A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Quorum having been established, in the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Jan Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Commissioners present: Jan Johnson, Chuck Catino, Anita Kellman, Victor Rivera, Richard Barker, Peter Chesson, Thomas Drzazgowski and James Mazzocco. Commissioner Lisa Ulher was absent.

Staff present: Rafael Payan, Carlo DiPilato, Kerry Baldwin, Joe Barr, Evelyne Thorpe, and Ann Khambholja

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the January 8, 2011, victims.

B. Mr. Thomas J. Drzazgowski and Mr. James L. Mazzocco, the new District 1 commissioners were introduced to the commission.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

E. CONSENT AGENDA: For consideration and approval

   1. Motioned and seconded, the October 8, 2010, Minutes were approved unanimously.

   2. Reelection of officers: Motioned, seconded, and passed unanimously, the new slate of officers are: Jan Johnson, Chair; Anita Kellman, Vice Chair; and Richard Barker, Secretary.

F. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

   1. Ms. Ainsley Legner, Director of the Oro Valley Parks, Recreation, Library and Cultural Resources Department, made a presentation on the proposed naming of a little league baseball field situated at James Kreigh Park for Christina-Taylor Green. Christina, the youngest victim of the shooting incident in Tucson on January 8, 2011, was a member of the CDO Little League and the town wished to honor her memory by renaming a field after her. The Town of Oro Valley’s Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on February 15, 2011, to discuss and act on the recommendation. If approved, the field will be publicly dedicated on the opening day of the Little League’s season. A vote of support was taken by the commission and was unanimously approved. The commission will send a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors and the Town of Oro Valley.
3. Mr. Dave Hicks, Executive Director of the Arizona Trail Association, told the commission about how helpful Gabe Zimmerman had been in getting the Arizona Trail designated as a National Scenic Trail. He proposed naming a trailhead on the Arizona Trail in his memory and for those that perished in the January 8, 2011, shooting. The association had requested the Honorable Supervisor Richard Elias for permission to rename the Davidson Canyon Trailhead at Cienega Creek for Gabe Zimmerman. A vote of support was taken by the commission and unanimously approved. Letters of support will be sent to the Arizona Trail Association and Pima Trails Association. Commissioner Catino wanted to know if the letters of support would also be sent to the Board of Supervisors and was assured that they would be. Commissioner Chesson inquired as to the present name of the trailhead and whether it was named for a historic reason. He was informed that the trailhead was named after the adjacent Davidson Canyon, and the new name would incorporate this as well as the proposed name was the Davidson Canyon–Gabe Zimmerman Memorial Trailhead.

4. Ms. Jenni Johnson, representing the Tucson National Estates Improvement Association, spoke to the commission about their proposal to name a stretch of the Cañada del Oro Linear River trail from La Cholla Boulevard to Thornydale Road in memory of Christina-Taylor Green. The Green family regularly used the river path and the homeowners association wished to rename this portion as the Cañada del Oro Christina-Taylor Green Memorial River Park. A vote of support was taken by the commission and unanimously approved.

5. Mr. Kerry Baldwin told the commission that NRPR had hosted a public open house in December of 2010 on proposed changes to the archery hunting closure areas in Tucson Mountain Park. The Arizona Game and Fish and NRPR have been working on a proposal to update closure areas based on local resident concerns of trespassing and to minimize current and future conflicts between hunters and adjacent property owners. The homeowners are in favor of the proposal that will standardize safety and buffer zones a quarter mile away from residences, trails, the Gilbert Ray Campground, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. NRPR will present a second proposal in the spring and will keep the commission informed regarding the process prior to submitting a modification of park regulations as an action item for the commission’s approval.

6. Mr. Baldwin updated the commission about the 2011 Saguaro BioBlitz. Saguaro National Park, bordering Tucson Mountain Park, has been named the host site for the 2011 National Park Service/National Geographic BioBlitz, scheduled for October 21-22, 2011. Part scientific endeavor, part festival, and part outdoor classroom, BioBlitz is a two-day celebration of biodiversity centered on a 24-hour race to count species of flora and fauna. During the BioBlitz, teams of scientists, school children, and the general public work together to find and identify as many species as possible. Mr. Baldwin told the commission that this event will offer a great opportunity for thousands of people in the greater Tucson area to explore and learn about species across the park’s mountains, cactus forests, and riparian areas like never before and that since Tucson Mountain Park borders Saguaro Park (West), they were expecting more visitors than usual.
7. Mr. Baldwin presented a report to the commission regarding Park Designations which recommended designating parks into two general categories: urban parks (consisting of all community centers, swimming pools, playground areas, and sports fields) and natural resource parks (open spaces, ranches, mountain parks, preserve areas). He will be providing the commission with a draft in about a month’s time. Commissioner Chesson asked how rules would be enforced in various areas. He was told that rules would be posted. Commissioner Johnson wanted to know how law enforcement would know what was to be enforced. Mr. Baldwin explained that the posted rules would inform as to what was allowed, what was prohibited; thus what was posted would be enforceable.

8. Mr. Joe Barr told the commission that staff recommended eliminating the Parks and Recreation Commission’s sub-committee process and the 30-day public notification process. However, Commissioners Johnson and Barker thought that it was already a rule that the commission had to recommend and vote on naming/re-naming prior to being sent to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Chesson was of the opinion that the process should not be instantaneous and that six months was not onerous; however it could be on a case by case basis. Commissioner Barker prefers to review and vote on any proposals for naming/re-naming parks, facilities, and open space. Commissioner Mazzocco moved to re-evaluate the process and re-establish the process. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Chesson, and was carried. Messrs. Barr and Chesson agree to meet to further discuss this issue.

G. DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

The division managers, Carlo DiPilato, Kerry Baldwin, and George Kuck gave a brief recap as agendized for each division. No significant discussions transpired on the agendized listed items. Mr. Payan gave a brief summary of the Planning Division’s report on behalf of Mr. Steve Anderson. Mr. Payan introduced the commissioners to Mr. Sam Negri from the County Administrator’s office. Mr. Negri outlined his plan to coordinate county communications through a central office which would also provide support to departments that need help in developing public communication tools. That office is in the process of hiring several professional writers at this time.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Update on the Anza Trail
- Naming protocols
- Copies of letters of support to the town of Oro Valley for the renaming of one field at James Kreigh Park in memory of Christina-Taylor Green
- Update on Corazon de los Tres Rios del Norte concept plan

I. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No discussion.

H. ADJOURNMENT: Motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.