



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



March 10, 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 9:32 a.m. on March 10, 2017.

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

Staff present were Sandy Bolduc (RFCD), George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Leonard Ordway, Robert Vaughn and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

### Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 10, 2017 minutes. The motion passed.

### COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

Recognition of Mr. Bill Adamson as the second recipient of the annual Chuck Catino Leadership Award: Mr. Steve Anderson introduced Mr. Adamson to the commission and said that he was honored to present the award to Mr. Adamson who is a long-time trails and bicycling advocate. Mr. Adamson has volunteered frequently to help NRPR with trail construction and was instrumental in securing a \$39,000 grant from the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation for the development of the Adamson-Catino Trail. Mr. Adamson thanked the commission for the award and informed them that he knew Mr. Catino, but that they had worked separately for many years. Later, Mr. Catino wanted trails that connect Canoa Preserve Park to the Anza Trail and reached out to him, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Flint. They worked together and received the grant. Mr. Adamson said that he is pleased to be associated with the trail program, but also recommended another trail connecting Green Valley to the Loop.

Informational update regarding the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial River Park improvements: Ms. Sandy Bolduc of the Regional Flood Control District gave the commissioners an overview of progress being made on the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial River Park, a two-acre park on the CDO section of the Loop. She informed them that the opening ceremony was scheduled for April 2, 2016 at 1:00 pm. She also informed them that the Green's had raised almost \$100,000 from the community, with Safeway being the largest contributor of \$50,000, followed by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe who contributed \$15,000. All donors, unless they requested to be anonymous, will be acknowledged in the Commemorative Plaza. Local businesses also contributed goods, materials and labor worth several thousand dollars. The county's RFCD, NRPR, DOT and PMO groups contributed over \$50,000 in material and labor, including project and construction management, landscape architectural design, picnic tables, native plants and

irrigation, signage, barricade railing and right-of-way permits. The goal was to create a park for everyone, but dedicated to Christina-Taylor. The statue also reflects everyone, not only Christina-Taylor and her brother. The park will include a central plaza with the statue as its focus, a commemorative plaza, butterfly, cactus, songbird, grasses and agave gardens as well. The Audubon Society and the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum contributed to the monarch waystation, which will be populated with plenty of milkweed plants. Commissioner Cesare said that this was a fantastic park, which incorporated so many elements. Commissioner Alexander asked about the opening ceremony and was informed that Ms. Samoy is still working on it. Mr. Kuck informed him that NRPR is working on traffic control, as there is only a small parking lot at the site. Commissioner Alexander asked whether any biking event was planned and that he was willing to help organize one. Mr. Kuck informed him that there were currently no plans for that. Chair Lundin asked Commissioner Alexander to contact Ms. Samoy about it. Mr. Kuck informed them that a bike parking area would also be needed for an event like that. Commissioner Cesare asked about future O&M costs and whether that was funded through NRPR or could NRPR receive an endowment for future maintenance costs. Mr. Kuck informed her that NRPR had recently hired another employee for the CDO, and that RFCD had made a commitment to pay for the Loop and its improvements. He also mentioned that at the moment NRPR is not looking for private funding but could possibly do so at a later time. Mr. Kuck informed them that Mr. Fenton helps raise funds for maintenance at the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park and thus it was something to consider. Mr. Kuck and the commissioners thanked Ms. Bolduc.

Informational update for the Planning Division (Steve Anderson): Mr. Anderson gave the commissioners an overview of some of the projects that the Planning Division has been working on. Regarding the McKenzie Ranch Trails Park, after more than two years, the ASLD has finally agreed to the easement for access to the 1,700-acre parcel. This should be final by the end of this month. Permission has also been received from Union Pacific Rail Road to cross the tracks. Another project is the Adamson-Catino Trail which runs from the Canoa Preserve Park to the Anza Trailhead. The project will be paid for in part by the county, through the grant from Freeport McMoRan and the rest by FICO and volunteers. NRPR is currently designing a trail system on the Painted Hills open space property, and a public meeting will be held shortly regarding the concept plan. NRPR held a public meeting earlier regarding the trailhead, which is now scheduled to be completed by the end of next month. Mr. Anderson informed them that the planning projects on the Explorer Trail, the Kennedy Park-Tucson Mountain Park East Trail and the Enchanted Hills Trail Park are almost done. These plans will be sent to the County Administrator's Office, Development Services, RFCD and OSC for review and comment. The Arizona Trail will get a new trailhead in about two years. NRPR is teaming up with the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) to put in a trailhead south of Sahuarita Road to serve all non-motorized users. NRPR has completed our trailhead report on the four cameras that are at Pima Canyon, Starr Pass, Sweetwater and Gabe Zimmerman Trailheads for 2016. Approximately 82,000 people visited the trailheads and from that we inferred that roughly 150,000 visitors accessed NRPR's 25 trailheads. Mr. Anderson invited the commissioners to check out a news article in the Star featuring Mark Flint regarding the design and creation of sustainable trails in the county. Commissioner Marohn asked whether there was a plan to connect the Loop at Craycroft to Tanque Verde. Mr. Anderson informed her that that was the plan. Mr. Kuck informed them that at present there was bank protection work on the Pantano and that the project would take about a year to complete. Commissioner Cesare inquired about the bridge across the Pantano or the Tanque Verde and mentioned that the road from Craycroft to Sabino Canyon Road goes by her father-in-law's property as well as the homeowners association's property. She also told the commission that as part of the rezoning that was approved a few

