



# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



July 10, 2015

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

Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m on July 10, 2015.

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

Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Kerry Baldwin, George Kuck, Joe Barr, Steve Anderson, Jessie Byrd, Robert Vaughn, Kelly Cheeseman, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

## Consent Agenda

Commissioner Serna made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, to approve the June 12, 2015 minutes after two corrections were made. The motion passed.

## Commission Discussion/Action Request

Informational year end summary:

1. Planning Division (Steve Anderson): Mr. Anderson gave a presentation to the commission on the projects that his division accomplished in fiscal year 2014-15. One of them was the Arizona Trail Canopy. Mr. Cawein asked the reason for the canopy and Mr. Anderson informed him that Union Pacific required it to prevent hikers from accidentally being hurt by debris that falls from the rail tracks above. Other projects completed were the Marsh Station Road crossing for the Arizona Trail, fencing projects at Cienega Creek and San Juan Park. Sustainable trails at Sweetwater Preserve were completed while old unsustainable trails were closed off and re-vegetated. A 4.7 mile trail system was added to Arthur Pack's open space area which is now called the Maeveen Behan Desert Sanctuary. Mr. Anderson also redesigned the trails parks' maps as brochures and handed them out to the commissioners. Commissioner Johnson was appreciative and wanted more maps in that format. Mr. Anderson is also planning Pima County's first mountain bike race course at McKenzie Ranch. Mr. Flint has done 15 miles of trail planning there. He has also planned the Cochise Trail from the Arizona Trail at Cienega Creek Preserve through McKenzie Ranch to the I-10 at the Empirita Exit. The Empirita Exit to the Whetstone Mountains will be the next part of the Cochise Trail to be sited. The trail system in Tucson Mountain Park is being revised as well and construction will begin this fall. Sandy Bolduc of Flood Control along with Mr. Anderson added a soft path along the north bank of the Rillito from the Ethan Crossing trailhead to La Cholla Boulevard which should be completed shortly. Mr. Anderson worked with Ms. Sherry Ruther from the Office of Sustainability and Conservation on a trail project evaluation process that will be included in the Multi-Species Conservation Plan. Mr. Anderson gave the commissioners a brief summary of Mr. Greg Hagen's planning focus which included representing NRPR on the proposed Bond. Mr. Hagen has reviewed and commented on Development Services (DS) documents that included rezoning cases, tentative and final plats, release of easements and abandonments. He sat on several committees involved with DS including the Accela Land and Permit Management, Subdivision Review, the Advisory Council and others. He worked with the Pima Prosperers committee and ensured that the comprehensive plan worked well for NRPR. He also

manages the in-lieu fee ordinance, both collecting and auditing the funds for the department.

Some of the other projects finished this year were the Wild Burro Wash survey, the Bowen Homestead, updates for the Campbell and Finger Rock trailheads, and the IGA with other agencies, notably Marana and Pinal County. Projects that were begun in the 2014-15 fiscal year include wildlife cameras for counting people, the Adamson-Catino Trail, Manzanita trails planning, the trails web site, and helping Benson with their trails master plan.

Future projects include updating the specifications and details of the Park Development standards, 2015 Bond, working on new trails parks, the debut of the Tribute Trail and collaborating with many jurisdictions on the Sun Corridor Trail which is proposed to extend from Douglas to Las Vegas, a distance of nearly 1400 miles. Commissioner Johnson commended Mark Flint for his work on trails in Pinal County and also asked for a brochure for TMP trails, when revised. Mr. Anderson was asked what would be permitted on the Sun Corridor trail. He informed the commissioners that all types of non-motorized uses would be allowed. Commissioner Serna asked if any of the trail volunteers have encountered or were bitten by snakes on the trails. Mr. Anderson informed him that there were none that he had heard of.

