



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



April 13, 2018

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

Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. on April 13, 2018.

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

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 9, 2017 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Proposal to rename The Loop in honor of County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry (Mike Lundin): Chair Lundin informed the commission that this was a proposal that was brought to his attention by a board member asking the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission to rename The Loop in honor of Mr. Chuck Huckelberry. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the proposal in support of renaming it the Chuck Huckelberry Loop, which was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Chesson raised an objection to the proposal stating that it was totally inappropriate to name a facility while he was still County Administrator and was a conflict of interest. He also said that it was a bad precedent to set even though he appreciates what the County Administrator has accomplished. He also stated that this could be done when he has retired. Commissioner Serna asked the Chair whether this proposal was put forth by the Board of Supervisors and was told that it was the District 2 Supervisor. Commissioner Johnson said that this was just a step in the approval process and Commissioner Rivera also said that this was only an advisory commission. Since there was no more discussion, Chair Lundin asked for a vote. Seven commissioners were in favor and the motion carried with one opposition.
2. Informational update on FY 2018/19 Budget (Robert Padilla): Mr. Padilla provided them a snapshot of where NRPR stands on the current budget for the period ending March 31, 2018. He pointed out that revenues are above average at this point due to the increased turnout at the Gilbert Ray Campground due to favorable gas prices as well as a small increase in shooting sports visitors. On the expenditure side, Mr. Padilla informed them that NRPR is on target and is expected to come in on budget. There were no questions on the

current year's budget. Mr. Padilla informed the commission that he and Mr. Cawein would present the 2018/19 budget at next month's budget hearings before the Board of Supervisors. He provided them a summary of the general fund, special revenue fund and grants fund budgets. He informed them that the FTE is not increasing, but the general fund budget is increasing by 2.8% due to a variety of factors. The majority is due to internal service fund adjustments, an example being the Motor Pool/Fleet Service rates, which are increasing. Another increase is in IT services since the IT Department is shifting from leasing computers to purchasing them. In addition to internal service fund adjustments Mr. Padilla informed them that they are receiving funding for operating and maintenance costs for the new Manzanita Splash Pad project that is scheduled to open this summer. Another funding increase the department received was for land management costs under the Section 10 permit. The Special Revenue Fund increased slightly as well. The department has a few grants which are mainly for access to our ranches where NRPR performs periodic erosion control, installation of wildlife drinkers and habitat protection. The major issues faced by the department in 2018/19 are recent salary/grade changes for Lifeguards and the Trades Maintenance series. The department is having difficulty retaining staff and the pay adjustments are necessary however they will cost the department approximately \$174,000. Early indications appear that NRPR will be asked to absorb the increase which may lead to program reductions or elimination. Chair Lundin asked what the commission could do about it because there is also a proposal for a 2.5% pay increase across the board and whether there would be General Fund adjustment for that. Mr. Padilla informed him that for the last two pay adjustments, NRPR had to absorb over \$400,000, thus this a big concern. Mr. Padilla informed them that the County Administrator had informed them that NRPR would receive a base budget adjustment for the proposed 2.5% salary adjustment. The department will continue to discussions with County Administration regarding funding the lifeguard and trades maintenance staff pay adjustments. There were no questions but Chair Lundin commended Mr. Padilla for his work.

3. Informational update on McKenzie Ranch and Tucson Mountain Park Social Trails Project (Steve Anderson): Mr. Anderson apprized the commission about the work on the new trail system at McKenzie Ranch, located near Cienega Creek and Marsh Station Road. The county purchased a 1.1-mile easement to the 1,700-acre property, which took almost two and a half years to get. NRPR also purchased an easement across the UPRR line. Mark Flint and Mr. Anderson designed a trail system for the park. One is a four mile trail – the Hohokam Trail – which can be used by any non-motorized trail user and another – a 10-mile loop trail intended for competitive mountain bicycling. The trails should be completed by the end of the month. The parking lots for event-only parking have also been completed and the entire project is expected to be complete by next month. Mr. Anderson also expects to host the first mountain bicycling event this fall.
Tucson Mountain Park Social Trails – Immediately north of the Tucson Estates subdivision there is a proliferation of social trails some of which require closure and rehabilitation. Social or wildcat trails are made by park users without the knowledge or authorization of the park's management team and are conducted without the benefit of biological or cultural surveys that may threaten certain park resources (biological or archeological) that amateur users do not know exist. Mr. Anderson informed them that the NRPR Trails Team assembled an ad hoc group of representatives from Tucson Estates, three non-profits and NRPR staff. The purpose of the ad hoc committee is to determine the appropriate number of authorized access points to the trail system, elimination and rehabilitation of unsustainable trails and the addition of sustainable system trails. NRPR held two meetings to plan and map the proposed trails and the third map was introduced at the Town Hall Meeting of District 3

Supervisor Sharon Bronson, this past February. The vast majority of the attendees were supportive. Additional meetings will be held in the near future to obtain additional public comments, after which the final map will be drawn. New biological and cultural studies will be conducted after which NRPR will repair the fences, eliminate some unsustainable trails, while keeping the sustainable trails. NRPR hopes the project will be complete by 2020. Chair Lundin asked what is involved in removing a social trail and Mr. Anderson informed him that the trail is ripped and then revegetated. Commissioner Chesson asked what could be done to keep people from using them. Mr. Anderson informed him that adding boulders in trouble areas and signage. Mr. Padilla informed the commissioners that a resource protection sign would be placed where the social trail existed along with a map indicating where the trail continues/resumes. He also asked whether the public could be engaged in protecting the trails, like is done at Sweetwater Preserve. Chair Lundin commented that most people use the social trails innocently and that signage would probably be the best remedy. Commissioner Alexander asked whether closing the social trails would lead to more conflicts, and Mr. Anderson informed him that that would not necessarily happen. Commissioner Chesson inquired about the access points, which Mr. Anderson pointed out to him and explained that there were four in about a one-mile range. Mary Bedore and Gary Moeller spoke on the Tucson Mountain Park (Tucson Estates) trails item.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Gary Moeller, Mary Bedore, Joe LaTourette and Curtis Larson also spoke on the Tucson Mountain Park trails item.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): Update on social trails at Tucson Mountain Park (Tucson Estates)
Environmental impact of trails

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.