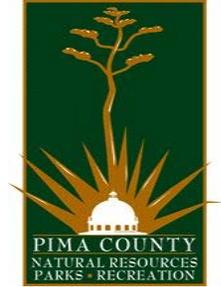




PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 2009
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners present: Richard Barker (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice-Chair), Gary Davidson, Anita Kellman, Dave Ridings

Commissioners absent: Stephanie Maben, Victor Rivera

Visitors present: GOVAC and KIIM-FM representatives, Gene Isaak of Parklands Foundation and Martie Maierhauser, Colossal Cave Mountain Park

Staff present: Rafael Payan, Carlo DiPilato, Derek Shaw, Kerry Baldwin, Joe Barr, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Evelyne Thorpe, and Ann Khambholja

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the March 6, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davidson, to approve the March 6, 2009 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the April 10, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davidson, to approve the April 10, 2009 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

D. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Item #3—July 4th Concert at Rillito Park: moved ahead on the agenda. A provisional motion to support the event pending approval of necessary permissions and permits was moved by Mr. Davidson and seconded by Ms. Kellman. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Item #1—Request for Colossal Cave Fee Increase: Ms. Evelyne Thorpe of Pima County Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Gene Isaak and Ms. Martie Maierhauser made a request to the commission to approve the recommended fee increase at Colossal Cave. Ms. Johnson moved to accept the fee increase recommendation for Colossal Cave Mountain Park. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Item #2—Ruth Canada's Art Work Donation: Mr. Davidson moved to accept the donation of Ruth Canada's artwork which is to be installed in the Rose Cottage Education Center at Agua Caliente Regional Park. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Item #4—Rillito Park/Racetrack Issues: More information is awaited on fees, etc., and it will be presented at a subsequent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
5. Item #5—Naming of Park Facilities – Informational: Concern was expressed that the committee's procedures were not being followed by the Board of Supervisors. Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman shall send a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting adherence to the process.
6. Item #6—Potential for Volunteer Service to maintain parks, etc.: Commissioner Ridings expressed interest in the idea of having a volunteer force to aid Parks and Recreation in the upkeep of parks especially in light of the budget cuts and financial constraints at this time. He would like a plan developed to address volunteerism and what can or cannot be undertaken by volunteers. Staff will develop a report on status, opportunities and what other organizations are doing.
7. Item #7—Program(s) to Promote Donations to the Park: Commissioner Kellman promoted the idea of having donations made to support parks and their programs. She was advised that government entities are not allowed to explicitly solicit donations from the public, but they can accept donations that are offered. Staff will develop a report on status, opportunities and what other organizations are doing.
8. Item #8—Future Meeting Date/Time: Due to the conflicting schedule of the Bond Advisory Committee meeting dates, Commissioner Kellman moved to change the date of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting dates to the second Friday of the month. It was seconded by Mr. Davidson. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Item #9—Beat Cancer Boot Camp: Commissioner Kellman presented a plaque to the Department for the assistance rendered for the Beat Cancer Boot Camp's recent Inaugural Beat Cancer Boot Camp Challenge event.

E. Division Report

1. Administrative Services (Derek Shaw)

Mr. Shaw reported on the status of the departmental budget which has been cut for the next fiscal year, but not as much as expected, due to the financial crisis. He also reported on the fee proposals.

2. Development

There was no report from the Development Division.

3. Natural Resources (Kerry Baldwin)

Mr. Baldwin's presented a slide show about wildlife caught on cameras which are part of a study by the University of Arizona in the Tucson Mountain Park area. His division was also awarded grants from US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for construction of a new year-round water hole for wildlife, wildlife escape ramps at existing water sources on A7 and 6 Bar Ranches, construction of artificial bat roost sites and stabilization of soil caves at Cienega Creek. Mr. Baldwin has submitted a \$470,000 grant proposal for buffelgrass eradication throughout the county with expectations of stimulus funds being made available for invasive species removal. The county has closed on Phase I of the Marley acquisition totaling 6,800 acres of ranch land for this phase. Phase II of the Sopor Ranch acquisition should be completed by June 30, 2009. The NR Budget has been reduced approximately 7.5% from FY 08/09 levels. Catalina Regional Park has been identified for closure by County Administration if necessary in FY 09/10.

3. Operations (George Kuck)

Mr. Kuck is working with the Tanque Verde School District on the Emily Gray IGA and on the transfer of the Sahuarita District Park and Lew Sorenson Community Center and Field. GOVAC and KIIM-FM have asked about holding a 4th of July celebration at Rillito Park. Mr. Kuck also updated the commission about the new field lighting at SportsPark.

4. Recreation Division (Joe Barr)

Mr. Barr gave an update on Childcare Licensing at the Robles Community Center and a short history of the problems the department has had in this regard in the past, at this and other sites.

F. FUTURE MEETING DATE: June 12, 2009

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following will be included in the June 12, 2009 agenda:

1. Old Business: Rillito Regional Park
2. Racetrack fees: Staff report
3. Volunteering: Staff report
4. Donations: Staff report
5. Budget: Staff report

H. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No discussion.

I. ADJOURNMENT: Motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.