



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



December 8, 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 December 8, 2017.

Commissioners present were Michael Lundin (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice Chair), Damion Alexander, Peter Chesson, Victor Rivera Anita Kellman and Kimberly Marohn. Enrique Serna, Karen Cesare and Richard Barker were absent.
Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Joe Barr, Ron Odell, Elisabeth Van der Leeuw, Lindsay Spencer, Rachel Loubeau, Greg Hagen, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 8, 2017 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Concept plan for creation of a new park with several jurisdictions involved comprised of City of Tucson, Pima County and Rio Nuevo (Damion Alexander) Commissioner Alexander laid out his concept plan to build a park on the west side of the Santa Cruz River, which was formerly the 'A' Mountain landfill. The concept includes a bike park, a velodrome and the Sonoran Desert Park. This park would be part of Rio Nuevo. He also informed the commission that there was a proposal to build a second park that includes a skate park, playground, splash park and dog park near the proposed bike park. The second park is not part of the Rio Nuevo project and would require Pima County Regional Flood Control District approval. He also stated that the economic impact would be equivalent to that of a second El Tour de Tucson. He also mentioned that he was working with the City of Tucson Council members and the neighborhood. Commissioner Johnson asked about the possibility of the Santa Cruz River overflowing and was informed that the County and City are in discussions about mitigating that without disturbing the habitat. Chair Lundin asked about maintenance and was informed that the bike components would be put out to bid and the velodrome and other components would be pay to play and thus bring in enough revenue for maintenance. There will be

lots of xeriscaping to bring down maintenance costs as well. Chair Lundin asked about the splash pad and skate park proposal. Commissioner Alexander said that those components were badly needed in that area and that it could be a real economic driver for tourism in the area. Commissioner Johnson asked whether this would have three organizations working on the plan and was informed that Rio Nuevo would be a part of it. Commissioner Alexander also informed them that Council Member Regina Romero has said she supports it, but also supports the neighbors. Chair Lundin asked about funding and Commissioner Alexander informed him that funding was not a problem in this case as there would be funding from the Rio Nuevo district as well as additional funding that Commissioner Alexander has obtained. Commissioner Johnson asked about the period of time it would take. Commissioner Alexander informed them that public outreach would begin in January and that he did not know more. Commissioner Chesson asked about the habitat restoration and was informed that 26 of the 40 acres would be open space. Commissioner Chesson said that there should be a genuine connection between 'A' mountain and the river. Commissioner Alexander said he appreciated the feedback. Commissioner Johnson remarked that the area really needed this. There were no more questions.

2. Informational update regarding Park Rules: Mr. Cawein informed the commission that the current park rules were last reviewed back in the year 2000. Mr. Cawein indicated the department is updating the park rules, which would be discussed over the next three commission meetings. Mr. Greg Hagen explained to the commission that the rules would be broken down into five chapters, one chapter would include an overall set of rules for all parks, subsequent chapters would be devoted to specific types of park, i.e. Natural Resource Parks, Cultural Resource Park, River Parks, etc. Commissioner Chesson asked whether they would receive copies of the written documents and Mr. Cawein informed him that attorneys from the different departments were reviewing them internally at present and that he would bring the draft to the commission for review before being sent to the Board. Mr. Cawein informed them that he would probably email the draft to the commission before the next meeting and ask for input at the following meeting.
3. Informational updates on 3 capital projects:
 - a. Mike Jacob SportsPark: Mr. Cawein informed the commission that the initial estimates for these three critical capital projects were low and that NRPR is trying to come up with adequate funding for the projects. He informed them that SportsPark was built around 1983 and there had been many structural failures at the park. At present, the electrical and gas issues have been taken care of and a complete structural analysis of the safety netting poles complete. The parking lot has been completed at a cost of approximately \$350,000.00. Mr. Cawein informed them that he is trying to find additional funding for the park itself using the deferred maintenance fund. Commissioner Johnson asked whether the park was

still used a lot and worth putting money into it. Mr. Cawein informed her that it was heavily used for sand volleyball, softball, etc. Chair Lundin asked whether NRPR is operating the park and was informed that special use permits were being issued. Chair Lundin also asked whether NRPR will use the same model in the future and was informed that NRPR ideally, would like to have a single operator run the facility as well as invest in the park. There were no more questions.

