



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 14, 2012  
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department  
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



Quorum having been established, Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Commissioners present were Jan Johnson (Chair), Anita Kellman (Vice Chair), Richard Barker (Secretary), Chuck Catino, Enrique Serna, and Jim Mazzocco. Commissioners absent were Peter Chesson, Tom Drzazgowski, Michael Lundin, and Victor Rivera.

Staff present: Joe Barr, Kerry Baldwin, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Joy Mehulka, and Greg Tucker.

Guest: Julia Fonseca, Scott Broyles, and David Forgey

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

**Consent Agenda: for consideration and approval**

Motioned and seconded, the October 5, 2012 minutes was approved as corrected (page 2, last sentence, line 2 - add M Diamond Ranch).

**Call to the Public:** None responded.

**Discussion/Action Items**

E.I: Naming/Renaming of the Canoa Preserve Softball Complex as Chuck Catino Sports Fields

Concerns were expressed by Commissioner Kellman as it appears that it is the commission that is spearheading the naming of the sports fields complex. She stated that this request could be an issue to the public. Commissioner Kellman would like the naming request to go through the standard operating procedure and subject to the review of the naming/renaming committee. Mr. Joe Barr, superintendent of the Recreation Division, stated that the review committee had been discontinued because of legal implications. Commissioner Kellman stated she's not aware that the committee had been abolished. Mr. Barr will check into the status of the review committee. Commissioner Kellman mentioned that it would have been more appropriate if the request came from outside of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Catino acknowledged that he didn't want the sports field complex be named after him; that Pima County, the BAJA group, and others should be credited for the work accomplished/being accomplished to bring the project to fruition.

Commissioner Serna made a motion to follow the established procedure for naming/renaming of park/facility. Commissioners Mazzocco and Barker seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Commissioner Catino abstaining.

This item was tabled for further discussion at the next commission meeting.

E.2: Revision to the Pima Trail Master Plan's River Park and Greenway Standard

Commissioner Catino made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to change the Pima Trail Master Plan's River Park and Green way standard trail widths from 12' paved path to 12' to 16' paved path and the 8' soft path to an 8' to 10' soft path. Commissioner Barker seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

E.3: Rescheduling of Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings

Commissioner Serna made a motion to hold the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission meetings on the second Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. commencing in 2013. Commissioner Kellman seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Discussion regarding the scheduling of the regular meeting and/or study session will continue at the next meeting in 2013.

E.4: Ongoing Wildlife Corridor Projects and Planning Efforts in Pima County

Mr. Kerry Baldwin, manager of the Natural Resource Division, gave a detailed overview of the wildlife crossing and corridor identification efforts in Pima County. Interest in wildlife corridors has been increasing over the past decade. Significant mapping efforts have been accomplished and published. He stated that the Tucson Mountain, Tortolita, and Santa Catalina wildlife corridors are especially impacted by future development and jurisdictional planning. However, efforts have been taken to protect and preserve the wildlife linkages through funding from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for wildlife linkages. Over \$45 million is allocated within the RTA for road related construction efforts. By way of a map, Mr. Baldwin pointed to the existing needs identified in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, as well as in the Statewide Wildlife Linkages Assessment published in 2006. Projects have been identified and some are in process or completed. Marana has completed some structures as part of the Tangerine Road improvements and there is a proposal for a wildlife bridge/overpass at the Avra Valley Road/Interstate 10 crossing point between the Tucson Mountains and Tortolita mountains and one farther along in the planning stages south of Catalina on Oracle Road.

Additional work will be conducted on wildlife related crossing and corridor issues. New technologies like remote cameras and road kill data analysis are helping identify locations and species issues at both a local wildlife movement scale and at a landscape level scale. Major players at the local level include the AZ Department of Transportation, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Sky Island Alliance, Pima County Department of Transportation, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR), and Office of Sustainability and Conservation, Town of Marana, Arizona Game and Fish Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Chair shifted the next agenda item to the following agenda items:

F.I: GeoMedia Division Report

Ms. Joy Mehulka, manager of the GeoMedia Division, presented the Jersey Loop shirts that were sold during the El Tour de Tucson event. For the commissioners, the cost of the long sleeve Jersey Loop shirt is \$40.00; the short sleeve is \$35.00.

F.6: Special Project/Task Force Division

Ms. Mehulka, on behalf of Robert Vaughn, manager of the Special Project/Task Force Division, gave an update of the restoration efforts to the Historic Hacienda de la Canoa and the Native Plant Nursery.

a. Canoa Ranch Restoration Update

She reported that grading inside the heritage area will correct drainage issues and allow rainwater to be directed away from the foundations and walls of the historic buildings, structures, and corrals, and routed towards the parking lot. A detention basin will be created to capture runoff and direct it into the historic pond area. The structures will be vermin-proof to prevent rats, mice, snakes, and bats from coming back to further damaging the structures. In prep for the 2013 tours, electrical power will be installed in some of the structures. Roof repairs and regular maintenance on all the buildings in the heritage area has also begun. Volunteers are being sought to assist with the restoration projects or leading tours. The water well at the heritage area is currently being repaired and will be the water source for the visitor areas.

