



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 5, 2012  
Catalina Community Recreation Center  
16562 North Oracle Road, Catalina, Arizona



Quorum having been established, Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. Commissioners present were Jan Johnson (Chair), Anita Kellman (Vice Chair), Charles Catino, Peter Chesson, Tom Drzazgowski, Michael Lundin, and Jim Mazzocco. Commissioners Richard Barker (Secretary), Enrique Serna and Victor Rivera were absent.

Staff present: Rafael Payan, Kerry Baldwin, Joe Barr, Carlo DiPilato, George Kuck, Mike Mona, and Greg Tucker.

Guests: Jessie Byrd, Diane Luber, Savannah Williams, and a number of other guests.

Ms. Savannah Williams, as requested by Chair Johnson, led the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Minutes

The April 13, 2012 study session minutes were removed from the agenda as that item was already approved as amended during the May 5, 2012 regular meeting.

The May 5, 2012 regular meeting minutes were approved as motioned (Commissioner Lundin) and seconded (Commissioner Mazzocco).

The July 7, 2012 study session minutes were approved as motioned (Commissioner Catino) and seconded (Commissioner Lundin).

#### Call to the Public

A guest suggested that signage be installed showing the direction to the community center.

#### Presentation

Mr. Payan introduced Ms. Savannah Williams and thanked her for being instrumental in selecting the color scheme of the replacement playground equipment at the Catalina Neighborhood Park. Ms. Johnson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Savannah Williams in recognition of her effort in spearheading a petition for the Catalina community residents to help replace the vandalized playground equipment at Catalina Neighborhood Park and to help rebuild the park per se. Ms. Williams expressed her appreciation of the recognition, and stated that she is "going to do everything and anything to catch the vandals." Two members of the audience recognized Savannah Williams for being a role model in a local school.

#### Canoa Ranch

Mr. Payan stated that NRPR, in partnership with county administration and other agencies in the Green Valley area, is working on Phase I improvements at Canoa Ranch. He stated that Kerry Baldwin is instrumental in pursuing this project. Mr. Baldwin said that a tour of the ranch

property may be conducted in January or February of 2013. Mr. Baldwin indicated that there is a possibility of building a public hospital on the north end of the property and that the hospital's infrastructure planning and development should be compatible with the historic nature of Canoa Ranch. Mr. Robert Vaughn, Special Projects Division Manager, will be responsible for the redevelopment of the ranch. Mr. Baldwin clarified, in response to Commissioner Catino, that there will be no charge for the tours, unless otherwise determined at a later date.

### Pima Prickly Park

Jessie Byrd, representing the Tucson Cactus Succulent Society (TCSS), gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 9.4-acre Pima County park development. Ms. Byrd stated that TCSS has a 15-year operating agreement with Pima County to develop, maintain, and manage Pima Prickly Park. Scope of the project includes amenities, but not limited to, ramadas, Saguarohege, a Hummingbird Garden, Ocotillo Forest, Bee Tree, Butterfly Habitat, Cholla Forest, Cholla Rose Garden, a prickly pear farm, a Research Garden, and a Hoop House, improvement to the trail and installation of waterlines. The project is a community effort, including a private/public partnership and the involvement of a number of volunteers. Pima Prickly Park dedication ceremony was held on September 22, 2012.

In response to Commissioner Chesson, Ms. Byrd stated that interpretive signs will be installed specific to the exhibited plant species as well as the wildlife found at this site. She said that the vegetation will be 100 percent native trees and a full range of other native and non-native plant species, such as aloe. NRPR's environmental education program will assist with programming. Commissioner Catino commented that his wife attended the grand opening and that TCSS will get more cooperation or anticipated energy from the Green Valley Gardeners.

### Commissioners Report

Commissioner Kellman gave an overview of the Beat Cancer Boot Camp, an exercise program geared towards cancer survivors. She announced and invited everyone to attend the YMCA' Beat Cancer Boot Camp Kick-Off event on October 13, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. to be held at the Lighthouse/City YMCA. The event is free to the public.

