



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE
PIMA COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



Notice is hereby given to the Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and to the general public that the **Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission** will hold a meeting, open to the public on **Friday, June 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.** pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02 in the **Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (1st floor conference room), 3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona 85741 (#520 724-5000).**

Public comment will be taken. Members of the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission will attend either in person or by telephone conference call. The Commission will discuss and may take action on the following item/s.

Addendum for June 8, 2018 meeting

(The order of the agenda may be changed to accommodate public comment.)

Naming the new Manzanita Splash Pad, 'The Warden Family Splash Pad'

Posted this day of May 29, 2018, at

<http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=4006>

and at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation located at 3500 W. River Road, Tucson, Arizona.

Pima County does not discriminate based on a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation (such as large print agenda material) by contacting Laura Hinte at 724 5240. Requests should be made at least three business days in advance to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

January 27, 2017

The Bert W. Martin Foundation Board
940 South Orange Avenue, Ste 101
Orlando, FL 32806

Attention: Mr. Chandler Warden, President

Subject: Request for Support for Manzanita Park Splash Pad Development

Dear Mr. Warden and Board Members:

The Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department (NRPR) is requesting your consideration for the Bert W. Martin Foundation to support the development of a new Splash Pad facility at the Winston-Reynolds Manzanita Park, in Pima County.

Pima County is a 9,186 square mile county of approximately 1 million residents, most of whom live in eastern Pima County and which includes the incorporated areas of the City of Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita.

Regional Splash Pads

With over 350 days of sunshine annually and a gorgeous climate (albeit quite hot in the summer months), Pima County is ideal for the development and lengthy seasonal use of recreational water features, especially splash pads. Searching splash pads and splash parks on the internet gives you many hits and photos illustrating the unmitigated joy of kids splashing and playing and getting along with others. Presently there are a number of splash pads in this region, although there are very few that are free and open to the public at no charge. The Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Splash Pad, operated by NRPR, is one of the earliest splash pads that was developed in the region. This facility opened approximately a decade ago and continues to exhibit extreme popularity and demand. This splash pad typically is visited by 400 to 700 users per day during the operating months of April thru October. A few photos of the facility at Brandi Fenton are attached to this proposal. NRPR has continued over time to incrementally develop amenities surrounding the Brandi Fenton Splash Pad, including ramadas and other shaded seating and picnicking areas, as the demand for facility use and such features continues to grow.

The most recent regional splash pad was developed in Marana in 2015 at Heritage Park. Discussions with the town indicate that this facility became extremely popular beginning on Day 1 of operation and is already overwhelmed with users. The Marana splash pad actually has its own Facebook page. Therefore, they are already considering developing a second facility within the town due to the incredible response from the public to their initial splash pad. Other older, no-charge splash pads include small ones with limited amenities at Catalina Park and one at the Marty Birdman Center at Balboa Heights Park within the central portion of Tucson as part of the City of Tucson Parks system. Oro Valley has a splash pad at their Aquatic Center at James D. Kriegh Park but use of this facility requires annual membership or payment of a daily use fee as part of their aquatic center. Other privately operated splash pads in the region such as those at Rancho Sahuarita, the Ott YMCA, Jewish Community Center, and a few resorts, typically allow membership/guest/resident use only.

The main no-fee splash pads are geographically situated in the northern and central portion of the community thus primarily serving residents of central and northern Tucson as well as Marana. The Southeast and southwest portions of eastern Pima County are noticeably devoid of this type of recreational feature. Feedback from the community has constantly been for the development of more splash pads due to their extreme popularity. This Department has received numerous inquiries from residents over the years as to whether any additional splash pads are on the horizon.

The popularity of these features was recognized by the government agencies in the region and the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee who included in the development of a proposed bond package in 2015, a project to develop 10 additional splash pads in the region originally requested for \$7 million in funding. Unfortunately, the entire \$816 million dollar package was rejected by the voters including the embedded proposal for \$4.2 million for additional splash pads (pared down from the original \$7 million). Therefore, due to the lack of funding via bonds, the potential for development of future splash pads had to be delayed until and if other sources of funding could be identified. No new bond election for these types of recreational items is anticipated at any time in the next several years.

Why Manzanita Park

Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation is soliciting funding from your foundation to partner with us to develop a splash pad on the southwest side of the community at the Winston Reynolds Manzanita Park. Other than Brandi Fenton, this would be the second splash pad developed and operated by Pima County NRPR and was considered the highest rated County site for development of a future splash pad in the region.

