



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

November 8, 2013

Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department  
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

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

Staff present: Chris Cawein, George Kuck, Kerry Baldwin, Steve Anderson, Joe Barr, Joy Mehulka, Stephen Steward, Ann Khambholja, and Greg Tucker.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Chris Cawein introduced the newly appointed commissioner for District I—Karen Cesare. He announced the appointment of Robert Padilla as the department's deputy director, and Steve Anderson as the recipient of the Professional Fellow Award from the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials for his enthusiasm in planning and building trails in Pima County.

#### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Catino made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chesson, to approve the October 11, 2013 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Call to the Public: There was no response from the public.

#### Commission Discussion/Action Request

**Native Plant Nursery Update:** Stephen Steward who manages the native plant nursery gave a recap of the vandalism that occurred on September 13, 2013 at the nursery. The vandalism is being investigated by the Tucson Police Department. Approximately 99.9% of plants contracted for delivery to the Regional Flood Control District, the county Department of Transportation, and the city of Tucson were completely destroyed, thus lost in revenue for the department. He reported that the native plant nursery is being moved adjacent to Pima Prickly Park; that security measure is being considered as a precaution. No further information at this time regarding the investigation.

**2014 Bond Projects Update:** Kerry Baldwin stated that there are currently no specific data to report on regarding the 2014 bonds projects other than the update report distributed to the commissioners at the last meeting. He mentioned that the scheduled Bond Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting on April 25, 2014 will specifically address parks and recreation bond project submittals. He encouraged the commissioners to advise project advocates to provide their input and support of those projects at the BAC's April 25, 2014 meeting. He mentioned that the latest bond project submittal to the committee is the Agua Caliente Pond. In concurrence with Commissioner Catino's comment that there is a scheduled BAC meeting slated for March 21, 2014, Kerry Baldwin stated that that meeting will review multi projects such as the historic, cultural and

natural area conservation, Commissioner Catino stated that it is extremely important for the Parks and Recreation Commission to express their support of the bond projects; that he will be attending and representing the commission at BAC meetings. In response to Commissioner Kellman, Mr. Baldwin will provide the commission with a list of which projects should come up at which BAC meeting.

### Commissioner's Report

Beat Cancer Boot Camp; Commissioner Kellman reported that the NBC TV (Los Angeles) show "The Biggest Losers" invited her as a guest trainer for the Red Team. The Red Team went through the rigorous exercises, along with the Tucson Chapter of Kellman Beat Cancer Boot Camp participants. This particular season of "The Biggest Losers" was dedicated to Second Chances—cancer patients who want a second chance to live healthy lives. Much inspired by the program, one of the participants desires to open a Kellman Beat Cancer Boot Camp in his hometown. Everyone is invited to watch Episode 5 of the show, which will be aired on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Kellman gave credit to Pima County as the Beat Cancer Boot Camp started in the county's Brandi Fenton Memorial Park. From everyone: Congratulations, Anita!

Canoa Preserve Community Park: Commissioner Catino stated that he had a meeting with Mesdames Nanette Slusser and Nancy Cole and discussed how to expend the Community Development Block Grant fund; that Mark Anderson Company will proceed with the renovation project at the Preserve, which included installation of one water fountain and two covered bleachers. He added that Steve Anderson will be doing some preliminary work, along with Robert Vaughn, to connect about 1.5 miles of the Preserve's trail to the De Anza Trail. Commissioner Catino announced that the Canoa Preserve Community Park project has been nominated for an award under the \$5 million project award category sponsored by the Metropolitan Pima Alliance; the award ceremony is slated for December 6, 2013.

### Division Reports Highlights

Operations/Maintenance Division: George Kuck stated that the Santa Cruz River Park bike repair stations were vandalized two additional times since the submittal of the written report. He reported that on October 19, 2013, the LDS Church volunteers collected a tremendous amount of debris (10 tons, 25 carts, and 65 tires) at the Santa Cruz River Park. Commissioner Cesare commented that the bike stations are very useful wonderful service on the river parks. In response to Chair Lundin, Mr. Kuck advised that the bike station nearby the Flowing Wells BMX track is being relocated to a highly visible area, the Sporting Chance facility being close to the river park. A picture of the bike station was circulated to the commissioners. The division is continuing to advise the manufacturer of the problems being encountered thus far. Except for relocating the bike stations to improve visibility, there is no solution to the problem, said Mr. Kuck. In response to Chair Lundin, Mr. Kuck stated that the county maintains five bike stations on the Rillito River and Santa Cruz River parks. The town of Marana maintains one additional bike station. One bike station was stolen, including the cable tools and it costs approximately \$1,000.00 to replace and install the tools. In response to Commissioner Johnson, Mr. Kuck said that signs offering reward were in place. The security camera (one set being paid by Risk Management) from Summit Park is being considered for relocation next to the Santa Cruz River Park when the installation of the new tile wall is completed at Paseo de los Arboles.

Planning Division: Steve Anderson stated that modifications to the Campbell Trailhead should be completed in two weeks. He added that volunteers gathered along the trailhead ten bags full of buffelgrass. The Arizona Trail Canopy is going to be built [hopefully] in four weeks. He stated that the Pima County Department of Transportation is continuing its effort to resolve the Marsh Station Road crossing issue, as it relates to the county's section of the 817-mile Arizona Trail.

Recreation Division: Joe Barr reported on the division programs' activities that transpired in the previous three months—August, September, and October. He reported that the aquatics program ended after the Labor Day weekend. A new handicap chair lift was installed at Kino/Thad Terry NW YMCA Pool; repair to the Manzanita Pool beach-entry area is continuing; the Health Department is updating the Pima County swimming Pool Code to include the splash pads and ultraviolet sanitizers.

Joe Barr thanked Commissioner Johnson for attending the grand reopening of the renovated Catalina Community Center on Saturday, September 21. He announced that Governor Jan Brewer attended the National Health Center Week on August 14 held at Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center. The event was sponsored by the Marana Health Center.

The Clay Target Center at the Southeast Regional Park Shooting Range opened October 5. The center is open Saturday and Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The trap and skeet facility is well received by users.

The Sporting Chance Gym, located in the county's Curtis Park, held its grand opening on October 4, 2013. The gym has basketball and volleyball courts for various teams' tournament. It was built through public and private partnership.

He thanked Commissioners Chesson and Johnson for attending the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association annual conference held in August.

Joe Barr announced the passing away of Ana Lopez on October 8, 2013. Ana worked in the Ajo Community Center for a number of years.

#### Future Agenda

- Approval of the November 8, 2013 Minutes
- Follow up on the smoking policy
- Follow up on the naming/renaming parks, facilities, and open space
- Drafting of a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to convince the legislators to consider mandating funding for the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department
- Presentation by Commissioner Peter Chesson

#### Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.