



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



May 12, 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 May 12, 2017.

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

Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Andy Dinauer (RFCD) Joe Barr, Grant Bourguet, Jodi Layton and Robin Hadden.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

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

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

Rillito Racing Season update – No information provided as racing representative was unable to attend.

Informational update on Advisory Committee regarding speed limits on the Loop (Damion Alexander): Commissioner Alexander referenced a letter to the Editor that was sent to the Arizona Daily Star regarding excessive speed by certain cyclists on The Loop. Commissioner Alexander stated that for him it was a much greater story than just the speed of cyclists but a matter of multi-use trail users not being courteous to each other. He also referenced a memo written by Mr. Huckelberry, County Administrator, proposing a 15 mile per hour speed limit on The Loop.

Commissioner Alexander stated that he does not think the speed limit is practical but would rather work with companies such as Ben's Bells to put signs up on The Loop and trails saying "Be Kind" or "Be Courteous". He stated that this is public land and open to all and it is not an issue of what speed you are going, it is an issue of people being rude to each other. You can make people feel uncomfortable riding at 10 miles per hour as well as 20 miles per hour. He recommended creating a sub-committee from Parks and Recreation Commissioners, which he would be happy to be part of or lead, that will come up with ways Pima County Parks and Recreation can show we are one of the most vital places in the Country and that our citizens and visitors who come here are having the best experience.

Commissioner Chesson stated that people are trying to beat times of other people on recorded devices in TMP and trail parks. If you put up speed limit signs they probably would not be obeyed. Commissioner Alexander stated that he has met with all the supervisors and Supervisor Elias asked

him to address this specifically as he has received regular phone calls from one of his constituents about this.

Commissioner Alexander stated that there are many apps available on your smart phone like Strava, which records your time and others time that you can race against. It comes back to educating people, which could be discussed in a sub-committee.

Mr. Cawein stated the speed limit is currently off the table. There is a Loop advisory committee currently being formed by different people representing different types of users such as bicycle, equestrian, pedestrian and runner communities, in an effort to work together. Andy Dinauer from Flood Control said it would be staff representatives not committee members attending these meetings. This is an attempt to deal with this issue.

Commissioner Alexander stated this is not just an issue of The Loop. This is an issue for all paths, trails and paved section users of Pima County. He feels that a lot of what comes out of The Loop committee will be applicable to other areas but he is hoping it would address issues on the other side. He stated he would like to be on The Loop advisory committee.

Chairman Lundin asked Mr. Cawein if there were any indications of The Loop advisory committee wanting anyone from this commission to be on that committee. Mr. Cawein advised there was a request for some names to be brought forth and he had provided them with some that wanted to be on the committee but he is not sure, where they are with the final details or who is on it.

Mr. Andy Dinauer stated that there will be seven committee members and two staff support. He stated that it does not have to be adopted by the board. The County Administrator can appoint an advisory committee that answers and provides recommendations solely to him. He stated that he does not disagree with anything Mr. Alexander has said but that the Loop advisory committee will be Loop specific. He believes they are hoping that the first meeting will occur by the end of this month and meeting quarterly or as needed.

Commissioner Serna stated that this is a liability issue now we need to make sure we go above and beyond to make sure someone does not get hurt.

Mr. Dinauer stated that Strava has actually deleted sections or adjusted some sections of the Loop and deemed it dangerous practice so times cannot be recorded.

Commissioner Chesson stated that the apps should remove the places where wildlife are and the problem would lessen.

Commissioner Lundin asked Mr. Cawein if he had any more questions or comments on a sub-committee. Mr. Cawein stated that he has no problem with one. He remarked that the difficulty is we are trying to change human behavior and great majorities of people are very cooperative and kind. The first item on our Loop trail guidelines signs say "Treat all trail users with respect and courtesy". City Of Tucson, Oro Valley, Marana and Pima County have met to discuss Loop issues in their respective jurisdictions. The group agreed to post signs listing the most frequently violated guidelines. They are placed at trailheads and Loop entry points for visibility. There will always be rough groups.

Mr. Dinauer stated that GABA recognizes the issue and self-police by breaking up into small groups. El Grupo are the most courteous of young cyclists. There are a handful of people misbehaving. One person can offend 100 people on a bike ride.

Commissioner Alexander stated that it is not just bicyclists misbehaving, it is hikers putting rocks or nails on trails too. He would like to change the culture to be kind.

Commissioner Chesson stated that technology is not helping and it would help if the provider is forced to make changes.

Commissioner Lundin advised the sub-committee cannot be less than three or more than five people otherwise, it would be a quorum. They do not need staff members to be present unless you have a question for them. Report back to commission by being put on the addenda.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to form a sub-committee of four people, Commissioners Kellman, Alexander, Chesson and Serna on trail courtesy. Commissioner Barker seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Informational update for Recreation Division Aquatics (Grant Bourguet and Jodi Layton):

Mr. Barr introduced Grant and Jodi. Mr. Bourguet and Ms. Layton presented power point presentation on Aquatics Summer Report. See Attached.

Questions asked:

Slide 4: Commissioner Chesson asked what happens to CO2. Mr. Bourguet answered it gets injected into the water so less acid is used.

Slide 5: Commissioner Rivera asked how much lifeguards make. Ms. Layton answered \$10.06 per hour. Commissioner Lundin asked how much the classes the lifeguards have to take cost. Ms. Layton answered \$50.00 each.

Mr. Cawein added that with a Grant that was applied for and reallocation of Bond funds a new splash pad will be built at Manzanita Park and will be opened April 2018.

Commissioner Serna stated that he sits on the YMCA board and he will take Skype information to them.



Pima County
Aquatics Report May ;

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

There were no division reports.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Olen Warrick stated that it is not mountain bikers but apps like Strava where bikers are racing against times posted on the site that make it a hazard. He suggested informing bike clubs to be aware of other trail users.

Curt Larson, Friends of Tucson Mountain Park are concerned residents about the number of new trails being built in the Southeast section of the park. They are asking the Commissioners to consider their viewpoint of leaving enough open space between trails before building any

more trails in the park. Questions raised were what are the criteria the Parks department uses to decide whether to build a new trail, is there a trail density policy and does it take into account social and aesthetic criteria?

Betty Ohr stated she is opposed to new trails in Tucson Mountain Park, would like to preserve open space and preserve and protect wild life. She also expressed her concern on cyclists' damage to trails and forcing hikers off the trails.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

1. Rillito Racing Season Update
2. Trail assessment at Tucson Mountain Park including the number of trails and the criteria for trails.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

DRAFT