Mr. Moulton, the Director of Economic Development and Tourism told the commission that this was an opportunity to work with Pima Motorsports Park (PMP). PMP is an off-highway vehicle (OHV) park that has been in existence for many years now. The operator of the park, Mr. Mark Kingsley unfortunately could not be present thus Mr. Moulton wanted to let the commission know about his newest event. Typically, PMP does OHV racing and other events, but under provision D31.1, special events can be held with the approval of the County. In January, PMP applied for permission to hold a special

event which is part of a new trend of mud obstacle course, an extreme sport. These events are usually held at the Pima County Fairgrounds, but since they have another event, it was decided to be held at PMP. They completed all the necessary paperwork to conduct the event. After the event, they would like to have a beer bar within a confined area. The bar would be staffed with only licensed bartenders, would only be open to the spectators, and would be very well regulated. Usually events at PMP are not allowed to serve alcohol, but since this is an event out of their normal activities, they are allowed to apply for a temporary liquor license. Since PMP is part of the South East Regional Park, Mr. Moulton brought this matter to the commission to get their approval before taking it to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Moulton explained that they are in full compliance and Risk Management has looked over the activities and endorsed the event. Chair Lundin moved that the commission make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval of the liquor permit for the PMP Hard Charge Obstacle Course event. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All commissioners voted in approval of the agreement.

3. Pima County Horsemen's Association Proposal for Redevelopment of the Rillito Park Soccer Fields & Racetrack (Informational Only): Mr. Mark White of the Pima County Horsemen's Association spoke to the commission about a cost effective proposal for re-development of the Rillito Park Race Track and soccer fields. He presented the commission with a concept plan that would allow for the development of more soccer fields while keeping the racetrack and grandstands. Some of his proposals included re-configuring some soccer fields to add some more, installing a box culvert for drainage that would then allow the area there to be used as a driveway or another soccer field, remodel the existing grandstand and clubhouse for multi-use, relocate some stalls to a new location and reconfigure that area to include one or two more fields while leaving the track as is. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. White about what effect would the listing of the racetrack on National Register of Historic Places have on future development of the area. Mr. White told her that even though it was listed as a historic district, the property owner could develop the property as long as they document what was taken down, changed or demolished and then put up a plaque memorializing the area. Commissioner Johnson asked about the Jelks House and whether the space there could be used for any other purpose. She was told that currently, that property was leased to another party, and that in the past, the City of Tucson had been looking into developing it. The current lessees are thinking of putting in a Western Heritage museum. Commissioner Johnson asked about the stalls on the east side that were currently not being used and whether those could be moved. She thought that would be more cost effective than moving all the barns from the west to the east as suggested by Ms. Slusser at the last meeting. Commissioner Chesson asked about the drainage issue and whether there was a possibility of increased flooding. Mr. White mentioned that in the past twenty years, the stream had run only twice.

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

Planning Division (Steve Anderson): Commissioner Chesson asked whether the trails on the Sweetwater Annex would be constructed and restored by volunteers. Mr. Anderson said that they use volunteers (led by professionals) to build the five miles of new trails in the annex and volunteers would close off and revegetate the social trails. Then a new

map of the whole property would be executed by the Planning Division. Chair Lundin asked whether a viable linkage between Tucson Mountain Park and the Henderson Property was really found, and was told by Mr. Anderson that it was between Hidden Canyon and the Henderson Property. The only problem at this point was to obtain an easement from one last property owner who is asking for more money than what the county can pay, but Mr. Anderson is working with Real Property on this.

Operations Division (George Kuck): Mr. Kuck told the commission that on March 1, 2014, Pima County celebrated the naming of the softball complex after Chuck Catino and that it was a great success. He also mentioned that NRPR is happy to have a great working relationship with the BAJA group.

He also mentioned that the river path between Campbell and La Cholla had been widened to 16 feet, and that there have been some complaints from users as the shoulders had been removed to make place for the path. He will be working with Mr. Steve Anderson to find room to put in divided urban pathways which are paved paths with a parrallel decomposed granite path, to address the concerns of walkers and runners who do not like running on asphalt.

Commissioner Johnson asked whether equestrians could use the paths too. Mr. Kuck said that there were no restrictions on their using it. Commissioner Chesson asked about the new wider paths. Mr. Kuck explained that the older paths were 12 feet wide with 2-foot shoulders on both sides. The new paths are 16 feet wide and in many cases it is a challenge to find space for the DUP, but he is working with Mr. Anderson on the section between La Cholla and Camino de la Tierra. Commissioner Chesson asked whether it would be a good idea to have separate paths for runners, cyclists, etc. Mr. Kuck told him that there were no restrictions on users using the river DUP paths. He also explained that when working with the older, established paths it was more difficult to expand mainly because of the mature vegetation, irrigation and hazards that would come with expansion. Commissioner Johnson also mentioned that some areas were very narrow. Mr. Kuck also explained that in some areas, like underpasses and bridges, the paths have to merge. Commissioner Chesson asked again whether it would be possible to separate users. Mr. Kuck said that that could be a possibility in the future, like the possibility of having speed limits as well, but at this time there was nothing about restricting users. Commissioner Chesson also mentioned that paths that were too broad diminished the experience for users. Mr. Kuck said that there have been more compliments than complaints about the new paths and the bicyclists and rollerbladers love it. He also said that one of the long range plans for the county was to increase the tree canopy to provide more shade along the paths.

Mr. Kuck also mentioned that the county has allocated bond funds from the 1997 Bond to light the senior little league field at Thomas Jay/Littletown Park which has seen tremendous growth in the area. NRPR has asked that the project include putting the parks ball field lights on the department's central control system which is more efficient. He said that access to the lighting at the other parks was also shared with 911 dispatchers for use in case of emergencies.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): Mr. Chris Cawein told the commission that he was approached by the family of a young man who passed away recently and they wanted to name one of the dog parks at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park after this individual. He will add it to the commission agenda in one of the future meetings. Mr. Cawein is in discussion with the county attorney's office and will craft an agreement following the guidelines set, before bringing it to the commission.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 09:55 a.m.

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