Commissioner Catino stated that the softball fields at the Canoa Preserve/BAJA complex will be used as a public park; that the matching cash fund awarded by the Board of Supervisors, BAJA's funding and financial and cash and in-kind donations started the ongoing development and construction of the softball fields. He commented that the project is being advanced six years sooner than anticipated.

### NRPR Division Reports

The following divisions had no report: Development, Geo-Media, and Planning.

Natural Resource Division: Mr. Kerry Baldwin reported that a multi-acquisition effort of the eight to nine thousand-acre **M Diamond** Ranch is ongoing. The ranch is located on the

backside of the Catalinas and adjacent to the existing A-7 and 6-Bar ranches. Mitigation process is ongoing with the Oracle Ridge Mine.

Environmental education brochures of ongoing and fall 2012 programs were distributed to the commissioners for their information.

Mr. Baldwin reported on the vandalism that occurred at the Roy P. Drachman-Agua Caliente Regional Park. The thieves involved in the theft of copper wire were caught by the Sheriff's deputies. Cleanup and restoration effort of the 36<sup>th</sup> Street trailhead is ongoing. The solar gate at the trailhead has been vandalized several times at the trailhead and will be rebuilt utilizing the county risk management fund. Installation of a surveillance camera at the trailhead is planned. Vandalism also occurred at Gates Pass Overlook and Feliz Paseos. Extensive summer monsoon storm damage occurred in several areas of Tucson Mountain Park. Any expenditure to repair the storm damage above the \$9,000.00 deductible will be paid by Risk Management.

Mr. Baldwin, in response to Commissioner Chesson, suggested visiting the [buffelgrass.org](http://buffelgrass.org) for detailed information about clean-up of the invasive specie.

Operation Division: Mr. George Kuck reported that at McDonald Park, "No Dogs Allowed" signage has been posted on little league ball field #5 and #6 as a pilot program in response to user complaints. He stated that renovations at Casas Adobes Park have been completed including drainage improvements, installation of new irrigation system, sodded-turf, ADA drinking fountain, etc. Catalina Neighborhood Park's playground was destroyed by arson fire and the ramada was damaged by a fallen tree. Risk Management will pay the replacement costs for these two items. Dedication ceremony for the new lighted girls' softball field at Lawrence Park was held on September 15, 2012. All ball fields at Lawrence Park are now on central control system.

Recreation Division: Mr. Joe Barr introduced Mike Mona, the Catalina Community Recreation Center Coordinator. He gave a brief overview of the history of the center. The Board of Supervisors budgeted \$1.5 million in capital improvements of all community centers, and Catalina Community Center is first on the list.

In compliance with the new child restraint law, HB 2154, Mr. Barr reported that new booster seats have been purchased for use by staff when transporting children required using the restraints.

Mr. Barr stated that for purposes of securing grants and obtaining demographic information, a summer recreation program survey was distributed to parents of children enrolled at NRPR's community centers youth programs. Staff is reviewing the survey results and identifying target areas for improvement. He announced that funding was received from the Community Development Block Grant for the construction of a basketball court at Robles Ranch Community Center, and public Internet access is now available at Picture Rocks Community Center.

Regarding the shooting ranges, Mr. Barr reported that the shotgun sports and archery range facilities at Southeast Regional Park are nearing completion, and that the rifle range at Tucson Mountain Park received extensive storm damage and was temporarily closed.

Mr. Barr announced the partnership with the YMCA of Southern Arizona to operate the Mulcahy Swimming Pool (aka: Kino Swimming Pool). The pool will remain open through November 1, 2012 and will reopen March 1, 2013.

Special Projects Division: Mr. Payan spoke on the consolidation of projects and personnel under Mr. Robert Vaughn.

#### Future Agenda Items

- Wildlife corridors to the Catalinas, Tortolitas, Santa Ritas, Canoa Ranch, etc.
- Study session on November 2, 2012 (Chair Johnson announced that she will be out of the country and requested Commissioner Kellman to chair that meeting.)

The commission rendered recognition of Ms. Jessie Byrd for her effort at Pima Prickly Park and her outstanding presentation regarding the same.

#### Adjournment

Duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.