



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



August 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 9:40 a.m on August 12, 2016.

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

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

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 10, 2016 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

Informational year end summary (see attached reports):

1. Mr. Kerry Baldwin gave a presentation to the commission on Park rules regarding unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) use which included a side by side comparison of FAA and State of Arizona rules. Vice Chair Johnson remarked that it would not be possible to identify a drone if it had been shot down. Mr. Baldwin informed her that all commercial drones had to be registered and have a registration number similar to aircraft. Chair Lundin commented that the recreational drones would probably be a bigger problem. Mr. Baldwin stated that drones may not take off or land in a park facility and that is the extent of our enforcement. We do not control the airspace above. By law, owners of UAV may not fly their drones over the general public.



Drone
Regulations.pdf

2. Mr. Baldwin provided the commission his 2015/16 annual report touching on major projects that were accomplished during the last fiscal year. Vice Chair Johnson asked if the water levels were raised at Agua Caliente with the monsoons and was informed by Mr. Baldwin that it was only up by one half to one inch since the pond loses about 1/10" through water seepage daily.

Vice Chair Johnson let Mr. Baldwin know that some residents had concerns about the weeds at Catalina Regional Park being a fire hazard and had also spoken to the Golder Ranch Fire District about it. She indicated that she heard that the vegetation could not be

cut since it would create an erosion problem. Mr. Baldwin informed the commission that NRPR has a fire management plan in place for the area and that there seemed to be more concern rather than actual safety issues. He also informed them that NRPR periodically removes the vegetation in strategic areas, which will continue. He also informed the commission that with the exception of the trail, the park has been closed since 2010.



2015 2016 NR
annual report.pdf

3. Mr. Steve Anderson provided the commission his 2015/16 annual report touching on major projects completed by his division during the last fiscal year. In reference to Mr. Anderson informing the commission of the proposal to install wildlife underpasses on Ajo Way in coordination with ADOT and Arizona Game and Fish, Commissioner Alexander asked about the timeframe for implementation and was informed that it would take approximately four years.

Mr. Cawein informed the commission that Mr. Huckleberry forwarded his memorandum to the Board which was a summary of the trailhead usage from the four cameras installed at four trailheads (Sweetwater, Richard Genser Starr Pass, Iris Dewhirst Pima Canyon and Gabe Zimmerman Davidson Canyon). It provided information on type of use, time of day and day of week along with basic weather information. This report received mostly positive feedback, with the exception of a user who was concerned with privacy issues. Chair Lundin mentioned that camera usage would probably deter vandalism. Mr. Cawein informed them that the new cameras installed on the river parks are helpful as well, since they are providing information on motorized use on the river parks, thus NRPR can work with the Sheriff's department and Tucson Police to patrol those areas that are most impacted.

Mr. Anderson informed the commission that he had spoken to all the land managers about the Tribute Trail route, and all were for it except for the University of Arizona. Vice Chair Johnson asked the reason why and Mr. Baldwin informed her that the U of A had been working for many years doing research on those plots which would compromise their data if a trail was routed through that area. Commissioner Alexander inquired about location of the San Juan Trails Park and was informed that it was near 36th Street and La Cholla.



2016 Planning
Division Annual Rep

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

There were no reports.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.