



PIMA COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 6, 2010  
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department  
3500 W. River Road, Tucson, Arizona



A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Quorum having been established, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.  
Commissioners present: Stephanie Maben (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice-Chair), Anita Kellman (Secretary), Chuck Catino, Gary Davidson, Lisa Ulher, Richard Barker, Victor Rivera  
Commissioners absent: Peter Chesson  
Staff present: Rafael Payan, Carlo DiPilato, Kerry Baldwin, Joe Barr, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Evelyne Thorpe, and Ann Khambholja

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Those present recited the pledge of allegiance lead by Commissioner Barker.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: For consideration and approval

1. Approval of June 4, 2010 Minutes

Commissioner Catino made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to accept the June 4, 2010 minutes as amended; the motion passed unanimously.

D. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Commissioner Richard Barker was presented with a certificate of special recognition for his excellent service to the Park and Recreation Commission.
2. Mr. George Kuck made a presentation in regard to the community service projects completed at several Pima County parks in 2009 by the Boy and Girl Scouts. Lindon Claridge, Noah Nixon, Glen Maxwell, Matthew Jefferies, and Karen Winters were presented a certificate of recognition for their contribution to the County.
3. The Pima County Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation at their August 3, 2010, meeting recognizing the lifeguards at the Catalina Community Pool and Picture Rocks Community Pool for their commitment to their jobs and the safety of the public. Mr. Joe Barr told the commission about the training all county lifeguards receive and emphasized their adherence to their training while responding to the emergencies at both the Picture Rocks and Catalina Community pools.

4. Mr. Payan gave the commission an update on the proposed establishment of parks publications, souvenir and enhancement funds development in accordance with A.R.S. §11-941 which would allow Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) to raise revenues.
5. Ms Laura Paty from HDR presented a comprehensive review and update of the Eastern Pima County Trail System Master Plan, which was last updated in 1996. The plan expands the trail system in the urban areas of Eastern Pima County, including the city of Tucson, and explores new opportunities in the surrounding outlying areas, especially natural preserves. The plan includes river parks, greenways, trails, bicycle boulevards and enhanced corridors, as well as trails parks, trailheads and boundary access points. Mr. Anderson informed the commission that over the years the trail system master planning committee has developed new standards for riverparks and greenways and have developed new preserves and trails parks.

Commissioner Uhler asked about which sections would apply to different user groups, and was informed that most of the trails were used by multiple groups. She also wanted to know if there were conflicts between groups. Mr. Payan explained that there were small conflicts on an almost daily basis and that was the reason signs are posted explaining trail courtesy.

Commissioner Davidson would like Mr. Anderson to provide him with information on which existing and proposed trails in the master plan would be funded with RTA funds and which by county bond funds.

Commissioner Maben expressed her appreciation of the plan and said that the trail near Mountain Avenue was the main selling point in an advertisement for rentals in the area.

Commissioner Johnson would like to see the Santa Rita Mountains also included in the plan.

Commissioner Davidson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Catino, to recommend that the master plan be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The motion passed.

6. Mr. Payan told the commission that NRPR will be scheduling a meeting in late August or early September to discuss the fee proposal with the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission and the Pima County Horsemen's Association. The Rillito Racetrack Fee Committee members are Commissioner Davidson, Robert Padilla from Finance and Risk Management Department, Tom Moulton from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Mr. Payan. **Correction:** Neil Konigsberg is the legal counsel for the committee, not a committee member.
7. Mr. Joe Barr informed the commission that the St. Elizabeth's Health Clinic had terminated its lease with Pima County effective June 30, 2010 for the clinic space at the Ellie Towne-Flowing Wells Community Center, and NRPR staff was working on a selection process to identify another service provider for this location. Commissioner Johnson asked about the services that had been provided. Mr. Barr stated that the clinic had been providing both medical and dental services. Commissioner Kellman wanted to know whether any medical consultants were on the selection committee and offered her services. Mr. Barr said that Dennis Douglas, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services, was on the committee. Mr. Payan told Commissioner Kellman that she would be included in the proposals' scoring process and for other advice. Commissioner Maben wanted to know if the clinic was used heavily and was told

that due to losses in state grant funding it could not be operated thus leading to further problems.

8. Mr. Payan told the commission that there were changes in how meetings were to be posted under the new open meeting law changes and that NRPR was still awaiting further guidance on this issue. He will keep the commission informed when he receives more information.

