



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 1, 2011  
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department  
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



Quorum having been established, Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Chuck Catino, Peter Chesson, Tom Drzazgowski, Jan Johnson (Chair), Anita Kellman (Vice Chair), Jim Mazzocco, and Victor Rivera. Commissioners Richard Barker and Lisa Uhler were absent.

Staff Present: Rafael Payan, Steve Anderson, Kerry Baldwin, Joe Barr, Carlo DiPilato, George Kuck, Joy Mehulka, Ann Khambholja

Guests: Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District; Roger Anyon, Project Manager, Office of Sustainability and Conservation; Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator; Nancy Cole, Project Manager, Project Management Office; and several others from the public.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda Item C: Action: Approval of March 11, 2011 Minutes**

Mr. Catino made a motion to accept the March 11, 2011 Minutes. Ms. Kellman seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Agenda Item D: Commission Discussion/Action Request**

D.1: *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte Project*

Ms. Shields stated that a consultant has been hired to review and refine the concept plan. Ms. Shields gave a recap of the project. The focus is to develop a long range plan for the river system including recreation corridors and environmental restoration components to be implemented within five-year increments. The *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte Project* will be a co-operative effort of multiple departments including NRPR. The first five-year plan will be more detailed outlining the interconnectivity of river trails and proposed multiuse paths along Silverbell and Sunset roads, environmental restoration along the Santa Cruz, and the integration of recreational facilities proposed for the future bond election for the Christopher Columbus Park, Ted Walker Park, and "Corazon" park sites. The aerial photographs included superimposed graphics showing the proposed site improvements.

Currently, the multi-agency group is working on the urban loop components including some additional paving on the north and south banks of the Rillito, which are not directly associated with the "Corazon" project. Ms. Shields stated that a Web site is being created to provide internal communications amongst project team members (Pima County) and external linkages for public information. Ms. Shields stated that about a third of the project areas belong to Pima County.

Ms. Kellman complimented Ms. Shields her for the information provided regarding the status of the *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte Project*.

In regard to water sources, Ms. Shields and Mr. Payan stated that potential water sources could include treated, effluent groundwater, Central Arizona Project water, and rain water harvesting.

#### D.7: Proposed Adjustments to Archery Hunting Closure in Tucson Mountain Park

Mr. Baldwin made a detailed presentation of the cooperative effort of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) in reviewing the current archery rules and augmenting the current archery hunting closures in parts of Tucson Mountain Park (TMP). In an effort to resolve the problem between the park's neighbors and the archers, NRPR and AGFD propose additional closure zones for archery hunting in TMP. Open Houses were conducted on December 16, 2010 and on March 24, 2011. Two major issues were discussed at these open houses: (1) archers' concern about losing hunting area and (2) the homeowners' concern about trespass and ethical hunting without the proposed additional closures. Both the archers and the homeowners agreed with the concept that law enforcement officers consistently enforce the archery hunting rules and parking and trespass (interface between residential areas access to the park land) violations. The aerial map distributed showed the areas currently closed to discharge of firearms, bows and arrows, the proposed quarter mile area for additional archery hunting closure zones, removal of existing closure zones, and trails. The trailheads will remain open to all park users. Mr. Baldwin emphasized that safety is not the issue for the proposed additional quarter mile archery closure zones in TMP. He stated that potential wildlife impacts might be the minimal harvest reduction of javelina herds or animals legally being hunted in TMP and then moving to and dying on a private property.

Mr. Baldwin stated that the proposed archery closure zone on the northeast corner of TMP off Ironwood Hills Road and Camino de Oeste continues to be the major point of contention by both the archers and the homeowners. The primary area of concern includes about 275 acres of topographically diverse lands, access routes which are bordered on two sides by residential areas and to the north by the University of Arizona Desert Research and Saguaro National Park. Both parcels are currently closed to archery hunting. He suggested that the Commission approve staff's recommendation of the modified TMP archery hunting closures as presented and the park rule changes.

In regard to the safety issue, Mr. Baldwin stated that two reports were received about individual sightings of javelina in their back porch or in their backyard. He explained that neither AGFD nor NRPR has received any report from any park users having encountered conflicts with other users involving safety.

Ms. Johnson called the public to voice their opinion/concerns regarding the archery buffer zones proposal.

Mr. Ed Verburg, president of Tucson Mountain Association, strongly supports the exclusion of the buffer zone on the west, east, and north side of TMP. Mr. Verburg was a former employee of US Wildlife and Fish Service and understood the importance of hunting and fishing. He stated that Mr. Baldwin has done an excellent job in partnering with AGFD in this endeavor.

