



**PIMA COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 8, 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 9:03 a.m.

Commissioners present: Stephanie Maben (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice-Chair), Chuck Catino, Gary Davidson, Anita Kellman, Lisa Ulher, Richard Barker, Peter Chesson

Commissioners absent: Victor Rivera

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

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

C. CONSENT AGENDA: For consideration and approval

1. Approval of August 6, 2010 Minutes

Motioned and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

D. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

- 1. Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District gave a presentation on the Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte project proposal to the commission. Pima County in partnership with the Regional Flood Control District is embarking on an ambitious riparian habitat, flood control, aquifer recharge, recreational and environmental/cultural education project. The project site encompasses the confluence of the Rillito, Canada del Oro (CDO) and Santa Cruz rivers, and is bounded by Ina Road to the north and Sweetwater Drive to the south, Dan Felix Park and Interstate 10 to the east, and Silverbell Road to the west. Proposed amenities may include two non-motorized boatable lakes that take advantage of the current sand and gravel mining pits, swimming beach, canine sports tournament site, 14-soccer field complex, amphitheater, visitor center with retail and restaurant opportunities, park trails network, cultural and environmental education interpretive stations at key sites, enhancements to the Rillito and CDO linear parks and the Anza National Historic Trail along the Santa Cruz River, and expansion of Mike Jacob Sportspark, the model airplane facility, and Dan Felix and Bosque del los Rios Botanical Garden parks at NRPR's headquarters, a BMX bicycle track, a street-skate and bike center, a velodrome, a skateboard facility, a model-airplane park, an aquatic center with Olympic swimming facilities, and improvements at the city of Tucson's Columbus Park. Funding may be sought from future general obligation bonds and federal grants. Commissioner Catino inquired about the balance of the \$52 million project. Mr. Payan will have the data at November's regular meeting. The commissioners requested a future project update.**
- 2. Southwest Infrastructure (SWIP) Tucson Trap & Skeet Club Project Concept Plan: Ms. Shields fielded the location of the proposed expansion to the Trap and Skeet property (TTSC). Mr. Lee Bachmann, president of the Tucson Trap & Skeet Club's Board of**

Directors, gave a brief history of their organization, established in 1948, and the amenities offered at the facility. Members of the board of directors are all volunteers. The USA Shooting Southwest Regional training center at the TTSC has been chosen as the site of the 2010 World Cup Shotgun competition. The club is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the western United States.

3. **Child Care Licensure:** Mr. Payan reported on the potential amendments to current Arizona Department of Health Services rules, which would exempt Pima County from state licensing requirements. A draft proposal for exemption of after-school programs was generated, and, subsequently, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) staff met with county legislative liaison staff for a broad-based discussion on such an effort. The overwhelming conclusion was that any such effort would not receive support among legislators or other jurisdictions, due to the broad nature and application of the current law and due to the fact that it appears that all other jurisdictions are currently complying with the current law and rules. Therefore, staff does not recommend that NRPR or the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission continue to pursue this matter. A motion to accept the resolution was moved by Commissioner Catino and seconded by Commissioner Davidson. The motion carried.
4. **Rillito Racetrack Fee:** Mr. Payan explained to the commission that the Rillito Racetrack Fee Committee met with the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission and the Pima County Horsemen’s Association to discuss the fees at the racetrack. The committee’s report was forwarded to county administrator for review and direction. Mr. Payan presented a brief summary detailing the three potential fee options that had previously been generated by the committee, as follows:

Option 1

\$1,750.00 per each race day (8) ¹	\$14,000.00
\$ 350.00 per each non-race day (82) ²	28,000.00
Fee per horseracing season	\$42,700.00

Option 2

\$1,750.00 per each race day (8)	\$14,000.00
\$ 350.00 per each non-race day (52) ³	18,200.00
Fee per horseracing season	\$32,000.00

Option 3

\$1,750.00 per each race day (8)	\$14,000.00
\$ 0.00 per each non-race day	0.00
Fee per horseracing season	\$14,000.00

After discussing some issues, the commission made two motions to bring this item to a vote.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to support the fee committee’s recommendation known as “Option 3” to charge a fee totaling \$14,000 per year for the use of Rillito Racetrack during

¹Assumes there will be eight racing days. This multiplier and the resultant fees will be adjusted should there be an increase or decrease in racing days to reflect the actual racing days.

²Based on a lease agreement for January through March (90 days less eight racing days).

³Based on when horses leave the facility, presumed at the end of February (60 days less eight racing days).

the horse racing season. Commissioner Catino seconded the motion. The motion was defeated with a 3-5 vote.

Commission Davidson made a motion recommending that the fees remain the same for the 2011 racing season and that the fees be escalated to \$42,700 per year for the second year through the fourth year. Commissioner Chesson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a 5-3 vote.

Guests from the horse racing industry and enthusiasts participated during the fee option discussion therefore Chair Maben did not take public comment while the above motions were being discussed. Commissioner Davidson confirmed that the public had previously spoken on this issue. Chair Maben commented that the audience's comments would only be accepted during the "Call to the Public" (item G). Two guests each submitted a speaker card earlier.

5. Historic Pima County Courthouse and Pima County Superior Court/Administration/-Health Services Building Complex Landscaping projects: Mr. Payan reported on the present landscaping project at the Courthouse and Superior Court grounds where NRPR has been working closely with the The Planning Center and the Pima County Facilities Management Department. Native vegetation will replace the present landscaping, however, installation is deferred until after the Tucson Meet Yourself event. Commissioner Chesson congratulated Pima County for using native vegetation to landscape the area.

The Chair suggested a short break at 10:45 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Barker left at 10:50 a.m.

- E. DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS : The division managers, Kerry Baldwin, Steve Anderson and George Kuck, gave a brief recap as agendaized for each division. No significant discussions transpired on the listed agenda items. Mr. Payan gave a brief summary of the Development Division's report on behalf of Mr. Carlo DiPilato.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

NRPR's legal counsel, Mr. Neil Konigsberg, advised the commission that public comment should be included before taking any action on any agendaized item.

- H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.