Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m on January 9, 2015.

Commissioners present were Michael Lundin (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice Chair), Karen Cesare, Anita Kellman, Tom Purdon and Enrique Serna. Peter Chesson, Richard Barker, Victor Rivera and Kimberly Marohn were absent. Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Kerry Baldwin, Greg Hagen, Joe Barr, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Cesare made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Purdon, to approve the November 14, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion passed with one abstention.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Future Bond Planning update and discussion as to what the commission could do to promote the Bond Election: Mr. Greg Hagen told the commission that most of the Park’s projects had been moved forward and that the committee was looking to limit the bond issue to approximately $500 - $550 million dollars, which is about half of what is currently proposed. There will be three meetings scheduled in February and March when discussion will start on which projects will be cut. Chair Lundin asked how much were the parks projects. Mr. Hagen said that parks projects amounted to $252 million. Pima County has $119 million and four projects (Shooting range, Prickly Park, the CAP trail and Yaqui Park Community Center) were deleted for lack of community support. Mr. Hagen noted that the model airplane parks’ supporters were present in large numbers at the committee meeting and the project was kept on the list. Commissioner Johnson asked about the projects that were not approved and Mr. Hagen listed them for her. Chair Lundin asked how many projects are still listed. Commissioner Purdon said that too many projects were still included and wanted to know when cuts would be made. Mr. Hagen acknowledged that cuts should have been made along the way, but that new projects were continually being added and old projects are being refigured. Mr. Cawein said that there were approximately 19 projects for Pima County’s Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, apart from the projects that have been removed. Commissioner Serna said that it was possible that projects were not being removed early so that supporters know that they are being heard. Chair Lundin asked what they, as a commission, could do to support the projects that are still being considered. Mr. Cawein said that support was present for certain projects and not for others, hence the committee was able to cut projects that did not seem to have support. He also said that a letter from the Parks Commission to the committee would certainly be helpful. Attendance at the meetings and speaking in favor of the projects would be beneficial as well. He also noted that it seemed that the level of support was more important than the dollar amount of the project. Chair Lundin made a recommendation that the commission have a letter supporting parks projects as a whole, drafted and approved prior to the bond meeting in February. Commissioner Johnson asked whether the projects that have been dropped would be included and Chair Lundin said that only the
projects that remained would be supported. Commissioner Cesare also mentioned that the commission would have to give blanket support to all the County’s parks projects as they could not make selections, but the commission would solely support only Pima County’s Parks and Recreation projects. Chair Lundin also brought up the open meeting laws that prevent the commission discussing the letter without public participation, and the need for the letter to be sent out before the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Hence, permission was given that Chair Lundin and Vice-Chair Johnson review, approve and sign the letter and that commission members would receive it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Cesare moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission have a letter drafted supporting the Pima County Parks Bond projects wholly, to the Bond Committee signed by Chair Lundin and to move forward with that as quickly as possible, with approval and review by Chair Lundin and Vice Chair Johnson. Commissioner Kellman seconded the motion. Commissioner Serna asked that it be attentive to all the projects and emphasize that all the projects had value but there was need to cull some projects.

Commissioner Johnson asked for a list of all the projects which was provided by Mr. Hagen. Chair Lundin asked if all the commissioners were in favor of the motion and they were. Chair Lundin said that the letter, signed by him and Vice Chair Johnson will be sent out as soon as possible after review and approval. Commissioner Cesare saw no need to have it signed by all the commission members. Chair Lundin said that timing was crucial at this point as the Board (of Supervisors) is being attacked with the majority of people asking not to have a bond issue and some constituents saying that it is too much money. There is a loss of trust, and the Board is now apprehensive about going ahead with the bond. Chair Lundin also made a motion to send a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors as well asking that when the committee is done with approving the projects that the Board of Supervisors go ahead with approving the bond issue. It was seconded by Commissioner Serna.

