



**PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS
AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**



January 10, 2020
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 January 10, 2020.

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

Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Neil Stitzer, Ron Odell, Michael Stewart, Joe Barr, Matt Smogor, Kate Harrison, Tom Burklow, Brian Powell, Julie Strom and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 8, 2019 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Commissioner Alexander introduced Mr. Bob Logan to the commission and Mr. Odell introduced Mr. Mike Stewart. Mr. Logan thanked Mr. Stewart, who came to Mr. Logan's aid at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park on August 19, 2019. After Mr. Stewart found him in distress he called an ambulance and Mr. Logan was taken to Tucson Medical Center. There he found out he had a serious heart blockage and he said Mr. Stewart's actions saved his life.
2. Commissioner Alexander informed the commission that e-bikes are increasingly found on the Loop and the County's policy is no motorized vehicles or devices. E-bikes are often used by people with physical limitations and those afraid of using the bike lanes on streets. They find the Loop a safer environment. On the other side are pedestrians who cite concerns about unsafe riders speeding past. Chair Lundin decided to allow the public to speak at this point.

The speakers were:

Mark Flint
Mona White-Ortega
Linda Livingston
James Terlep
James Lorentzen (Pedego)

Michael Mucker
Evan Pilling
Ken Montaney (Sabino Cycles)
Michael Garcia

The commission received several letters and emails from several constituents voicing their opposition to e-bikes. Commissioner Kovalik wanted clarification about the classes of e-bikes and whether the bikes had to be pedaled constantly and Commissioner Alexander informed her there were three classes of e-bikes. Class I does not go if you don't pedal, Class II has a throttle and Class III has no throttle but you have to pedal. The first two have speeds reaching 20 mph and Class III can reach 28 mph. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether it was true that the park rules had not yet been adopted. Mr. Cawein assured her that the Board of Supervisors recently adopted the rules as proposed in 2000. He also informed her that this was enforceable under park rule 1.070 which states that 'it shall be unlawful to enter, use or occupy public parks or recreation areas under supervision and control of NRPR for any purpose when said parks or areas are posted against such entrance, use or occupancy'. Mr. Cawein informed them that there had been discussions with the county attorney, about updating the park rules to include new technologies. NRPR wants to be as inclusive as possible. Mr. Cawein also mentioned that there was no voice today from pedestrians using the Loop especially in more congested areas. Mr. Cawein also informed them that included in the signage are allowances for people with disabilities stating that ADA compliant vehicles and devices are exempt from this rule. Mr. Cawein informed them that apart from e-bikes there are several other motorized devices like skateboards and scooters and that he had worked with the County Administration, the attorney's office as well as risk management trying to figure out how to deal with the emerging technologies. He also informed them that use on some of the single track trails would not be safe or appropriate, considering their speed and weight. Early Loop development was designed for bikers not to exceed 12 mph. Equestrians, now rarely use it due to congestion. He stated that 95% of complaints are from pedestrians about conflicts. Chair Lundin asked whether the adopted park rules had any distinction about motorized and non-motorized use. Mr. Cawein informed him that there was signage at every authorized entry point all along the Loop stating that motorized vehicles and devices were not allowed. Mr. Cawein informed them he is worried about the consequences since it is hard to tell the difference. Two e-bikes were brought in and the commissioners realized it was very hard to recognize them as they looked like regular bikes. Commissioner Alexander demonstrated their use for the commission, including how silent they were. Commissioner Rivera asked about the cost and was told it could range from \$1,500 to \$15,000. Commissioner Alexander stated that he was not pro e-bike, but just wanted to acknowledge that the technology was already here and would like the commission to advise the Board of Supervisors and come up with rules for reasonable use both on trails and the Loop. Commissioner Kellman asked what the real concerns were and she was told that these bikes were heavier thus collisions were more dangerous. Also, unskilled people could put themselves and others at risk. Commissioner Serna asked about the legal consequences. Mr. Cawein informed him that there are two issues, so using a blanket rule that prohibits motorized devices prevent NRPR going down a slippery slope to allow more of these devices. If the Board decided to allow their use, there would be more and more devices in use as technology improved. Second issue is enforcement. NRPR is working with Risk Management to accommodate as many people as possible safely. Mr. Cawein informed them that the pedestrians are not very well organized to come in and discuss this issue. NRPR has spoken to some bike tour companies and informed them that no permits would be issued for e-bikes. Commissioner Johnson inquired if equestrians were still permitted and Commissioner Alexander told her that when there were too many bikers and pedestrians the experience was not pleasant. Commissioner

