



# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



March 15, 2019

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 March 15, 2019.

Commissioners present were Michael Lundin, Chair, Jan Johnson, Vice Chair, Damion Alexander, Enrique Serna, Richard Barker, Anita Kellman, Carol Kovalik and Robert Owens. Peter Chesson and Victor Rivera were absent.

Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Karen Simms, Len Altieri, Martina Gonzales, Steve Daigle, Kate Harrison and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

## Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 11, 2019 minutes. The motion passed.

## COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Chuck Catino Award nominations: Commissioner Kovalik asked whether any of the nominees had been previously nominated and was informed that they had not been. Commissioner Johnson nominated Mr. Chuck Hill and was seconded by Commissioner Kellman, however Commissioner Owens nominated Mr. Dean Yoesting and was seconded by Commissioner Serna. Chair Lundin asked Commissioner Owens why he had nominated Mr. Yoesting and he replied that considering all the work Mr. Yoesting had done at Canoa, especially cataloging and creating an inventory database, coordinating and recruiting volunteers and tirelessly working behind the scenes made him very worthy of the honor. Commissioner Johnson told the commission that in reviewing Mr. Hill's paperwork she felt it made him stand out. Chair Lundin asked for a vote to decide the nomination. Mr. Hill received five votes and Mr. Yoesting received two. The nomination was decided in favor of Mr. Hill.
2. Kino/36<sup>th</sup> Street Park Naming: Chair Lundin informed the commission that the Kino/36<sup>th</sup> Street Park was the county's first attempt at an urban open space park. It was purchased utilizing 2004 Bonds. The park is a buffer between the neighborhood and the development around it. Supervisor Valadez was looking to name the park and asked the community and the neighboring schools to come up with names for the park. The names were put out for a public vote and the commission has now been asked to choose between the top five. The top two were Desert Haven and Desert Oasis. Chair Lundin thought Desert Oasis was the most apt name. After considering the top weighted score which was Desert Haven, Commissioner

Alexander voted to name it Desert Haven, which was seconded by Commissioner Owens. All were in favor and it was decided that the park would be named Desert Haven Natural Resources Park. Commissioner Kovalik asked what would be the next step. Chair Lundin explained that they would probably contact Utterback Middle School which suggested the name to let them know the results. Mr. Cawein informed the commission that this land had been acquired for approximately \$750,000 and Tucson Electric Power, which needed land for a sub-station purchased approximately ¼ of the park for \$1.1 million. NRPR also worked with them and they have agreed to fund maintenance of the park @\$30,000 per year for the next ten years, making it a good deal for the county. Commissioner Johnson asked whether it was in a needed area and was informed that it was as five schools are located within three miles of the park. Commissioner Alexander pointed out that the University of Arizona Tech Park is also in the area.

3. Informational update from the Recreation Division:

(a) Mr. Len Altieri: Mr. Altieri gave a presentation to the commission about NRPR's fields and usage, including statistics on the number and types of fields and whether they were lighted or not. He informed them that NRPR conducts two League Representative Meetings during the year which assists in allotting field time between all user groups. He also informed them about the different field user groups and sports played. Commissioner Alexander asked whether there were enough fields and Mr. Altieri informed him that he tried to accommodate as many as he could and is trying to improve the allocation process. Commissioner Alexander also asked about the new fields that are presently being constructed near Kino. He was informed that those were part of the Stadium District. Chair Lundin remarked that the fields looked wonderful even though it is the winter season. Mr. Altieri informed him that the Operations Division has a comprehensive maintenance schedule for the fields. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether this was done similar to the airlines where they are booked at 125% and whether when we get to that point we have to look at regional growth for new fields. Chair Lundin informed her that the problem was the funding needed for that and that NRPR is not a self-sustaining organization considering the fees charged do not cover even maintenance and operation. The main funding previously were Bond packages and NRPR does not have the funds required. Mr. Cawein informed her that NRPR has created a regional approach and is working closely with the City of Tucson, the Town of Marana and the Town of Sahuarita. There are approximately 200 fields in the area and it is a matter of optimizing the system and NRPR is trying to create a better program to manage and allocate fields. Thus the user meetings previously mentioned are very important in getting the users to understand what the limitations are. Regarding whether more fields are needed, Mr. Cawein informed them that depended on who you were talking to as different groups wanted more fields for their sports. Mr. Cawein informed them that NRPR is in the process of gathering more data for informed decisions. He also informed them that NRPR does not have the funding for more fields, but the City recently received voter approval to expand and build more parks. Commissioner Johnson