#### E. DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS

1. Development (Carlo DiPilato – no report)
2. GeoMedia (Joy Mehulka - no report): The commission wished to convey their best wishes for Ms. Mehulka's speedy recovery.
3. Natural Resources (Kerry Baldwin)
  - a. Buffelgrass: Pima County will again participate in limited control test on steep buffelgrass infested slopes in Tucson Mountain Park utilizing controlled aerial spray applications. This research project was authorized by the Board of Supervisors last summer after several public meetings. Depending on local conditions of the buffelgrass green up, the test should be conducted the week of August 16, 2010. A public Open House was held at the NRPR headquarters on July 26, 2010. The spraying is scheduled for August 18 and 19, 2010.
  - b. Empirita Ranch: A new operator will be taking over the State and Federal grazing leases associated with Empirita ranch. A new management agreement will be developed over the next several months consistent with the current operating agreement.
  - c. Arizona Game & Fish Grant: The Natural Resources Division received \$45,000 from the Arizona Game and Fish Department for habitat and recreational access projects on Rancho Seco and Soporri Ranch. Projects to improve water sources and water storage capabilities are currently underway on both ranches.
4. Operations (George Kuck)
  - a. Adopt-A-Park Projects, in collaboration with Tucson Clean & Beautiful volunteer program, logged 1100 hours of volunteer time.
  - b. Mike Jacob Sports Park: Completed installation of shade canopies over the bleachers on the six softball fields.
  - c. Budget FY 2010-11 Supplemental Requests: NRPR has received supplemental funding for upgrading ball field lighting systems (\$1.7 million), for paving projects \$1.2 million), and for replacing outdated playgrounds (\$1.1 million).
  - d. George Mehl-Foothills Park: Fields 3 & 4 are being converted to year-round baseball and softball fields.

## 5. Planning (Steve Anderson)

- a. Cienega Creek Preserve: An acceptable route for the Arizona Trail has been sited through the Cienega Creek through collaborative efforts by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District, Pima County Department of Transportation, Arizona Department of Transportation, Union Pacific, and the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.
- b. Arizona Trail: The department submitted an application with the State Land Department to complete the Arizona Trail. In addition to Cienega Creek, applications were also submitted for 0.6 of a mile south of Saguaro National Park, 1.2 miles of bypass at Highway 83 and Sahuarita Road, and 2.8 miles by the northeast border of the Coronado National Forest. After a survey of the trail is completed, the remainder of the trail will be constructed to finish the more than 30 miles of the Arizona Trail.
- c. Roger Road Trail: Access through a private parcel to the Coronado National Forest has been denied by a private landowner whose property would need to be accessed. As a result, an alternate route is being considered. This alternative route, however, limits access to intermediate and higher level hikers but is unsuitable for horses and almost all mountain bikers. Staff will meet with the area homeowners association to present and obtain comments on the proposed trail.

## 6. Recreation (Joe Barr)

- a. Child Care Licensing: On July 13, 2010, NRPR staff attended a public meeting held by the Arizona Department of Health Services to gather public comment on the proposed rules for child care facilities. NRPR staff read a letter to AZDHS from C. H. Huckelberry, county administrator, on this subject and staff provided background information and relevant detail on NRPR's programs and Pima County's opposition to the proposed definition of compensation. A number of parents of children who are enrolled in recreation programs and other interested community members attended the meeting and spoke against the proposed definition of compensation. One member of the general public spoke in favor of the definition.

AZDHS is firm in its contention that this definition is for clarity and represents AZDHS' viewpoint dating back to 1996. AZDHS staff did not appear to be swayed by the passionate pleas from Arivaca parents to find a way to keep their children safe in a rural area with no other options for after school care.

On July 26, 2010, Mr. William Humble, director of the AZDHS, responded to Mr. Huckelberry's letter: "The youth programs as described in your letter appear to meet the definition of "child care" and your letter does not include any circumstances that would exempt the youth programs from licensure." The county administrator is requesting the Office of the Governor to review the ruling. NRPR is awaiting further instructions from County Administration as to how to proceed.

Commissioner Catino moved to proceed to going to the legislature to change this law. The motion was seconded by all the commissioners present therefore unanimously approved.

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to advise the Board of Supervisors and County Administration of their intent to introduce legislation on Child Care Licensing.

- b. Community Centers: NRPR's community centers are currently operating status quo. Registration for fall after-school programs is completed. First day of program will generally be August 11, 2010.
- c. Leisure Classes: Leisure classes continue to operate status quo. Classes are continuing until September 4.
- d. Shooting Ranges: Shooting ranges continue to operate status quo.
- e. Aquatics: The swimming pools are operating well and experiencing record attendance, likely because of the closure of many City of Tucson swimming pools. The championship swim meet was held on Saturday, July 17, 2010, with over 1200 in attendance. The Marana Marlins were the top scoring team.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

- 1. Clarification of the Offsite meeting venue as it relates to the new changes to the Open Meeting Laws
- 2. Clarification as to what a quorum is for a subcommittee and provide additional information/clarification on subcommittee meetings regarding posting of agenda, minutes, quorums, and other details.
- 3. Update on Rillito Racetrack Fee Committee meeting
- 4. Draft proposal by the commission regarding Child Care Licensing legislation
- 5. Southwest Infrastructure: shotgun and archery tournament site
- 6. Update on the Native Seeds/Search Center at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No discussion.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Catino, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.