years ago, there was an agreement allowing the County use of the land when everything else is in place. Chair Lundin asked if all the other properties required had been acquired. Mr. Kuck informed him that work is being done on several easements. Commissioner Alexander said most of the work, including the sewerage work has already been completed and that he feels the rest of the project will be completed quickly.

Informational update for the Operations Division (George Kuck): Mr. Kuck updated the commission on the play structure repairs that had been carried out at Wildwood, Richardson and Meadowbrook Parks. These playgrounds were installed in 2002 utilizing 1997 bond funds. He informed the Park Commission that in many cases where old play structures were replaced, they were replaced by two structure per industry standards, for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12 year olds. Shade was also incorporated into these new play structures. The rubberized coating on the playground decks had become severely worn out. The manufacturer provided NRPR new decks under a 15-year warranty that was set to expire within one month. NRPR contracted with a job order contractor (JOC) for approximately \$20,000 to install the new decking. Mr. Kuck said he expects the new decking to extend the life of these playgrounds by up to 5 years.

The Arthur Pack Regional Park Playground parking lot had deteriorated. In past years' there was not enough money for maintenance work, but this year, utilizing deferred maintenance funds from the Director's budget, the parking lot was completely renovated.

NRPR was contacted recently by Supervisor Bronson's office about a retired librarian, Mrs. Gail Dent, wanting to install a Little Free Library in a park. Mr. Kuck contacted his counterpart at the City and found that they had installed some of these, which were very successful. Thus, NRPR worked out a written agreement with Mrs. Dent and installed a Little Free Library at Children's Memorial Park. She purchased the structure and agreed to maintain and keep it stocked with books as well. Chair Lundin asked how much a structure like that cost and was told it was about \$300. He also asked considering its low cost and high success, whether there were any plans for growing the program. Mr. Kuck informed him that they would be open to it if other people came forward. Chair Lundin also inquired whether NRPR had reached out to the PC Library to see if they were interested in collaboration as it is a great opportunity to put books in many neighborhoods. Mr. Kuck informed them that he did contact the library and they were interested in donating books, so he has put them in contact with Mrs. Dent. Commissioner Johnson said that she was concerned with vandalism. Mr. Kuck informed her that under the agreement Mrs. Dent is responsible for maintenance. Commissioner Alexander remarked that this was a trend all over town and that he had not seen any vandalism so far.

Mr. Kuck informed them that they recently completed construction of two ramadas and a shaded play structure designed for 5-12 year olds at Rillito Park. This utilized CIP funding. Commissioner Marohn asked about the cost of the structure and Mr. Kuck informed her that a similar one installed at Thomas Jay Regional Park cost about \$80,000. Commissioner Marohn also commented that more shade canopies are being added and asked whether it helped preserve them from sun damage. Mr. Kuck informed her that it does help prolong the life of the structure. Mr. Kuck also informed them that when the last phase of the park was planned, there was not much thought given to park amenities, the focus being on soccer fields and parking, thus the play structure was not put in a better location. There is currently no designated area for a future 2-5 year old playground due to space limitations at the site.

Mr. Kuck also informed them that NRPR worked with a Boy Scout, Jason Steinnecker, and his troop to plant nineteen 15-gallon mesquite trees at the Ann Day Community Park, in the small and large dog parks, for the completion of his Eagle Scout Community Project. They also installed drip irrigation for the trees. The volunteers worked approximately 100 hours on the

project. The Operations Division is also preparing all the urban parks for the upcoming spring baseball/softball season. There were no more questions.

Informational update for Special Trades and Projects Division (Robert Vaughn): Mr. Vaughn gave the commissioners an overview of the many projects the SPT division was involved with due to their specialized trades' staff. Mr. Vaughn gave the commissioners examples of the work they completed, like the pad for the Little Library installation, ballfield lighting maintenance, fencing at open space properties and many other kinds of work. SPT also does work for Flood Control. Mr. Vaughn informed them that the Manzanita BMX Park has been completed, and is very successful. SPT also does a lot of work at Canoa Ranch. Mr. Vaughn informed them that SPT has been called to help at Rillito Park especially before the racing season to ensure that conditions are safe. SPT installed irrigation at the Shooting Range digging a 3,000-foot trench for water lines for the vegetation that was planted. SPT also helps with clean up after storms like the one that damaged vegetation at Agua Caliente. He informed them that they work for Operations, Recreation, Wastewater, Flood Control, Real Property and whoever else needs their services. Mr. Vaughn highlighted the work they did at the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial Park especially with the installation of the statue which had no tabs to mount the statue on the pad. These were fabricated by the welding team to specially fit the statue. Mr. Vaughn also informed them that the construction shop built about 40 display panels for use at Canoa Ranch in-house that cost about \$1300. These would have cost between \$400 and \$1200 a piece, thus saving a lot of money.