- b. Winston Reynolds – Manzanita Park Splash Pad: Mr. Cawein informed them that in spite of a \$200,000 grant from the Bert Martin Foundation and \$300,000 in bond funding, the lowest bid was nearly \$700,000. Mr. Cawein and Mr. Padilla came up with the \$200,000, again out of the deferred maintenance funds and are presently in the process of designing the project. NRPR has a design-build contract in place and hope to have it ready by April 2018. It will be a key amenity to the southwest community. There were no questions.
- c. Canoa Lake: The Regional Flood Control District as part of their environmental restoration project developed a plan for improvements at Canoa Ranch. The first phase includes a 2.5 acre pond that will also serve as a water storage facility for fire suppression and irrigation. The pond will provide irrigation for the next phase of improvements which includes restoring the cienega comprised of 30 acres to the east of the berm, paths and ramadas. Over the last few months, NRPR & RFCD designed and constructed the pond. It is lined to prevent excessive water loss through the base and began pumping water on December 6, 2017. It will be a very attractive recreational amenity in the area, and will attract birds and wildlife as well. That project is estimated at around \$650,000 with most being funded by RFCD. Commissioner Johnson asked how deep the pond was and was informed that it was around 5' at its deepest with a shelf that is shallower. She also asked whether there would be barriers to keep kids out and was informed that protective measures would be taken. Commissioner Chesson asked what fish the pond would be stocked with and Mr. Cawein informed him that NRPR is presently working with Arizona Game and Fish. Chair Lundin commended Mr. Cawein and Mr. Padilla on pulling together funding to accomplish these projects. Commissioner Johnson asked how many parks would need renovations and Mr. Cawein informed her that he had had some discussions with the County Administrator about creating a Parks Renewal Fund, since NRPR's funding only allows for basic routine maintenance and nothing more. NRPR has taken about \$1m out of the base budget and reinvested it in our facilities over the last few years, but this year it could not be done due to these projects. Commissioner Johnson asked whether the commission could vote on a proposal like that and Mr. Cawein informed her that a letter of support would be more helpful and could be discussed at the next commission meeting. There were no further questions.

4. Annual update of the GIS Division (Elisabeth Van Der Leeuw): Ms. Van Der Leeuw gave a PowerPoint presentation and updated the commission on the ongoing data collection process for the GIS division. Commissioner Chesson asked whether one of the layers would show buffelgrass locations. Ms. Van Der Leeuw informed him that due to sensitivity it would not be a public layer, but information would be shared with organizations like the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum and others. Ms. Van Der Leeuw also introduced Lindsay Spencer who has been tasked with working on mobile technology to aid in instant updates. She and the GIS division have been working on an app that was built for the GIS Fair this year, which could be used by the public as well. Chair Lundin complemented them on it. Commissioner Johnson asked whether all information had been inputted into the system and Ms. Van Der Leeuw informed her that the initial data collection was complete and that they are now working on maintenance. Mr. Cawein added that it was a challenge to keep it all updated. Commissioner Chesson asked whether there was any coordination between other entities and was informed that there was. Commissioner Chesson asked whether the other jurisdictions could purchase the data and was informed by Chair Lundin that the work was shared when pertinent and reasonable. However, the County does work with those entities. He also informed them that the other jurisdictions had their own GIS divisions. Mr. Cawein informed them that they did try to integrate information in the case of the Loop interactive map, since the County took the lead on the infrastructure collection efforts. Some of them did share their GIS data for the benefit of the public. Commissioner Chesson asked whether the existence of parallel systems was wasteful. Mr. Cawein agreed, but informed him that each jurisdiction had chosen the system they thought best. However, the County coordinates with all and tries not to duplicate collection of information. Commissioner Johnson asked about accessing the information and was informed by Ms. Van Der Leeuw how it could be accessed through the NRPR website. There were no further questions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Evan Pilling, Executive Director, of the Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists (SDMB).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): Update on Park Rules
Letter in support of the Parks Renewal fund

