



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



February 12, 2016

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

Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m on February 12, 2016.

Commissioners present were Michael Lundin (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice Chair), Kimberly Marohn, Anita Kellman, Victor Rivera and Karen Cesare. Enrique Serna, Peter Chesson and Richard Barker were absent.

Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Joe Barr, Robert Vaughn, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cesare, to approve the December 11, 2015 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Chair Lundin informed the commission that the newly appointed District Four commissioner, Steve Christy, had withdrawn from the commission in order to concentrate his efforts on running for District Four Board of Supervisors position.
2. Chair Lundin informed Mr. Tom Purdon that he would be greatly missed by the commission and that he was a real asset to the commission and the community. Mr. Purdon thanked the commission and said it was a real pleasure to work with the commissioners and staff and that he was very regretful that his tenure had ended.
3. Chuck Catino Community Leadership Award Submission Procedures: Mr. Cawein reminded the commission that Commissioner Cesare had raised the idea of creating the Chuck Catino Community Leadership award to recognize individuals for their contributions to the community. The commission approved the nomination criteria at their February 2015 meeting. Commissioner Cesare moved to accept the submission procedures as submitted by staff. All commissioners were in favor.
4. Chuck Catino Community Leadership Award 2016 Nomination: Chair Lundin invited Mr. Bob Hoyler, member of the BAJA board of directors, who nominated Mr. Jim Brewer who is President of the BAJA Sporting Club. Mr. Hoyler informed the commission that Mr. Brewer not only works with the club, but also assists the Blind Golfers Association, the Community Food Bank, and the Green Valley Council to distribute phone books and organize collection of hazardous waste among other things. Mr. Kuck let the commission know that Mr. Brewer has been really helpful in maintaining Canoa Preserve park with his volunteers thereby reducing county

maintenance costs. Commissioner Cesare made a motion that the first annual Chuck Catino Community Leadership Award be awarded to Jim Weldon Brewer and was seconded by Commissioner Marohn. All were in favor.

5. Informational update regarding Rillito Racing: Mr. Cawein informed the commission that the Board of Supervisors had approved an extension of the contract through June 2017. Commissioner Johnson asked whether the barns had been set up and was informed that there were only temporary ones at this time. Commissioner Cesare mentioned that the track was very busy and had impressive offsite check-in procedures to check vaccination papers to avoid transmission of horse-related viruses.
6. Informational update on NRPR's Facility signage: Mr. Cawein informed the commission that NRPR has over 44 parks, some have dilapidated wooden slatted signs and other parks have no signs at all. NRPR is in the process of replacing all park entrance signs with sturdier metal signs. About a dozen have been installed at this point. Mr. Cawein showed before and after pictures of two parks that have had signs replaced. For Natural Resource parks, a natural backdrop was added. The replacement of our entry signage is phase one, followed by installation of park rules signs, and third removal of reminder signs which over the years has led to sign pollution in our facilities. The commission was very appreciative of the signage program update.
7. Informational update on Sports Management Study: Mr. Ron Odell was introduced to the commission. He informed the commission that he was performing a study that looked at all the fields in metropolitan Tucson and other municipalities which will include a needs assessment and fee analysis. Due to the lack of a regional sports master plan NRPR is initiating this effort to obtain facts of what sports facilities we currently have in the region and how those facilities are presently utilized. A needs assessment will also be generated which will allow comparison of existing facilities versus the demand. Commissioner Cesare asked how the county compared to national standards. Mr. Odell informed her that more would be known when more information is collected. Mr. Cawein informed the commission that facts were needed when making decisions to understand what the community really needs.

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS

1. Planning Division (Steve Anderson): Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Anderson for highlights of his report. He informed her about the four cameras that have been currently installed at four trailheads – Pima Canyon, Sweetwater, Starr Pass and Gabe Zimmerman. Mr. Cawein informed them that this would help NRPR gain some metrics regarding usage of the trails, which are often overlooked. Chair Lundin asked whether there were any legal issues involved in this and was informed that the County Attorney's Office was contacted and no concerns were raised. The commissioners asked whether more would be installed and were informed that it was a possibility.
2. Recreation Division (Joe Barr): Mr. Barr informed the commission about a Trap and Skeet pilot program that was organized by Mr. Ray Cusack, shooting sports volunteer which was a great success. Staff, along with their volunteer league coordinator, are discussing the potential for future leagues in the fall.
Mr. Barr also spoke about the success of Ted Walker Youth Day at Old Tucson Studios. He mentioned one of the problems schools faced was in providing funding for transportation

to the event. Commissioner Rivera asked about which schools attended and was informed that every school district, including charter and private schools were invited.

Mr. Barr informed the commission about the implementation of the second phase of ActiveNet which covered Art and Leisure class reservations. The program had very few problems, mostly related to customers not getting into the classes they wanted. Next summer registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

3. Operations Division (George Kuck): Mr. Kuck informed the commission that both the large and medium dog parks, recently renamed the Austin Fitzgerald Dog Park, at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park were completed.

The McDonald off leash dog facility had new LED lights installed with funding from donations of \$7,000 and the remaining with in-lieu fees. Supervisor Ray Carroll led the dedication ceremony that was held on January 30, 2016.

Mr. Kuck informed the commission that work is ongoing at Manzanita Park to replace the walking paths around the fields and improve ADA access to the ballfields. There were no further questions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Mr. David Christiana, President & Founder of the Genius Loci Foundation and former professor of art at the University of Arizona, spoke to the commissioners regarding Catalina Regional Park which he says has lots of promise as well as a riparian habitat. He spoke about forming a public-private partnership to help maintain the trails in the park as well as restore and convert the barn for use by artists. Mr. Christiana said they could provide volunteers and they have collected material that could be used for rebuilding the barn. Chair Lundin asked staff to work with Mr. Christiana and see what options are available.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

Updates on projects

Date of Board of Supervisors agenda for the Chuck Catino Community Leadership Award

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.