Jacklynn Hall, student at the University of Arizona Eller College of Management and park neighbor, understands the homeowners concerns and logic. She said that AGFD brochure and maps are inconsistent. She suggests that the homeowner's property boundaries be clearly marked. She also expressed concern about javelinas that might encroach her property.

Glenn Celenza is against full closure of Camino de Oeste/Ironwood Hills Road corridor and also expressed concern about the javelinas. He proposes a one-eighth mile buffer zone, instead of a quarter mile.

Roger Carpenter supports the increased restriction on the east side of TMP and also expressed concern about the javelinas and traffic. He pointed out the inconsistencies between the AGFD maps and brochure.

Mr. Baldwin commented that the concerns about the javelinas might be controlled by allowing javelina hunting within the park. He emphasized that the park rules in the "blue" areas were and are only proposals, thus nonexistent. The "yellow" areas were and are currently enforced park rules regarding archery hunting. He emphasized that the NRPR hunting rules are consistent with the AGFD hunting regulations; that the AGFD map will be revised after action is taken affirming the proposal. Further discussion regarding the javelina issue followed. The issue is very complex and there seems no solution in controlling the javelinas that appear to be adapting to the urban development.

Mr. Chesson made a motion to accept the modified Tucson Mountain Park archery hunting closures as presented and the corresponding park rule changes. Mr. Mazzocco suggested that staff seek legal review to the proposed park rules changes. Mr. Payan stated that staff will work with the Office of the County Attorney to finalize the language of the proposal. Mr. Chesson restated his motion to include staff's commitment to seek legal review on the proposal prior to submittal for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Catino seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed.

#### D.2: Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in Pima County

Roger Anyon, Project Manager from the Office of Sustainability and Conservation, stated that the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail (Trail) master plan can be viewed on Pima County's Web site. The Trail segment is from the Santa Cruz County line to Pima Mine Road. Pima County has selected 70 miles on the west bank of the Santa Cruz River as the route for the Trail. The Trail traverses the town of Sahuarita, city of Tucson, and the town of Marana, where trail segments are incorporated. Mr. Anyon is working closely NRPR, Flood Control District, and Wastewater Management personnel on the project.

The project is funded by the 1997, 2002, and 2004 Pima County Bonds for the Anza Trail. The master plan, designed in 2002, shows the trail going mile by mile south of Pima County west of the Santa Cruz River. The scope of the project includes, but is not limited to, interpretive signage, trailheads, pedestrian bridges, shade ramadas, vehicle parking, horse trailer parking, shade structures, horse hitches and drinkers, as applicable with regard to the specific trailhead

being built. Mr. Anyon stated that a seven-mile trail segment from Elephant Head to the Abrego Trailhead is now open and in use in the Green Valley/Sahuarita reaches.

Mr. Anyon stated that there exist two easement gaps through Green Valley north of the Abrego Trailhead—near Continental Road and at a mine-owned water well between the Haven and Country Club golf courses.

The trailheads interpretive signs will commemorate the Juan Bautista Anza's expedition party's campsites at Canoa, Tuquison, Puerto del Azotado, and Oit Pars.

Mr. Anyon explained the process of securing easement from homeowners in order to complete the reaches of this project.

Mr. Anyon will focus on the completion of at least fifteen miles of usable Anza Trail through Green Valley and Sahuarita with trailheads and interpretive signage. Mr. Anyon mentioned that there will be no trail planned at the San Xavier Reach at the request of the Tohono O'odham Nation San Xavier District.

By the end of 2014, Mr. Anyon expects usable trails from Drexel Road all the way to Camino del Cerro at the north end of Columbus Park. He added that there are two gaps within the city's reaches from Ajo Highway to Silverlake Road.

Mr. Anyon stated that the *Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte* project that Ms. Shields presented earlier will close, when completed, the gap between Camino del Cerro and Ina Road.

Mr. Anyon explained how the interpretive signage art work are designed in English, Spanish, and O'odham.

### D.3: Bond Update

Ms. Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator, stated that the bond election is slated for November 2013 at the earliest.

Ms. Fyffe explained the role of the parks and recreation bond subcommittee of the Bond Advisory Committee (BAC). The subcommittee reviews the parks and recreation project list for future bond consideration, then submits its recommendation to the County Administrator. Ms. Fyffe reviewed and explained the handouts that contain the project lists recommended by the parks and recreation bond subcommittee, the County Administrator, and the list of projects not recommended by the County Administrator. She suggested that the commissioners may submit their feedback regarding the project lists to her.