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

GIS Division - Report

DATA COLLECTION

MODELING DATA /
GEODATABASE

INTERNAL APPLICATIONS

PUBLIC APPLICATIONS

FUTURE OUTREACH

Data Collection



- ▶ Parks – keeping data current
 - ▶ Working with mobile technologies
 - ▶ Managing and maintaining data
- ▶ Natural Resources
 - ▶ In the middle of data collection effort
- ▶ Trails
 - ▶ Working with staff to develop a protocol
- ▶ Recreation
 - ▶ Finalizing Pools and Community Center Layers

Data Collection



- ▶ Knowing **where** the County's assets are and what condition they are in
- ▶ Using GIS to help locate problem areas/maintenance issues
- ▶ Natural Resources Data Collection Effort

Data Geodatabase / Maintenance

- logon@nrprgdlib@stnrprags1.sde
- logon@nrprmaint@stnrprags1.sde
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.managed_properties
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_caves_and_mines
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_constructed_features
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_ecological_monitoring
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_feature_maintenance
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_fire_management
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_land_features
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_plant_management
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_property_structures
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_recreation_management
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_utilities_infrastructure
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_water_management
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.NR_wildlife_monitoring
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.parks_infrastructure
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.benches
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.building
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.drainage
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.fencing
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.hardscape
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.picnibl
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.playgeap
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.playgrnd
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.plgrdmat
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.plycourt
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.plyfield
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.plyfothr
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.ramada
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.restroom
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.sign
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.siteamty
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.softscape
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.turf
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.walls
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.parks_utilities_infrastructure
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.elcsystm
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.irrsystm
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.lightsys
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.othrutil
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.undrgstrc
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.watsystm
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.riverparks_infrastructure
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.riverparks_utilities_infrastructure
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.test
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.trails_recreation
 - NRPRMAINT.NRPRDATA.minephotos



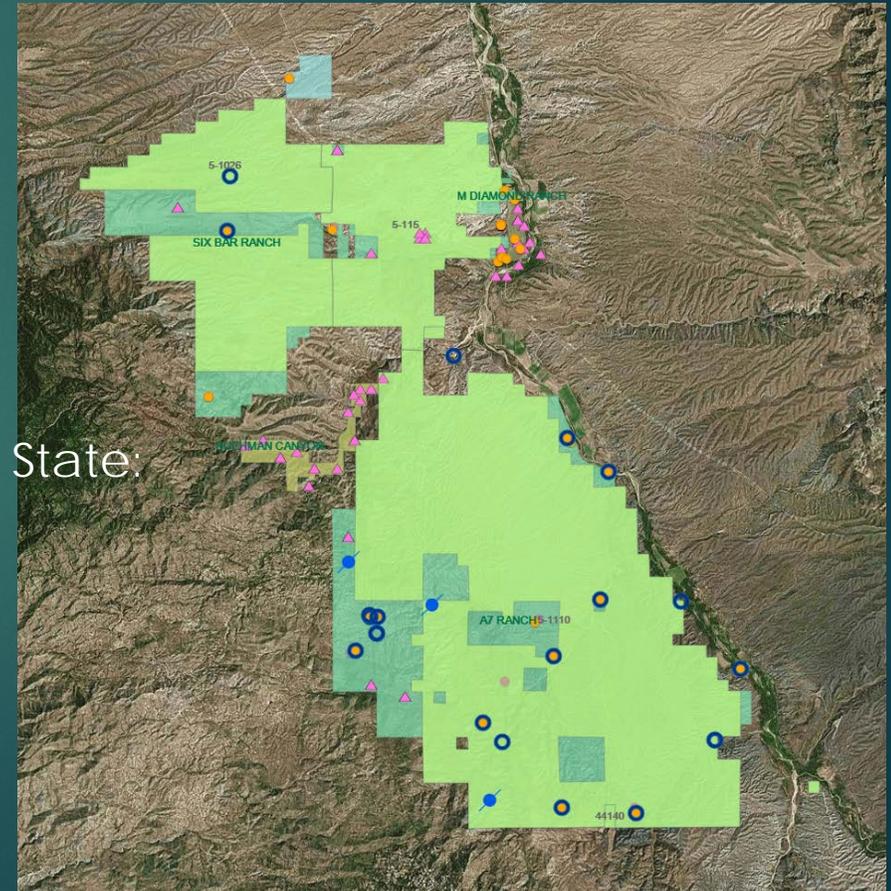
▶ GIS Maintenance is On-Going

▶ With Current GIS Layers projects such as additional rule sign placement becomes easier