Alexander asked whether anyone else was addressing this issue and was informed by Mr. Cawein that the Loop Advisory Committee (LAC), appointed by the County Administrator, has been discussing this. However so far there has been no consensus. Chair Lundin said that since the LAC was working on this they may be better suited to address this issue than the Parks Commission, especially when it concerned the Loop. Mr. Cawein informed them that the reason it was created was because of user conflicts. Commissioner Alexander said that the reason he asked for this agenda item was that there would have to be an ordinance to address e-bike use in the community. Chair Lundin said that the commission could ask the LAC to have a discussion and analysis of this and propose that decision to the Board of Supervisors, and if that incorporated trails, it would return to the Parks Advisory Commission to have those discussions before making a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to create a sub-committee to address use of all motorized devices on County properties. Chair Lundin asked that the sub-committee work with the LAC to have public discussions. The motion was accepted and seconded. All were in favor. Commissioners Kovalik and Kellman asked to be included in the sub-committee. Chair Lundin stated that it would be a three member sub-committee. All were in favor. There were no further questions or discussion.

3. Follow up on Rillito Racing: Ms. Diane Frisch could not attend, so Mr. Robert Padilla informed the commission that as of December 11, 2019, Rillito Racing had paid the utility bills and attendance fees in full. Commissioner Kovalik was concerned that they were not adhering to their contract. Mr. Cawein informed them that Rillito Racing was still in arrears for \$100K in capital improvements. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether their contract would be cancelled and was informed that the contract was still valid until 2021 but if the contract obligations were not met the contract would not be renewed. Commissioner Kovalik also asked whether Attractions and Tourism was responsible for the contract and was informed that it was. There were no more questions.
4. Informational update on NRPR's Volunteer Program: Ms. Julie Strom briefed the commission regarding the volunteer program for NRPR. She informed them that all the divisions used to work separately, but there is an effort to integrate them all. She also showed them NRPR's website where volunteers can send in an application and indicate programs that are of interest to them so they can be appropriately directed to the different divisions. She informed them that there was an estimated value of \$477,169 in volunteer service contributions for FY 2019. Mr. Brian Powell informed the commission that this helps when asking for grant funding on the state and federal level in terms of matching funds. There were no more questions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Curt Larson

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

Rillito Racetrack

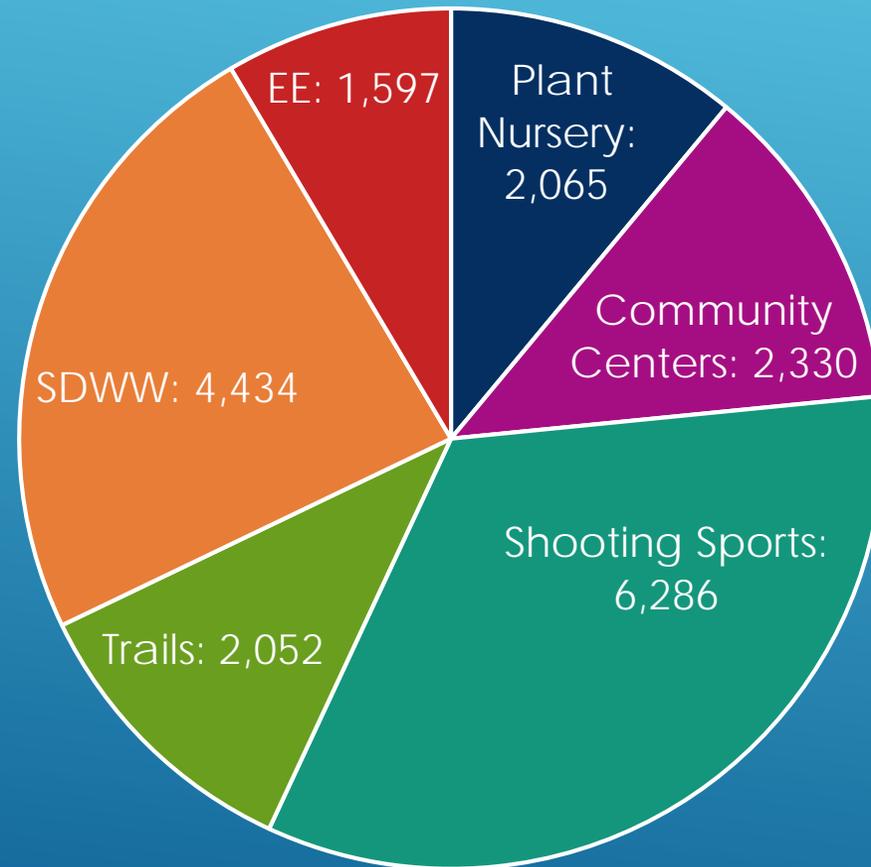
Nomenclature regarding naming of parks, trails parks and natural resource parks

