



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2011
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



Quorum having been established, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Voice roll call from the commissioners present was heard: Lisa Uhler, Tom Drzazgowski, Peter Chesson, Richard Barker (Secretary), Jan Johnson (Chair), Anita Kellman (Vice Chair), Chuck Catino, and Jim Mazzocco. Commissioner Victor Rivera was absent.

Staff present: Rafael Payan, Steve Anderson, Kerry Baldwin, Joe Barr, George Kuck, Joy Mehulka, Evelyne Thorpe, and Greg Tucker.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motioned and seconded, the February 4, 2011 Minutes were approved as presented.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. **Ben Tuchi's Letter:** Ms. Johnson read Ben Tuchi's letter expressing, on behalf of the Tucson National Estates Improvement Association, their appreciation of the Commission's letter of support to name a segment of the Cañada del Oro River trail after Christina-Taylor Green. He offered "a very special thanks to Rafael and Joy for working so diligently to make the dedication happen."
2. **Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte:** Mr. Payan stated that Suzanne Shields, director of Regional Flood Control District and who has been in-charge of the *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte*, has been invited to provide an update at the commission's next meeting. The project's pdf will be sent via e-mail to Messrs. Drzazgowski and Mazzocco.

Mr. Payan mentioned that the ambitious project consisting of the Santa Cruz, Rillito, and Cañada del Oro rivers confluence area could take 20 years to complete. The general project scope includes: environmental and cultural restoration, riparian and wildlife corridors restoration, enhancement of the trails system, ecosystem restoration, and others. He stated that the project is consistent with the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. Mr. Chesson suggested that staff check into the Sacramento plan as a matter of resource. Mr. Mazzocco inquired as to how the *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte* project relates to the Tres Rios Regional Reclamation Project. Mr. Payan stated that the *Corazon* project ostensibly incorporates the area between Ina Road and Roger Road waste treatment plants, whereas the regional project includes a much larger planning area.

3. Naming and renaming protocols: Mr. Barr reported that he and Mr. Chesson are still in the process of reviewing the procedure and have nothing to report at this time. They will provide an update at a future commission meeting.
4. DeAnza Trail: Mr. Payan mentioned that the Office of Sustainability and Conservation, which is in-charge of the project, and that their staff will update the commission at its next meeting. The BAJA (Born Again Jocks Association) project will be included as part of this presentation.

Division Reports

1. Bond Report Summary: A brief discussion transpired regarding the bond election and the park bond subcommittee of the Bond Advisory Committee. Several years have lapsed since the original "scope" was developed and several new project opportunities have occurred, such as the *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte Project*, the following motions were drawn.
 - Mr. Catino made a motion that, since the bond election is delayed, the commissioners would approach the Board of Supervisors requesting consideration that some of the sitting members participate in the parks bond subcommittee, subject to vacancies. Mr. Barker seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - Ms. Uhler made a motion to send a letter signed by Ms. Johnson to the Board of Supervisors requesting that Mr. Gary Davidson, chairman of the parks bond subcommittee, reevaluate the currently approved scope list to ensure that the present and future needs are incorporated. Mr. Catino seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. Geo/Media: Ms. Mehulka reported that there were approximately 225 people in attendance at the Cañada Del Oro Christina-Taylor Green Memorial River Park dedication. Ms. Johnson commented that it was quite a well organized event. Ms. Mehulka announced that March 19 is the kick-off for two leagues at Mehl-Foothills Park to dedicate the improvements to the park. She also reported on the co-operative team effort between the department and the Pima County Animal Control Center with the dog park project.
3. Natural Resource Parks: Mr. Baldwin distributed a copy of the report on Protecting Our Land, Water, and Heritage: Pima County's Voter-Supported Conservation Efforts. Mr. Baldwin briefly updated the commission regarding the open space bond program and ranch management. He mentioned that the Starr Pass Educational Enhancement Fund will be used to purchase additional property for the Sweetwater Preserve.

He reminded the commissioners to call him if they would like to visit the ranches. He emphasized that a quorum would not be allowed for such tours. Mr. Catino commented that he enjoyed the tours accommodated by Mr. Baldwin.

4. **Operations:** Mr. Kuck announced the approval of the supplemental funding request for ball fields lighting for Arthur Pack and Winston Reynolds-Manzanita parks. The parks will be closed for at least three months during the lighting construction. Youth leagues affected by the construction have been notified regarding the impacts caused by rescheduling or venue relocation. The new lighting system has a remote computer-controlled system that automatically tracks the lighting usage. The current system relies on an honor basis.

The division has taken over the maintenance of the Cañada Del Oro Christina-Taylor Green Memorial River Park, which will be funded by the Regional Flood Control District for the first three years. Additional two-way traffic signage and striping will be installed.

The Tucson Chapter of the National Charity League adopted George Mehl-Foothills Park and the Rillito River Park from Alvernon to Swan; the Chrysalis Men's Group adopted the Rillito River Park from Swan to Craycroft. The city's Tucson Clean & Beautiful orchestrated the event. A letter of appreciation to the Tucson Clean & Beautiful Adopt-A-Park program, signed by Ms. Johnson will be prepared.

The playground replacement projects are underway at Arthur Pack, McDonald, and Lawrence parks.

Future Agenda Items

- Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte update
- DeAnza Trail/BAJA update
- Drafted letters to the Board of Supervisors
- BioBlitz update
- Urban Loop Trail update

Call to the Public: No further discussion specific to the agenda items.

Adjournment

Motioned and seconded the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.