GIS Data Model

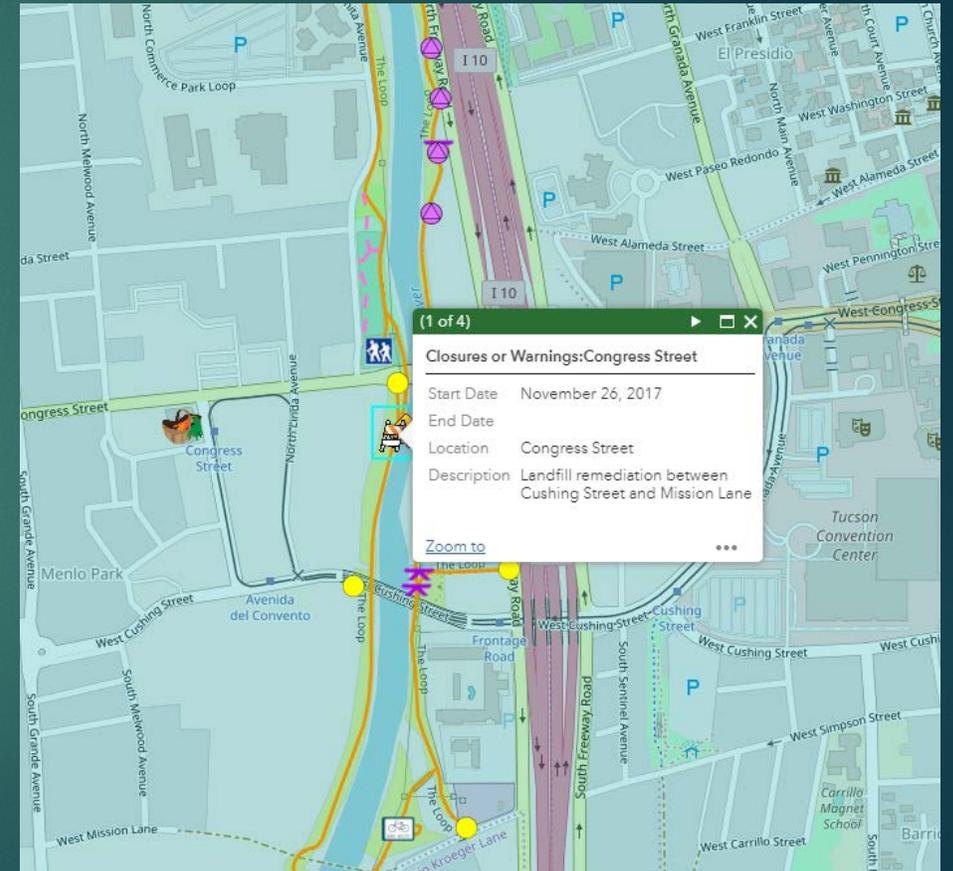
Internal Applications

- ▶ Helping County Departments to work more efficiently by leveraging GIS
 - ▶ Public Safety:
 - ▶ [Loop Emergency Application](#)
 - ▶ Internal Park Management Efficiencies
 - ▶ [Operations Zone Loop Application](#)
 - ▶ Water rights: working across departments and with the State:
 - ▶ [Wells and Stocktanks on NRPR Managed Properties](#)



Public Applications

- ▶ Using GIS to communicate with the Public
 - ▶ [Pima County Parks and Park Amenities](#)
- ▶ Trails to be Rehabilitated to Desert in Tucson Mountain Park
 - ▶ [Tucson Mountain Park Trails](#)
- ▶ Sweetwater Story Application
 - ▶ [Sweetwater](#)
- ▶ River Park Application – Keeping the Public Informed of Loop Events
 - ▶ [The Loop Interactive Map](#)



Future Outreach

- ▶ Application to report Issues:
 - ▶ Tree down on the loop path after a storm
 - ▶ Bee swarm reported
- ▶ Park Events Application
- ▶ Wildlife sighted

