



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION SUMMARY  
APRIL 13, 2012  
Community Performance & Art Center Theater  
1250 West Continental Road  
Green Valley, Arizona



Quorum having been established, the Chair called the study session to order at 9:45 a.m. Upon roll call, commissioners present were Jan Johnson (Chair), Anita Kellman (Vice-Chair), Chuck Catino, Tom Drzazgowski, Michael Lundin, Jim Mazzocco, Judith Meyer, and Enrique Serna. Commissioners Richard Barker and Victor Rivera were absent. Staff present: Rafael Payan, Kerry Baldwin, Steve Anderson, Ann Khambholja, and Gregoria Tucker.

Guests: Tom Ward representing District IV Supervisor Ray Carroll  
Sandra Stone, Chair of the Canoa Ranch Trust/Oversight Committee  
Bill Adamson, Co-Chair of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee  
Several other guests (at least 58 signed up)

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

This gathering was a study session; no action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Commission on the following presentations:

Steve Anderson, planning division manager in the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, briefed the commission on the progress of the following projects:

- status of the Arizona Trail as to how to mitigate the safest point for the trail to cross the Union Pacific rail line in proximity to the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve;
- proposed acquisition of the Jarrett's property for the development of a trailhead extension to the Harrison Greenway Trailhead;
- proposed new signage and relocation of the crosswalk and the path to the Finger Rock Trailhead to mitigate the concerns of the neighborhood.

Rafael Payan, director of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, presented a summary of the following Development Division projects:

- BAJA Project: Mr. Payan requested Commissioner Catino to render the BAJA project update. Mr. Catino stated that the project has thus far received approximately one million dollars in pro bono donations, in addition to cash donations from individuals, agencies, grants, and Pima County budget support of more than ninety thousand dollars. Commissioner Catino welcomed donations from the audience.
- City of Tucson Pima County Bond funded projects—1997 Pima County Bond funded Santa Cruz Community Park/Menlo Park and the 2004 Pima County Bond funded Udall Park. Residual project dollars was used to make light improvements at Udall Park. The upgrade to the lighting system at Udall Park does not impact the dark skies ordinance.
- Sahuarita Road bicycle lanes project is being constructed by the town of Sahuarita in accordance with an existing intergovernmental agreement between Pima County and Sahuarita and should be completed by December 2012;
- Lawrence Park improvement project completion is anticipated in the fall of 2012;

- Southeast Community Park proposed land acquisition (2004 bond funded) – working with the city of Tucson to advance if and as possible;
- Summit Park and Thomas Jay Park repair to the vandalized playground components is expected to be completed by the end of April 2012;
- New playground structures were installed at the NW Community Park and Star Valley Park ;
- Rillito River Park Mountain Avenue to First Avenue project has been completed;
- Southeast Regional Park Shooting Range: a new archery range was developed with parking and a rest room;
- Pima County Native Plant Nursery is using the tall pots method of growing Sonoran Desert native plant species and transplanting arid land trees. Tall pots require less water, less soil, and less weeding. The plants are most suited for re-vegetation, landscaping, and habitat improvement of county properties. The plants/trees are not available for sale to the public; however, the Pima County has received over 15,000 orders for projects on federal, city of Tucson, and Pima County projects.

Mr. Tom Ward welcomed the Green Valley community on behalf of District IV Supervisor Ray Carroll. He acknowledged the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan on being regionally significant and benefiting the community. He also acknowledged the Loop Trail, and discussed its nomination in the Platinum Level Designation, which would make it the fourth place in the United States to achieve such designation.

Bill Adamson, Co-Chair of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee, presented an overview of the “The Preserve Pathway, a multi-use path thru the Green Valley West Desert Preserve for recreation and enjoyment of the desert environment by pedestrians and bicyclists. The committee is looking forward for the fruition of the auction of the Arizona State Trust Land west of Green Valley residential areas and shall be used by the community for recreation. Acquisition of the parcel has been recommended by the Pima County Conservation Acquisition Commission for recreation open space. The path and trail system at this site may eventually establish linkage with the Pima County Loop Trails to the north through the Anza Trail (Sahuarita), the Marley Ranch to the south, and unto the Canoa Ranch and Anza Trail. The trails will encourage people to bike and walk for their health, and is also aimed at enhancing the economic growth of the Green Valley community.

Mary Reynolds, communications coordinator and bicycle liaison staff for the town of Sahuarita, supports the Preserve Path, and stated that the Pima Association of Government’s task force submitted an application to the League of American Bicyclists for the Tucson/Eastern Pima County region as the Platinum Bicycle Friendly Community.

The study session ended at 10:41 a.m. The auditorium has to be set up for the 11:00 a.m. joint study session between the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Canoa Ranch Trust/Oversight Committee.

Joint Study Session  
Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission  
And the  
Canoa Ranch Trust/Oversight Committee

At 11:00 a.m., the joint study session started with Jan Johnson, chair of the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission, introducing the members by the supervisory district they represent. Sandra Stone, chair of the Canoa Ranch Trust/Oversight Committee, introduced members of the committee. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Stone exchanged a welcome to each organization's members and the audience in an almost filled auditorium.

This gathering is a study session; no action was taken on the following presentation:

Linda Mayro, director of the Pima County Science and Conservation, Cultural Resources and Sustainability Office, gave a brief overview of the history and the master plan for the historic Canoa Ranch. A conglomeration of cultural settlements—Native Americans (Hohokam and Piman), Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American—lived on the land now comprising the ranch. Pima County bought the 4,800-acre ranch property in 2001 and an additional 85 acres in 2006. The property was acquired with 2004 bond funds. In May 2007, Canoa Ranch was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva lived at the ranch until he was five years old, and the ranch was subsequently renamed as the Raúl M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park. The Canoa Ranch Master Plan includes instruction on the conservation, repair, and rehabilitation of the buildings, details limited access to the sensitive natural areas of the ranch, a visitor center, a museum, a restaurant, a gift shop, an equestrian center, and a special event campground.

Herbert Simon, program coordinator at the Pima County Science and Conservation, Cultural Resources and Sustainability Office, presented a summary of the restoration efforts completed to date on some of the ranch's buildings.

For detailed information regarding the Canoa Ranch Master Plan, please visit:  
[http://www.pima.gov/nrpr/parks/canoa/.../Canoa Master Plan Report\\_052407.pdf](http://www.pima.gov/nrpr/parks/canoa/.../Canoa_Master_Plan_Report_052407.pdf).

A few questions, mostly centered at the Canoa Ranch tour following the study session, from the public, were entertained by Kerry Baldwin, natural resource manager at the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department.

The joint study session adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Some members of the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Canoa Ranch Trust/Oversight Committee joined a guided tour of the ranch, along with members of the public. Approximately 100 people attended the tours.