asked whether the county could work in other areas and whether they were allowed to do so. Chair Lundin said that this was a region-wide effort to utilize the fields and Commissioner Johnson asked whether they could use other jurisdictions. Mr. Altieri informed them that they could but that most vied for the prime time slots between 5 pm and 10 pm. Commissioner Johnson asked whether the teams pay and Mr. Altieri explained the fees charged. Commissioner Kovalik and Commissioner Alexander said they appreciated the logistics. Mr. Padilla informed the commission that the County has numerous unlit fields and before building any new fields the County should light existing unlit fields which would increase utilization. He also informed them that the metrics used to allocate them are difficult to ascertain since the youth groups that have been using them for a long time are possessive about them. Also NRPR does not charge a base fee thus sometime the fields are booked but not always used as there is no penalty for doing so. Hence, Mr. Padilla and Mr. Cawein are considering charging a base fee which would probably incentivize users to return the fields if they are not using them. He also informed them that they have also been working with the City of Tucson, which also does not charge a base fee, while all the other jurisdictions do. He said that he will bring this matter before the commission at a later date. Commissioner Kellman said that all businesses use that model as well and that she saw no problem in going in that direction. Chair Lundin agreed that the fee charged would not be unaffordable as well. Commissioner Alexander asked about the kids who would not be able to afford them and could there be scholarships or subsidies for them. Chair Lundin said they could look at metrics and if an organization serves a certain portion of disadvantaged youth they could be given discounts. Mr. Cawein said they were also looking at the club fee paradigm versus those with volunteer coaches in the Little Leagues and Youth Soccer organizations. There was no further discussion.

- (b) Ms. Martina Gonzales thanked the commission for commenting positively on the turf and commended Mr. Dean Rush who is responsible for that. She informed them that she is in charge of permitting for special events like horse racing, music festivals, dog shows, festivals and many others at Mike Jacob Sportspark and Rillito Park. She provided them some background on what she has accomplished. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether Sportspark was now open and was advised that it was. Chair Lundin asked whether NRPR was still managing Sportspark and Ms. Gonzales informed him that she manages the property and works with three vendors, one is the BMX track operator, the food and beverage concessionaire and another vendor who manages the leagues part of it. At present NRPR manages the buildings and fields with the help of the vendors. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether Ms. Gonzales managed the fields when a league wants to play and was informed that the league vendor managed that aspect. Chair Lundin asked whether this model was working and was informed that it was working better than under the previous vendors. He also asked whether NRPR intended to go back to the old model and Mr. Cawein informed him that they were in discussion right now, but were not in any hurry to do so. He informed them that the last operator did not invest in the site and moved away. NRPR has invested almost \$1.75 million dollars of

which \$1 million was from ADOT for right of way acquired for Ina Road expansion. Commissioner Kovalik asked when NRPR thought that this money would be recouped and was informed that there was nothing specific at this point. Mr. Cawein explained that what he was looking at in the partnership model is the routine and recurring expenses NRPR has to put into the site and what NRPR will get out of that. He also informed them that NRPR has a minimal cost recovery program and more of a public service, though this site is different and we do recover some money from it. Regarding the capital investment, that is something difficult to recoup. Commissioner Kovalik wanted to clarify that there were three vendors on site, and that they paid a portion of the fees they are pulling in. Chair Lundin informed her that recouping capital investment costs for Parks does not tend to happen. There were no further questions.