2. Special Projects and Trades Division, including the Native Plant Nursery (Robert Vaughn and Jessie Byrd): Mr. Vaughn informed the commissioners that the employees of SP&T are plumbers, welders, carpenters and other specialized trades' workers. Besides working with all the divisions at NRPR, they work for several other departments like Flood Control, Wastewater and even the City of Tucson, which generated revenue for NRPR.

Ms. Jessie Byrd, the project manager of the Native Plant Nursery (NPN) informed the commissioners that part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan called for including more native plants in the urban environment, thus the NPN is working with many other jurisdictions to grow native plants for their projects. At the present there are over 18,000 plants covering over 300 species at the nursery. She said that she and her staff collect wild seed which are grown and used to revegetate areas. She informed the commission that seed grown plants increase diversity. NPN has worked to improve landscapes at several Pima County libraries like the Joyner-Green Valley library, the Mission library and the Martha Cooper library. NPN provided plants for the Paseo de la Iglesias, a large project on the Santa Cruz, for which over 7000 plants have been provided. Over \$80,000 was collected in revenue for plants provided to many projects in various departments including Wastewater and Flood Control. Tall pot trees and shrubs are also being grown under a contract with the City of Tucson. NPN is also collaborating with the Trees for Tucson program and will grow 1300 5-gallon trees with an approximate value of \$13,000, over the next two years. Commissioner Serna asked if any of the NPN plants were available for sale to the public and Ms. Byrd informed him that there was a no-compete clause that did not permit it.

Mr. Vaughn gave a short history of Canoa Ranch which was purchased by the County in 1997 and passed through various hands before that. He updated the commission on the development at the ranch which is ongoing and not only involves staff, but many dedicated volunteers, which was detailed in a report he handed out to the commission. The Office of Sustainability and Conservation provided \$70,000 that was used to repair the plumbing system, electrical system and provide indoor and exterior lighting. Broken windows were also repaired. The shade structures at both the Manning residences were repaired and restored. Canoa staff, working with the NPN replanted the fruit orchard located south of the senior Manning residence. Apple, peach, pear, plum, fig, kumquat and orange trees were included. Volunteers from the Green Valley Garden Club tend the raised vegetable gardens, the house plants and the cactus garden. The ranch has hosted several special events through the year some of which were Anza Day and a Night with the Stars – celestial viewing events, the annual meeting of the Green Valley Garden Club, the Kick in for Anza and a 'Paint Out' held by the Santa Rita Art League. A wedding was also held at the ranch. Mr. Vaughn informed the commission that the Anza National Historic Trail at Canoa now boasts its own

passport stamp from the National Park Service. Mr. Vaughn was asked by Commissioner Serna if Canoa ranch had any carriage houses, and was informed that it did not. Commissioner Purdon asked about the possibility of Canoa becoming an international rodeo site and Mr. Vaughn informed him that they were working with the Rafferty's. Mr. Cawein also informed him that at least nine acres would be required for parking thus making it very challenging. Commissioner Johnson asked whether there was much traffic in the wash. Mr. Vaughn informed her that he had more problems with Border Patrol than undocumented aliens, and his staff cleans up the Anza Trail as well. Commissioner Purdon inquired about the Proctor collection and was informed that negotiations are ongoing. Mr. Vaughn also told the commissioners that the tool collection in the blacksmith's shop was growing with many donations.

3. Informational update: Mr. Cawein informed the commission about the dedication ceremony at Mount Lemmon Community Center which will be held on July 25, 2015, at 10:00 am to rename the center, the Chuck Bowden – Mount Lemmon Community Center.
4. Informational update: Ms. Kelly Cheeseman invited the commissioners to attend APRA's Boards and Commissions Day 2015 which will be held on August 12, 2015 at the Hilton El Conquistador Resort. Commissioners Johnson, Serna and Barker are interested in attending.

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS: There were no reports

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) :

Mr. George Kuck will present the commission with a year-end summary of the Operations Division and Mr. Joe Barr will present the year-end summary for the Recreation Division.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.