2. Discussion of what action could be taken to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Chuck Catino: Commissioner Cesare wanted to bring this forward for discussion on how to bring recognition to the work that Mr. Catino provided for the community. Chair Lundin said that they had already named the softball complex after him, but he would like to see more done there. He also added that Mr. Catino’s family needs to be involved, as the commission would like to respect Mr. Catino’s wishes as well. Commissioner Serna remarked that it was only because of his involvement with the commission that he realized the work people like Mr. Catino did and noted that there are many people in the community who do such great work. Commissioner Cesare asked if there could be a special plaque or something other than the name of the park that gave more information about him and summarized his passions so strangers reading it would know more about him and his work. Mr. Kuck said that he is working with the BAJA group and they do have memorial benches with names and that he is working with them on some additional ones. Mr. Kuck said that many people donated memorial benches and that the department could purchase one and add a plaque, or mount a plaque on a wall there. Mr. Kuck is also working with County Administration to add a memorial tree site with corresponding names on memorial walls. Chair Lundin also thought of a ‘Chuck Catino Community Award’ to be given out to other active community members. The department could recommend people who could be honored all over the county. Commissioner Cesare agreed that this would be a living tribute to Mr. Catino. Chair Lundin said the award could be done in-house and would not cost the county much money either. Commissioner Cesare said that she was sure his family would appreciate the idea as well. Chair Lundin said that it could be done annually or semi-annually and given to as many or as few community advocates as decided. Park staff could give recommendations to the commission to be voted on. Commissioner Cesare also said that they could be honored by the Board of Supervisors as well. She is in favor of an annual award ceremony, and suggested that senior persons only could be designated. She also wanted to know whether there were any other programs like this done by the department. Mr. Cawein told her that this was precedent setting. Commissioner Purdon asked that staff come up with a plan that the commission could look at. He also said that living off of Camino de la Canoa he sees the
increased traffic in the area and noted that there was one stretch of road that was very
dangerous. Since Chuck’s passing he reconnected with Bill Adamson of the Bicycle Group,
the other homeowners in the vicinity, and spoke to PC-DOT, continuing Chuck’s legacy for
improvements to the community. Chair Lundin asked staff to come up with options like a
memorial and a community leadership award, which the commission could vote on at the
next meeting. Mr. Cawein asked whether the commission would want to include BAJA or
just the commission. Chair Lundin said that at this time he prefers it to be just the
commission. Commissioner Cesare asked that it be kept as streamlined and simple as
possible, an annual event, the parameters for nominations, etc. Chair Lundin also asked
that Mr. Catino’s family be kept informed of the process so as not to upset them or affect
them in a way he would not have agreed with. Commissioner Cesare said that they could
create a memorial like a bench, and use that to announce the award process.

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

1. Recreation (Joe Barr):

Mr. Barr highlighted a few points from his report, the first being the Clay Target Center
which is now home to the University of Arizona Shotgun Team. He also informed the
commission that the Southeast Regional Park Shooting Range hosted the 1st annual
Community Center Youth Archery Tournament. Equipment and training was provided to
these community centers by Arizona Game and Fish. Recreation has added a new
Neighborhood Recreation Center Coordinator, Daniel Handy, at the Ellie Towne Flowing
Wells Community Center and another Aquatics Supervisor, Jodi Layton has joined the
aquatics unit. Mr. Barr told the commission about the upcoming 25th Ted Walker Youth
day at Old Tucson Studios on January 29, 2014, where they expect about 3,300 4th, 5th
and 6th graders to participate. The Board of Supervisors will issue a proclamation
honoring Ted Walker at the January 20, 2014 meeting. There were no questions.

2. Operations (George Kuck):

Mr. Kuck said that he had requested quotes to light the small and large dog parks at McDonald
Park utilizing in-lieu fees. This was the first dog park built through donations from the
community. The project should be completed before the end of this fiscal year. Staff has been
working with ED&T and Rillito Racing to prepare for the horseracing season to begin in
February 2015. Phase 1 is almost complete, only the electric for the restrooms has to be
completed. The Heirloom Farmer’s Market ramadas are complete. Once the race season is over,
the barns on the west will be demolished and the new soccer fields and additional parking will
be put in. Lighting of the fields will depend on the bids, which have yet to be received.
Operations is also working with Flood Control to rebuild the Barrio BMX Track to meet Risk
Management’s requirements. There were no questions. Commissioner Cesare commented that
the improvements on the Rillito are coming along well and she appreciates the new road
connection to River Road. She also told the commission that the Rillito Foundation has signed a
contract for parking at the Rillito Business Park during the racing season.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Purdon told the commission about the upcoming fund
raising event for Friends of Madera Canyon which is being held on January 24, 2015 at Quail
Creek. It will feature a silent auction, an exhibition of photographs of birds and animals of the
Santa Ritas by Tom Vezo, one of America’s most gifted bird photographers’ who passed away
recently. A special presentation on the endangered species of the Santa Rita Mountains by Randy
Serralgio of the Center for Biological Diversity will be held at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.
Commissioner Purdon said he would help to get tickets if anyone wants to attend.
FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) Commissioner Johnson would like an update from Mr. Cawein regarding NRPR. Mr. Cawein asked whether she wanted a synopsis of what has been done and the state of the budget at the end of the fiscal year. He also said that he would let them know their plans for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Johnson said that the commission received staffs’ monthly reports but would like an overall view. Chair Lundin asked that they get information on new projects as well as highlights on the departmental level.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.