Mr. Vaughn informed them about the retaque corral rehabilitation project constructed by SPT and volunteers, two of whom actually lived on the ranch and came back to volunteer and restore the fences. He mentioned that they have had a lot of that kind of participation. Family members who lived and worked at the ranch have also donated the photographs in the Grijalva House. He informed them that attendance at the ranch has been going up. There have also been family reunions held there. Mr. Vaughn informed them that the adobe repair work is ongoing and SPT staff has been trained in adobe repair. The living room mantle was restored with volunteer help working with Simon Herbert, NRPR's architectural preservationist. They also redid the complete restoration of the Deezie Manning dressing room, which had been infested with packrats. This was custom work and was done completely onsite.

Future projects at the ranch include the rehabilitation of the lake and canal, and NRPR hopes to have water there by next year. NRPR is working with Flood Control to manage the project and with OSC to map where the water lines will be laid. Flood Control is going to use the lake and canal as an irrigation source for the mitigation work in the area to convert old agricultural fields into native bosques. The foreman's house – Building 110 – is being remodeled as well and the George Proctor Western Heritage Trust Collection will be displayed there. NRPR worked with the Proctor family to acquire the almost 2000 items on a long-term loan basis. All the items are related to ranching in the Santa Cruz Valley. The items range from Native American artifacts, saddles and tack, kitchen items, linen and old furniture. SPT is also holding skilled restoration technique workshops.

NRPR has also researched and developed a new tour of the Juan Bautista de Anza with the help of volunteers and staff, which has been incredibly popular with visitors. Arizona Public Media is filming an informational segment about the park and ranch which will be aired on the local PBS channel in the future.

Mr. Vaughn informed them that the Raftery family who lease the equestrian center and have been on the property for over 20 years have been very helpful. Both Scott and Cheri have both been equestrian champions and their daughter has continued the tradition. They run riding classes as well as train cutting horses. Cheri who has been a champion barrel racer has been collecting photographs of rodeo cowgirls and other souvenirs since she was nine years old.

Using her pictures and memorabilia NRPR put together an exhibit 'When Bronc Riders Wore Lipstick', which is all about women in the sport, and it has been very successful as a fundraiser as well. The commissioners commended Mr. Vaughn for his work. There were no other questions.

Informational update on the Shooting Sports Program (Leonard Ordway): Mr. Ordway informed the commission about the passing away of Dave Daughtry in late January. He was the county's first Shooting Sports Program Manager. To memorialize him a memorial fund has been set up to have a plaque created and installed at the SERP Main range to honor Mr. Daughtry and the service he gave to the county's Shooting Sports Program. Chair Lundin asked whether there were any funding goals. Mr. Ordway informed him that they probably would collect more than required and that any remaining funds will be used to benefit youth shooting activities sponsored by the County. Mr. Ordway informed them that program participation continued to grow as well as revenue. Mr. Ordway was please to let the commission know that the program had been approved for an NRA Foundation Range Grant of \$9,700 for the purchase of a wobble trap. This will be the only one in Tucson and is expected to draw a lot of interest. It will be installed in place of another trap machine that could be used if another was out of order. The Shooting Sports program received approval from the Board of Supervisors to apply for a range improvement grant from Arizona Game and Fish. It is a 50% construction cost match and will provide a shade ramada for the Clay Target Center (CTC) Office.

The Senior Olympics Event in January was very successful. NRPR instituted a Trap and Skeet League that will be conducted during the normal CTC hours on Saturdays and Sundays. The first Spring League is hosting 32 shooters and there will be a plaque honoring the top league shooters. With Helen Wilson's help, NRPR also designed a patch, which can be marketed, as patches are very popular on shooting vests. One of the volunteers at the range suggested a CTC beginner shooter station as there is a high demand for training. It uses an existing portable trap machine and eases congestion at the existing trap field. Mr. Ordway thanked the trades division and said he had been using their services a lot. The latest was for a landscaping and irrigation project. The trees were from the Native Plant Nursery and were planted by the Arizona Conservation Corp Work Crew.

The Annual Volunteer Recognition was held on March 4, 2017. There were 48 active volunteers who donated 7,027 hours - equivalent to 3.5 full time staff! Mr. Ordway praised their skills and informed the commission that they have also formed a Leadership program. At present, there are three leaders, all with a passion for firearms and they volunteered to lead the other volunteers. Recreation has updated the SERP brochure with new hours for winter and summer. The adjustment in hours has reduced non-productive staff time and is better suited to the ambient temperatures. Mr. Ordway also invited the commissioners to visit the range. There were no questions.

#### DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

There were no reports.

#### CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.