



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



January 13, 2017

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

Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m on January 13, 2017.

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

Staff present were Interim Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis, Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Joe Barr, Robert Vaughn, Steve Anderson, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Lundin congratulated Interim Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis and welcomed him to the commission.

### Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 9, 2016 minutes. The motion passed.

### COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

Commission discussion regarding qualities and characteristics needed for the position of the Natural Resources Division Manager: Chair Lundin informed the commission that they must keep in mind that this decision was up to the Director of NRPR and HR and that commissioners could only make suggestions regarding what qualifications they would like to see in a Natural Resource Manager. Commissioner Alexander asked that the person be a representative of the cycling community and not only a land steward. He also spoke about the economic impact of cycling and hoped that the new hire would understand that. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Cawein to give them an update on what the former Natural Resources Division Manager, Mr. Kerry Baldwin, did. Mr. Cawein explained that Mr. Baldwin was very unique. Mr. Cawein informed them that Human Resources also has specific minimum qualifications that the person has to meet. What is not specified are the preferred qualifications that NRPR would like to see. Mr. Cawein informed them that he and Mr. Padilla are meeting with the staff to learn more and find a person who would be the best fit. This division encompasses the natural resource parks like Agua Caliente, Tucson Mountain Park, Colossal Cave Mountain Park; there are also open space ranch management programs, biological research which works closely with the Office of Sustainability and Conservation (OSC), and is involved in monitoring and managing the approximately quarter million acres of land. Mr. Cawein informed them that actual funding has been slow in coming, but he believes there is some support from County Administration and hopefully the Board. Due to the implementation of the Section 10 permit there are certain requirements that have to be managed. Thus NRPR needs someone with knowledge of land management as well. Mr. Cawein also informed them about the environmental education group lead by Ms. Wendy Burroughs who also has a huge number of volunteers who allow people to develop an appreciation of birds, wildlife, plants and other wonderful things. Mr. Cawein said that Commissioner Alexander's comment about the recreational side, is also important, since it helps drive our economy as well. Mr. Steve

Anderson and the Trails program are also integrated into the Natural Resources division, since trails can be put on some of these lands. Mr. Cawein said that he too, while using the trails has met people from all over the world who come to hike and bike here. Mr. Cawein said that the position itself is very unique and well defined in HR. The minimum qualifications can be met, but the preferred qualifications would have to have the wildlife, educational, land management aspects as well. Mr. Cawein informed them that it would be hard to fill this position and was waiting until this discussion was had as he looks forward to input from the commissioners as well. Commissioner Alexander asked that the person be someone who actually uses the land and gave as an example Matt Zoll, as someone who gets it and realizes what Pima County has to offer. Commissioner Serna mentioned that he had been to Colossal Cave and was amazed when learning about the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. He asked whether there was any discussion in having the University of Arizona do archaeological research there. Mr. Cawein informed him that NRPR always works with the Office of Sustainability and Conservation for their historical perspective when initiating new projects. Mr. Cawein informed the commissioners that NRPR has 160 parks and of these some are urban parks, some natural resource and some are cultural resource parks, thus when NRPR brings the rule making to the commission shortly, there will be discussion of cultural issues and what kind of rules would apply as opposed to a natural resource or urban park. He informed them that there are certain sites that have cultural and historic significance like Canoa Ranch, and NRPR works very closely with OSC in these cases. Chair Lundin asked whether Commissioner Alexander would like to propose a motion to have NRPR consider his recommendation that the person to be hired would be someone who utilizes the facilities or has experience with the facilities, or may be more local, supposing that this will be a nation-wide search. Commissioner Alexander asked whether a letter would be sufficient instead. Chair Lundin informed them that that could be considered, however the commission needed to consider what their actual role was since it can only give a recommendation. Chair Lundin informed Commissioner Alexander that he could, as commissioner, draft a letter himself. Commissioner Marohn inquired whether it would be a nation-wide search and Mr. Cawein informed her that it probably would be so. He also informed them that he had several inquiries over the last year, from people in different walks of life expressing an interest in the position, but he would like to cast a wider net since this was such a unique position. The local perspective would be important along with land management, education and recreation, which are also critical. Chair Lundin mentioned his hesitation with writing a letter and in holding up this process since this has been on the agenda since October 2016 and his personal preference would be to make a recommendation and vote on it. Mr. Cawein informed them that he was still in the process of drafting the preferred qualifications and that the commission could provide input in this area. Commissioner Serna mentioned that cycling was one of the top attractions in Tucson. Commissioner Alexander informed the commission that he was not going to make a motion, but stated that he would like to recommend that the person is an outdoor enthusiast. Chair Lundin agreed with him and asked Mr. Cawein to take it into consideration. Mr. Cawein said he would do so.

Informal update regarding the call for nominations for the Chuck Catino Volunteer Award: Mr. Cawein reminded the commission about the guidelines that were recommended by them and that nominations were due at the end of the calendar year. Since NRPR has only received one nomination the date has been extended to solicit more recommendations. Mr. Cawein informed them that the nominations will be submitted to the commission to act on. Chair Lundin recommended that if the criteria are too stringent they can be discussed at the next meeting and the scope could be broadened to make it more inclusive. Commissioner Kellman asked how this had been advertised and was informed that Ms. Samoy sent out a

media advisory to the Communications Office who sent out a press release. She also distributed it to other groups. Commissioner Johnson asked whether it was only for Green Valley and was informed it was not. Chair Lundin suggested adding it to the next meeting's agenda to go over the scope again since the commission wanted to recognize Mr. Chuck Catino's legacy. Mr. Cawein informed them that it would be on the agenda along with the nominations received.

Informational update of NRPR budget (Robert Padilla): Mr. Padilla presented the commission with an update regarding NRPR's budget. Mr. Padilla began by providing a summary of revenues and expenditures for FY 2015-16. He informed the commission that NRPR had an adopted revenue budget of \$964,550, but actual revenue received was \$1,219,926, almost a quarter of a million over. The reasons for this was due to very positive visitorship at the Gilbert Ray Campground, the Southeast Shooting Range and an increase in leisure class participation. He informed the commission that when the price of gasoline was high, there was a decrease in reservations at the campground, but now due to the decrease in price of gasoline, there have been more visitors there. Mr. Padilla informed the commission that NRPR had an expenditure budget of \$16.88 million and spent \$16.70 million thus NRPR came in under budget by \$176,607. Mr. Padilla informed them he was pleased that NRPR came in under budget while meeting all departmental obligations. He informed them that this department had a positive impact on the General Fund of a little over \$400,000, which is great. Mr. Padilla informed them that for the 2016-17 fiscal year budget, budgeted revenue is \$989,550 and as of the end of December we have collected \$546,436, so NRPR is on target to meet our revenue. The expenditure budget is \$17.5 million and through the end of December we have spent \$8.7 million, which is high for this time of year, mainly because NRPR has done some deferred maintenance projects in Ajo and at George Mehl Foothills park. The commissioners commended Mr. Cawein and Mr. Padilla on the good job they had done.

#### DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

There were no reports.

Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. DeBonis whether he had anything to say to the commission. Mr. DeBonis said that he is happy to be here and gave them a brief recap of his 24 years with Pima County telling them that the last 20 years was with the Development Services Department, and 15 of those 20 years was as the Director. He informed them that over the years he has worked with County Administration, the Board as well as with Mr. Cawein and others. He stated that for the next few months he intends to learn about the other departments within Public Works. Commissioner Johnson thanked him.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.