4. Informational update regarding NRPR's budget: Mr. Padilla provided the commissioners a three-page snapshot of NRPR's financial summary. The first page is a summary for FY 17/18, and Mr. Padilla informed them that NRPR's revenues were up, \$304,684.00 above budget, and expenditures came under budget by \$135,404.00. This represents less than 1% which is typically our target. The variance on the last line showed that NRPR benefited the General Fund by \$476,088.00. The second page shows NRPR's revenue and expenditures through the end of February 2019 and NRPR is right on target with respect to meeting its revenue and expense obligations by fiscal year end. Mr. Padilla informed them that on a straight line basis, we are slightly under budget by 5% since there is a slowdown in the winter with subsequent pickup in spring getting ready for our summer programs. Chair Lundin asked whether that was why he thought the capital expenses would increase. Mr. Padilla explained that NRPR had already ordered the equipment, but it takes a long time to arrive. The third page of the handout was a memorandum from Mr. Huckelberry regarding the Parks Renewal Fund. He informed them that the current fiscal year was the first year that county administration had provided NRPR a separate fund of \$750,000 to address the deferred maintenance backlog, and Mr. Cawein was chiefly responsible for achieving this. Mr. Padilla provided them examples of the projects that will be carried out with these funds. Mr. Padilla informed them that NRPR had given Mr. Huckelberry a list of park projects totaling \$1.5 million for consideration for FY 2019/20. He also informed them that he is hoping that Mr. Huckelberry will continue to address those needs for the next ten years. Commissioner Alexander asked about whether the donation website was up and Mr. Padilla informed him that those donations could not be used for deferred maintenance needs. Mr. Cawein informed him that he had the option of donating to specific projects. Commissioner Serna asked whether NRPR could provide a map that showed a list of the fields and services available by Supervisor Districts. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether it was only the fields or some of the maintenance work being carried out, but Commissioner Serna only wanted the fields and services available to see if the distribution was equitable. Chair Lundin asked whether it was only for the county or if it needed to include City of Tucson facilities as well. He pointed out that some like Districts 2 and 5 are also under the City's jurisdiction which would skew the map. Mr. Cawein said there is some value in not only considering this department, but other jurisdictions as well. He informed them that he would try to get

the GIS from the City as well and that would show major infrastructure elements like pools, community centers, ball fields and others. Commissioner Kovalik said that this could be used to show results and needs as well. Mr. Cawein informed them that they had to remember that the paradigm had shifted from bonds being a major source of funding which required the county to buy and install a lot of things all at one time, and then 20 years later there is a problem when there are no bond funds to replace them. Thus NRPR has been trying to prioritize the needs as well as scavenging some of the older equipment when possible, and then every year try to replace some of it. He informed them that NRPR had been doing this long before the deferred maintenance funds were provided. Commissioner Kovalik said that this was something that could be used to highlight NRPR's achievements. There were no more questions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: The following persons addressed the Commission:

Ms. Carol Kovalik  
Mr. Curt Larson

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

Update on Colossal Cave Mountain Park (Diane Frisch, A&T)  
2019 Rillito Racing Season (Diane Frisch, A&T)

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



# Pima County NRPR

FIELD RESERVATIONS AND FIELD USE SUMMARY

# NRPR Field Inventory – Field Types

- ▶ Pima County fields are grouped into two type of fields.
- ▶ Diamond Shaped and Rectangle Shaped fields.

# NRPR Field Inventory - Rectangle

- ▶ There are 21 Dedicated Rectangle Shaped fields.
- ▶ 15 Dedicated Rectangle Shaped fields are lighted.

# NRPR Field Inventory - Diamond

- ▶ There are 66 Diamond Shaped fields.
- ▶ 27 fields are designated softball fields.
- ▶ 39 fields are designated baseball fields.
- ▶ 42 Diamond shaped fields are lighted.

# NRPR Field Inventory – Lighted Diamond fields

- ▶ There are 17 lighted Softball fields.
- ▶ There are 25 lighted Baseball fields.

# Field Reservation Process

- ▶ Pima County NRPR conducts two League Representative meetings.
- ▶ The Fall-Winter League Representatives meeting is held in May.
- ▶ The Spring-Summer League Representatives meeting is held in November.
- ▶ All potential user groups and individual are encouraged to attend the League Representative Meetings.

# Field User Groups & Sports

- ▶ Adult Football
- ▶ Adult Rugby
- ▶ Adult Soccer
- ▶ Adult Softball
- ▶ Adult Ultimate Frisbee
- ▶ Club Baseball – Youth
- ▶ Club Baseball – Adult
- ▶ Club Softball
- ▶ Little League Baseball/Softball
- ▶ PCJSL Soccer
- ▶ Tucson Youth Football and Spirit Federation – Youth Football

# User Groups Tally 2018

- ▶ There were 44 individual field user groups during the Spring-Summer 2018 season.
- ▶ There were 50 individual field user groups during the Fall-Winter 2018-19 season.