Update from the NRPR Loop Sub-committee

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

NRPR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FY18/19

18,764 SERVICE HOURS



...an estimated value of \$477,169

NRPR Volunteer Categories

Long-term/Dedicated – Event/Project/Drop-in – Community Partner Groups



Long-Term or Dedicated Volunteer Positions

Community Centers

There are a variety of seasonal volunteer opportunities working at Pima County swimming pools and community centers, including the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. Volunteers assist with answering customer inquiries, filing, answering phone calls, assisting with preschool, school age youth and senior programs.

Training - Complete training required for specific volunteer position. Participate in training onsite and volunteers meetings.

Safety/Risk Management - Volunteers are supervised by Program Staff and liability covered through Pima County Risk Management/Workers' Compensation. Community Center volunteers are required to be finger printed and have background checks at Pima County's expense.

Time Commitment - 8 hours per month for at least one year.

Long-Term or Dedicated Volunteer Positions

Shooting Sports

Line Safety Officers (LSO), Assistant Range Masters, and Cashiers work side by side with staff to manage Southeast Regional Park Shooting Range, Southeast Archery Range, and Southeast Clay Target Center, Tucson Mountain Park Rifle and Pistol Range.

Training - All Shooting Sports Volunteers are trained using Standard Operating Procedures and are required to operate in the scope of the same. All Shooting Sports Volunteers participate in a 2 to 4-hour Line Safety Officer Course.

Safety/Risk Management - Volunteers are supervised by Program Staff and liability covered through Pima County Risk Management/Workers' Compensation.

Time Commitment - Shooting Sports Volunteers are encouraged to commit to 10 service hours a month. There is required training with an initial 2 to 4-hour training course. Additional training may be required dependent on the position and the facility.

Long-Term or Dedicated Volunteer Positions

Environmental Education

Tour Guides Agua Caliente Park and Historic Canoa Ranch, Volunteer Naturalists, School and Youth Program, Speakers' Bureau, Wildlife Camera-Citizen Science volunteers, assist with all aspects of EE program delivery, visitor interactions, and office work.

Training - Complete training required for specific volunteer position. Participate in continuing education sessions, trainings, volunteer meetings, and/or field trips.

Safety/Risk Management - Volunteers are supervised by Program Staff and liability covered through Pima County Risk Management/Workers' Compensation.

Time Commitment - All EE volunteer positions request a time commitment of 1-8 hours per month.

Event – Project – Drop-in Volunteers

Volunteers electing to serve in these categories:

- Have no specific time commitment
- Are offered onsite orientation and training
- Sign a liability release form and provide name and contact information for each event or day of volunteer work

Native Plant Nursery welcomes volunteers to “drop-in” to assist with care of nursery plants and working on projects.

Trails - Volunteer trail projects include new trail construction, trail and trailhead maintenance, sign installation, and rehabilitation of old trails and roads no longer in use. Work is physically strenuous; volunteers should be in good physical condition and able to hike on uneven terrain.