Staff and members of the Canoa Ranch Trust and Oversight Committee met with the Proctors for possible donation of their ranching memorabilia and artifacts. The Proctors agreed to donate the items for display at the Hacienda de la Canoa site. They also met with the president of the Empire Ranch Foundation for possible collaborative relationship at it relates to future activities and events at the Canoa Ranch and the Empire Ranch. NRPR is working closely with District 4 Supervisor Ray Carroll's office, the Canoa Ranch Trust and Oversight Committee, Friends of Canoa, De La Canoa Foundation, and the public to make Hacienda de la Canoa a historic attraction and valuable amenity to the Santa Cruz Valley.

b. Native Plant Nursery

Funding for the management and operation of the Native Plant Nursery is still in limbo. Administration has directed staff to prepare a cost/profit tabulation report for further review

E-5: Pima County Multi-species Conservation Plan

Ms. Julia Fonseca introduced herself as the Environmental Planning Manager in the Office of Sustainability and Cultural Resources. She stated that the draft of the Pima County Multi-species Conservation Plan (MSCP) has been reviewed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and they have prepared an Environmental Impact Statement about the issuance of a Section 10(a) permit under the Endangered Species Act. The MSCP will be available for public review through the USFWS public comment process, after which the Board of Supervisors will take action to sign an agreement with the USFWS to implement the MSCP.

She presented an overview of the history the MSCP. The MSCP started when the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl was listed as an endangered species. The subsequent delisting of the owl did not stop Pima County in applying for a Section 10 permit since many species may be listed in the future, including the desert tortoise, which is a species with a broad distribution in areas of potential future development. The MSCP would provide an alternative way for Pima County, homeowners and builders to comply with the Endangered Species Act (can be viewed at <http://www.pima.gov/cmo/sdcp/MSCP.html>). The USFWS drafted Environmental Impact Statement (refer to <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona>). The public meeting will be held on February 21, 2013 at NRPR from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The deadline for submitting comments is March 15, 2013.

MSCP is incorporated within the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP). She mentioned that Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation plays a major role in the MSCP, both from the standpoint of minimizing the effects of recreation upon species covered in the MSCP and in managing the lands used to mitigate or offset the impacts of urban development on the covered species. NRPR's stewardship of the grazing leases would provide additional mitigation credits under the MSCP, in addition to certain open space lands owned by Pima County.

#### E.8: Commissioners Report

Commissioner Kellman announced and invited those present to the

- 9<sup>th</sup> Beat Cancer Boot Camp Anniversary on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Beat Cancer Boot Camp Military-style 5K Obstacle Challenge on Saturday, March 16, 2013, 7:30 p.m. at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.

She mentioned that the Beat Cancer Boot Camp will expand its program across the county to include all types of cancer at its two camp sites—Brandi Fenton Memorial Park and NW YMCA Community Park.

Commissioner Kellman announced that she is currently the chairperson for “circle of red,” which is part of the American Heart Association. She will help turn Tucson “red” on February 1, 2013, the National Wear Red Day.

The Chair shifted the discussion back to the following agenda items:

E.6: Chair Johnson suggested that the following personnel make a presentation before the Commission as to their role and accomplishment during the month prior to the scheduled commission meeting/study session. No action was taken by the commissioners, and there was a consensus that the suggestion is a good idea. Mr. Barr commented that such is a nice opportunity for mid-level supervisory personnel to get acquainted and interact with the commissioners.

- a. Recreation Division Center Coordinators
- b. Operation/Maintenance Division Supervisors
- c. Natural Resource Division Supervisors
- d. Special Project Division Supervisors

E.7: Parks and Recreation Commission Volunteer Day at Pima Prickly Park

Chair Johnson suggested that the commissioners set a two-hour time frame to do volunteer work at Pima Prickly Park as a group or individually. The volunteer activity shall be noticed to the public. Gregoria Tucker shall e-mail the commissioners as to their preferred volunteer date.

The plan to volunteer will be coordinated with Jessie Byrd, management manager of Pima Prickly Park.

E.8: Commissioners Update Report continued

Commissioner Catino mentioned that there is a planned soft opening of the sports fields complex at Canoa Ranch on January 2, 2013.

**F. Division Update Reports:**

Chair Johnson read the letter she received from Ms. Debb Johnson concerning graffiti and vandalism at Tucson Mountain Park's Gates Pass Overlook. Please note that she had sent her letter to county administration, some commissioners, and NRPR staff, as well as the media. Mr. Baldwin commented that his division crews are making every effort to correct the issues; however, the vandals are persistent with their criminal intent. The Sheriff's Office does not consider this matter a priority, according to Mr. Baldwin. His division is also considering the solicitation of volunteers to help with the clean up.

There was no significant discussion on the written division reports by managers Kerry Baldwin, George Kuck, and Joe Barr as submitted to the commissioners.

**G. Future Agenda Item(s)**

- Naming/Renaming of the Canoa Preserve Sports Complex as Chuck Catino Sports Fields (continuation of discussion/action) and review of the naming/renaming parks/facilities/open space procedure
- Parks and Recreation Commission Volunteer Day at Pima Prickly Park (continuation of discussion/action)
- Scheduling of regular meeting and study session – is there a need for a study session

**H. Adjournment**

Motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.