# Who uses the Fields?

























# Sports Tournaments/Sport Events

- ▶ AYSO Old Pueblo Invitational Soccer Tournament (February)
- ▶ Arizona State Lacrosse (February and March)
- ▶ Pima Cup
- ▶ CDO Soccer Club Soccer Tournament
- ▶ Western Regional Junior Girls Softball Tournament
- ▶ Tucson Steelers –TYFSF Football Scrimmages
- ▶ Tucson Youth Football & Spirit Federation Jamboree
- ▶ FC Tucson Fundraiser
- ▶ Ultimate Frisbee Tournament – ADULT
- ▶ FC Tucson Annual Soccer Tournament

# Pima County NRPR

Special Events hosted by Tucson  
Community event organizers

&

Mike Jacob Sports Park

# Special Events

- ▶ Permits created by NRPR in 2017 = 395
- ▶ Permits created by NRPR in 2018 = 335
- ▶ Permits created by NRPR in 2019 so far = 102
  
- ▶ Permits created consist of: Right of Entries, Filming, Amplified Sound, Food Cart/Trucks, Corporate events with sports, Fund-raisers, Company Picnic, Run, Walks, Biking, Concerts.
  
- ▶ Following pages have a brief description of a few events with pictures.

Celtic Festival, 2017  
Participation: 3,909 paid admission



# Dusk Music Festival, 2017

Participation: 6,107 paid admission



# Canyon del Oro & Madera Kennel Clubs Dog Show, 2018

Participation: 256 registered



# Sabroso Music Festival, 2018

Participation: 6,119 paid admission



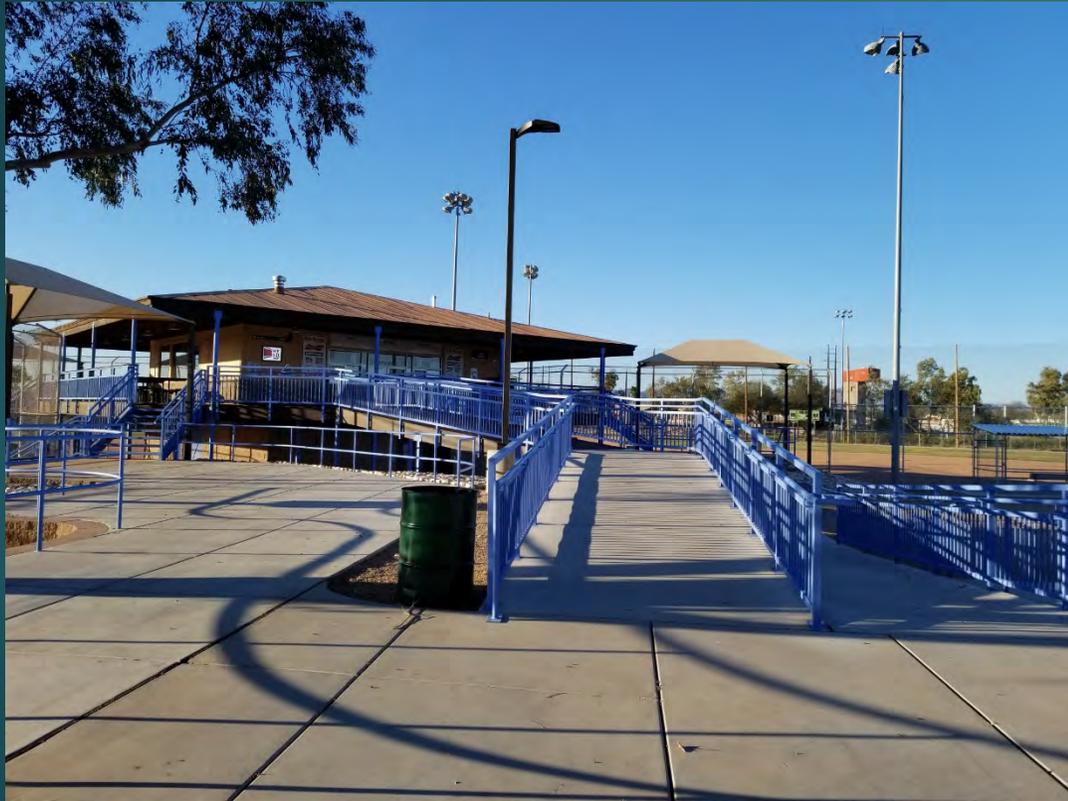
Mike Jacob Sports Park, 2019  
Adult softball league: 83 teams  
Adult volleyball league: 63 teams  
Tournaments: 3



# Demolition of asphalt and ramps to pubs



# New ramps and sidewalks at the park!



# New irrigational lines for volleyball & fields



# New ADA restrooms at the north side



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- ▶ Questions, Concerns, Comments, Advise
  - ▶ Thank you for your time!