Ms. Fyffe clarified the position held by ex-commissioner Gary Davidson to the park and recreation bond subcommittee. The appointees to the BAC were appointed by the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator. A subcommittee positions are currently filled.

### D.4: Urban Loop Trail and Loop Links

Ms. Nancy Cole, Project Manager in the Project Management Office, stated that the county administration gave an update to the Bond Advisory Committee regarding the urban loop and loop links on March 5, 2011 (copy of the update was provided to the commissioners). The design and implementation of this off-street shared-use path projects is a multi-departmental effort, including the city of Tucson.

The Urban Loop shared-use routes included the Santa Cruz River Park, Rillito River Park, Pantano River Park/Houghton Greenway, and Julian Wash/Arroyo Chico Greenway. The Loop Links are adjacent river parks such as Cañada del Oro shared-used paths serving Oro Valley, Santa Cruz north serving Marana, Santa Cruz south extending to the Tohono O'odham Nation and adjacent to the Yaqui Village, and the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway serving the city of South Tucson. The river parks project includes bank protection in addition to trails paving. The county administration is planning a bike event in October 2011. NRPR is working on the re-vegetation to replace the existing tree canopy along river parks.

#### D.5: Naming/Renaming Parks, Facilities, and Open Space Procedure

Mr. Joe Barr referred to the packet submitted to the commissioners. Messrs. Barr and Chesson reviewed and agreed, via e-mail, to the changes to be made to the current procedure for naming/renaming parks, facilities, and open space. Mr. Barr reviewed the changes made to the current procedure as shown in the packet provided to the commissioners. The subcommittee would remain under the proposal in reviewing the submittals. The Board of Supervisors may use other criteria to name or change the name of park, facility, or open space property without a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Johnson gave a recap of how the subcommittee was formed. Mr. Catino expressed concern about procedure #3.c: a monetary contribution equal to the cost of development of a park, open space property facility site. Mr. Catino commented that an individual would not give a million dollar donation just to name or rename a park. Mr. Chesson suggests the elimination of the subcommittee; that the submittals be forwarded directly to the commission for review and consideration.

Mr. Chesson made a motion to accept the procedure as modified. Modifications included: (1) verbiage of Item 3.c in the Naming Criteria and (2) Item 7 in the Submission Process. The modifications include the elimination of the word "subcommittee", and the 30-day public notice requirement. Mr. Drzazgowski further amended the motion deleting the word "must be" and substituting "may be" regarding Item 3.c and Item 7 and deleting the word "subcommittee" in its entirety. Mr. Chesson accepted the amendment and restated the motion. Mr. Catino seconded the motion as amended. The motion passed.

Mr. Payan stated that the suggested modifications to the naming/renaming procedures will be e-mailed to the commissioners for their review. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, there shall be no communication among commission members regarding this item or its review. If the modifications are approved, the procedures will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval. If not, this item will again be placed as an agenda item for further consideration during the next commission meeting.

D.8: Relocation of Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings in May, June, and July 2011.

Mr. Barr announced that the first floor conference will be used from mid-April through July of 2011 for PimaCore training. The next commission's meeting will be held at Ellie Townie-Flowing Wells Community Center. Subsequent meetings will be held at other NRPR-operated sites.

D.6: BAJA /Canoa Preserves Softball Complex

Mr. Catino, one of the founders of B.A.J.A. (Born Again Jocks Association), distributed handouts about the accomplishments of the organization in partnership with NRPR.

D.9: Commissioner's Report (Announcement of Past and Future Events)

Mr. Payan stated that the item has been incorporated so that any commissioner can agendaize and report activities of interest to commission members. All submissions and reports must comply with the Arizona State's Open Meeting Laws.

Ms. Kellman reported that the Breast Cancer Boot Camp (BCBC) celebrated its third annual boot camp challenge on March 19, 2011. The event was very successful with over 500 participants. She complimented staffs for their collaborative effort that contributed to the success of the event. She congratulated Ms. Johnson who volunteered and participated in the event.

This year's boot camp challenge was dedicated to Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford. A banner bearing signatures of well wishers was taken to Houston, Texas, by one of the congresswoman's representatives. Several military personnel attended the celebration.

**E. DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:**

There were no significant discussions regarding the agendaized written reports.

**F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)**

Agenda and corresponding materials will be e-mailed. Mr. Rivera's copy of any Parks and Recreation Commission-related materials will be sent to him via US Postal Service.

Other meeting sites will be included in the next meeting agenda.

**G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** No discussions.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned and seconded the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.