Sonoran Desert Weedwackers is a volunteer group dedicated to removing infestations of buffelgrass, fountain grass and other invasive plants found in the Tucson Mountains and other natural areas in Pima County. Volunteers should be in good physical shape and able to hike on uneven terrain.

Community Partners in Pima County Parks



There are several community groups, agencies, and partners that team with NRPR to plan and implement on the ground projects and volunteer events.

A few examples: Tucson Clean and Beautiful, Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists, Green Valley Gardeners, Friends of Agua Caliente Park, Friends of the Canoas

NRPR Volunteer Program Integration

Any successful volunteer program requires significant staff support.

Over the past few months, staff have been working to better integrate the various volunteer activities at the department and re-tool the public facing web-pages.

This work is ongoing:

- Inventory and assess existing volunteer recruitment, management, record keeping, communications and reporting, and volunteer recognition.
- Establish standardized volunteer agreements and process for documenting and recognizing dedicated volunteer and partner service contributions.

- Updates were made to the **Volunteer with NRPR** webpages just in time for the New Year.
- Navigate to
 - www.pima.gov/nrpr
 - Select Volunteer with NRPR
- Tabs for major program areas
- Each tab has
 - volunteer position descriptions
 - contact phone number
 - contact email
 - application form

PIMA COUNTY

Recreation | Health | Development | Business | Community | Environment | Government

Pima County » Government » Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation » Volunteer with Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation

Volunteer with Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation

Environmental Ed | Canoa Ranch | Trails/Parks Projects | Plant Nursery | **Recreation** | Shooting S

Recreation/Community Center Volunteer Opportunities

There are a variety of seasonal volunteer opportunities working at Pima County swimming pools and community centers, including the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. Community Center Volunteers assist with a multitude of tasks due to the broad nature of the programs and services offered. We are customer service based; therefore, there is a range of volunteer opportunities from assisting with answering customer inquiries, filing, answering phone calls, assisting the public, assisting with preschool programs, school age youth programs, senior programs, room reservations and Staff taught Enrichment Classes. Community Center Volunteers participate in an orientation, are asked to commit to at least 8-hours per month, and develop a consistent volunteer schedule with the Center Coordinator.

[Complete Description](#)

For information contact Program Manager, [Kelly Cheeseman](#) or at 724-5208

[Volunteer Application](#)

For Volunteer Opportunities in other Pima County Departments Visit [Volunteer with Pima County](#)

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
3500 W. River Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
(520) 724-5000

- Department Home
- Department News
- County Directory
- Send Department Feedback
- Calendar
- Make a Reservation
- Search Maps
- Boards, Commissions & Committees



Volunteer Application

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you over 18? Yes No If No, year of birth _____

See the NRPR Volunteer position descriptions online www.pima.gov/nrpr

Check all boxes that apply:

Shooting Sports – Multiple locations Pima County and Tucson Area

Range Safety Officers Cashier/Clerical Support

Community Centers – Multiple locations Pima County and Tucson Area

Program Assistant Front Desk/Clerical Assistant Ajo - Youth Sports Coach

Outdoor: Environmental Education and Public Programs – Pima County and Tucson Area

Tour Guide School Program Assistant Birding Guide/Naturalist
 Events Tabling Wildlife Camera Assistant Speaker's Bureau

Outdoor: Environmental Education and Public Programs – Green Valley Area

Historic Canoa Ranch – 5375 S. I-19 Frontage Road, Green Valley, AZ 85622

Tour Guide Greeter/Exhibit Monitor School Program Assistant
 Birding Guide/Naturalist Events Tabling

Outdoor and Physically Active Projects – Pima County, Tucson and Green Valley Area

Trails Native Plant Nursery Sonoran Desert Weedwackers
 Habitat Restoration Campground Hosts/Site Stewards
 Landscape/Gardening Assistant Site Restoration (restore historic structures)
 Other _____
 Please contact me to discuss volunteering with Pima County

For more information or questions: Environmental Education Office (520) 724-5375 or email eeducation@pima.gov **Mail to:** Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, 3500 W. River Road, Tucson, Arizona 85741 To submit electronically using Internet Explorer:

Submit Form