Manzanita Park is an ideal spot for this new amenity for the following reasons:

- This regional park serves an underserved, stressed and lower income portion of the community. It is located in a designated neighborhood reinvestment area based on significant economic and social need. Investment in the community is recognized as critically important and the desire for reinvestment partnerships is highly valued;
- It is located in an area that is quite distant from the nearest splash pad. Thus it would provide the opportunity for local residents, especially youth, to experience the joy of playing at a splash pad without having to drive or ride significant distances;
- The swimming pool at Manzanita Park, located adjacent to where the splash pad is proposed, is the most popular pool in the County system. Due to Health Code

requirements, it has a maximum capacity of 125 users at a time and that capacity is typically reached within 15 minutes of opening on most operating days. It is commonplace for children who wish to use the pool to wait up to two hours in line until someone leaves and space opens up. A co-located splash pad would relieve the pressure at the pool and dramatically increase the reach and impact of the facility to the community;

- The proposed splash pad is also located adjacent to the Drexel Heights Community Center where after school youth programs are held. Such a recreational amenity would enhance those programs for area youth and ensures the regular and on going presence of County staff at the site to reduce the possibility of vandalism;
- Manzanita Park is located in an area where children are able to walk or bicycle directly to it from nearby neighborhoods and not have to rely on automotive transport to get to the site in many cases;
- The park has a significant amount of available space that is not currently developed with park features. An overview of the park illustrating the relative locations of the Pool, Community Center and Park amenities, as well as the large amount of open space available, is shown in the attached figure. This large amount of available open space allows us to plan for an on-going incremental approach to development of the splash pad and ancillary facilities such as shade structures, picnic ramadas, and additional play facilities and turf areas as public or private funds become available for expanding recreational amenities as the area need continues to grow.

Facility Design

The proposed location for the splash pad at Manzanita Park is illustrated in the attached figure. Existing parking for the Community Center and pool will be utilized although some additional parking is proposed to accommodate the increased use which will inevitably follow the opening of the splash pad. Additionally, some shade structures, including rentable ramadas with picnic tables and a limited turf play area are proposed.

New splash pad facilities such as the one proposed at Manzanita can have significant range in design and cost, typically ranging from a low of \$150,000 for a very minimal splash area to up to \$1 million dollars or more for a larger splash park complex. Obviously the larger the facility and the more features, the higher the cost. The exact design of the proposed Manzanita splash pad facility would be dependent upon the level of support that could be obtained from all available funding sources, but we would propose that the development of the facility and ancillary features would be planned incrementally based on fund availability. It will be critical to develop a baseline facility that meets an anticipated significant initial need but also one which can be expanded when additional sources of public or private funding are identified and as the site demands continue to grow.

Funding Proposal and Request

It is our desire to create a public/private funding partnership with the Bert W. Martin Foundation to build this splash pad facility at Manzanita Park. We have examined residual bond funds from previous County bond elections in 1997 and 2004 that remain unspent and are in the process of requesting from

the Bond Advisory Committee that residuals from those bonds (approximately \$297,000) be directed towards the development of the proposed Manzanita Splash Pad. We believe that due to the popularity of the existing splash pads, the fact that this site was earmarked for a new splash pad in the now-failed 2015 bonds, and that the development is proposed in a target neighborhood reinvestment area presently devoid of such a recreational amenity, that acceptance of this reallocation request is highly likely. This public funding reallocation becomes even more appealing if grant funding from your Foundation also exists so as to result in a fully funded project.

Assuming the approval of this reallocation of funds and acceptance of this by the County Board of Supervisors, funding participation from the Bert W. Martin Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 would jointly create an initial base development fund of nearly \$550,000 for the development of the Manzanita Splash Pad. We believe that this is an acceptable amount of funding to develop a great splash pad with basic supporting amenities at Manzanita Park. Additionally, due to the fact that this site is located in a target neighborhood reinvestment area, additional future investment of government grant funds to enhance the basic splash pad, such as Community Development Block Grants, appears to be inevitable. Such a contribution by the Foundation would leverage limited available public dollars in a significant and meaningful way to advance the development of a high quality splash pad at Manzanita Park which would be available for the enjoyment of residents in the community for decades to come.

Schedule

Should the \$250,000 funding request be approved by your Foundation, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation would propose to initiate the project to develop the Manzanita Splash Pad project in the spring of 2017. This will also occur after the bond fund reallocation process has been completed, anticipated to be finalized in March 2017. Periodic status reports would be provided to the Foundation to keep you updated on the project progress. Additionally, as the major private contributor to this project, we would wish to extend an invite to a member of the Foundation Board to attend the groundbreaking for the project. Completion of the site construction activities and a grand opening of this facility would be expected for the spring of 2018, in time to open up for the warmer months. Should the Bert W. Martin Foundation be unable to fund the proposed project, we would most likely not be able to proceed with this project until likely well into the future when other sources of funding could be identified and secured.

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department sincerely appreciates your time and consideration of this important project for the community. The impacts of this project will be extensive and on-going for many decades. First and foremost, it will be beneficial to the physical and mental health and wellness of the youth of our community, especially for those living in the underserved, higher stress areas of the community near Manzanita Park. Many of these kids and young adults need fun and exciting outdoor recreational activities to pull them away from the world of electronic devices or to prevent them from descending into other less healthful activities. The proposed splash pad and the additional amenities, such as shade structures, picnicking and seating areas also help to bring together family and friends in order to help build the local community. I can think of no better way to positively and meaningfully impact this community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions on our proposed project or requested level of funding support. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher C. Cawein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Christopher C. Cawein, Director
Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation

Attachments