



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 4, 2009  
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department  
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Quorum having been established, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Commissioners present: Richard Barker (Chair), Chuck Catino, Victor Rivera, Anita Kellman, Stephanie Maben, Gary Davidson

Commissioners absent: Jan Johnson

Staff present: Rafael Payan, Carlo DiPilato, Derek Shaw, Kerry Baldwin, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Evelyne Thorpe, and Ann Khambholja

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

C. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Chair Barker welcomed the new member, Chuck Catino to the commission. He suggested that other commission members take some time to welcome new members and tell them what the commission has been doing and bring them up to speed.

2. Approval of the June 12, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Maben made a motion, seconded by Mr. Catino, to approve the June 12, 2009 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the August 7, 2009 Minutes

Mr. Davidson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kellman to approve the August 7, 2009 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

D. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Recruitment of new Parks and Recreation Commission members (Districts 2 and 3): Chair Barker is working with Supervisor Elias and Supervisor Valadez to fill the vacant positions for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Maben brought up the fact that since the commission has ten members, three of which are vacant, it is difficult at times to have a quorum that, according to the County Attorney's office is based on the total number of members, including vacant positions. Mr. Barker also wants the District Supervisors to come to the commission meetings to address the vacancies. Mr. Payan suggested to invite the District Supervisors, one or two at a time, to address the commission regarding their

districts. Mr. Davidson agreed that bringing in the Supervisors individually would be better, allowing them to focus in greater detail on their concerns.

Ms. Maben also would like to revisit the date and time of meetings so more commission members can attend. Mr. Barker and Mr. Davidson agreed as well.

## E. Division Report

### 1. Administrative Services (Derek Shaw)

- Mr. Shaw informed the commission that because of the on-going consolidation efforts, half the Administrative Services staff had already been moved downtown and the rest were scheduled to move on Monday, December 14, 2009. According to the County Administrator's mandate, the level of services provided to departments affected by the consolidation is to stay the same.
- There is a proposed 2% reduction across the county in the next fiscal year and a 1% cut in this year's budget as well since the state government has asked for 3 million dollars from Pima County. The County Administrator, Mr. Huckelberry, has asked departments to look in to special revenue funds to try and generate more income.

Mr. Davidson asked whether this department received any direct funding from the state. Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) does not receive any state funding other than capital improvement and program grants. The department was also asked to provide clarification as to whether the commission members could approach the community to provide donations directly to NRPR.

### 2. Development (Carlo DiPilato)

Mr. DiPilato updated the commission on the following projects:

- Robles/Altar Valley School District soccer field is presently in permitting with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Pima County Development Services. The project is anticipated to be completed by August 2010.
- Picture Rocks BMX/Skate park is in construction and will be the first park to accommodate both bikers and skaters. \$30,000 has been allocated for a video surveillance system. The park is expected to be complete by January 2010.
- Thomas Jay/Littletown Park Senior Field is in construction. The Tucson Water's plan review process has delayed the seeding of the field. Seeding of the field will be done in May or June 2010.
- Arivaca Historic School Grounds improvements project is in permitting and is expected to be completed by December 2010.
- Hidalgo Park improvements project is in construction and almost complete.
- Rillito River Park – Mountain to First is awaiting environmental clearance from ADOT after which design will proceed.
- City of Tucson projects:

- Southeast Community Park is expected to begin in July 2010 with an anticipated completion by July 2014.
  - Lincoln Park Softball Field improvements project is in the design phase.
  - Udall Park improvement project is presently in permitting.
  - Joaquin Murrieta Park project is on hold pending the identification of additional funding.
  - Juhan Park project is under construction.
  - Menlo Park Soccer complex is scheduled to begin in July 2010 with an anticipated completion by June 2012.
  - Rio Vista Natural Resource Park project is scheduled to be completed by January 2010.
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- 2010 Bond Election update: The last two bond advisory committee meetings discussed the County Administrator's recommendations in his letter of November 2008 and the changes he made to those recommendations in October 2009. The reasons for the changes – why some funding was increased and other project funding decreased – was the main topic of discussion. The upcoming meeting on December 18, 2009, will discuss recommendations.
3. GeoMedia (Joy Mehulka)
- Since Ms. Mehulka could not attend the meeting, Mr. Payan briefed the commission about Mr. Sam Negri, a newspaper correspondent who has been hired by Mr. Huckelberry to write a book about the history of Tucson Mountain Park. Ms. Mehulka has taken the lead on coordinating the study. The book will be published in about six to eight months.
  - A 1.2-mile loop hiking trail behind the Starr Pass Resort in Tucson Mountain Park was named in a formal ceremony on November 21, 2009 as the Lorraine Lee Hidden Canyon Trail.
4. Natural Resources (Kerry Baldwin)
- Mr. Baldwin told the commission that Mr. John Sullivan, Rangeland Program Manager, was recognized by the Board of Supervisors at their last meeting and commended for saving the lives of a couple who were lost on the A7 ranch.
  - Construction began with the formal groundbreaking ceremony of the new Native Seeds/SEARCH (NSS) headquarters building in November, with construction estimated to take four to five months for the building. The building will also be the conservation storage for the seed bank. NRPR will ultimately be working with NSS and develop an educational facility at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.
  - Mr. Baldwin had an interesting narrative to relate to the commissioners about the Sweetwater Trails Park, which has an exceptionally large parking lot. Balloon companies have decided that Sweetwater Trails Park makes a wonderful launch site and have been launching balloons in spite of the Park's posted notices not to. NRPR has been working with the sheriff's department and the neighbors to curb this practice. Today, one of the balloons ran out of gas and crash landed in Tucson Mountain Park, where the sheriff's department is working on educating them!

5. Operations (George Kuck)

- Mr. Kuck informed the commission that NRPR has been working closely with the Pima County Horsemen's Association (PCHA) and that PCHA has been informed that PCHA cannot use the storm damaged barn D for this upcoming season. PCHA will pay for the \$10,000 installation cost of the announcer's tower at Rillito Racetrack. PCHA also took responsibility of repairing the vandalized grandstand and also done other repairs to the track.
- The dedication for the renaming of Sportspark to the Mike Jacob Sports Park was a big success. The league and tournament coordinator, and the concession coordinator have been selected through the revised Request for Proposal (RFP). The facility is expected to reopen in January 2010.
- The septic system at Thomas Jay/Littletown Park failed and the renovation is expected to be completed by the end of this month.
- NRPR is working closely with the Pima Trails Association (PTA) regarding safety improvements they have suggested for Rillito River Park. PTA is also providing signs and informational flyers to users of the river park.

6. Planning (Steve Anderson)

- Mr. Anderson reported that Nanette Slusser from County Administration, John Spiker of Flood Control and Matt Zoll from Transportation have been working with him to define the elements of the principal urban loop of the river parks system. The urban loop is a 55-mile route made up of partings of the Santa Cruz River, Rillito River, Pantano Wash, Houghton Greenway and Julian Wash. The group is also attempting to make a link between the Santa Cruz and Rillito rivers using Pima County Wastewater easements that were recently purchased along Interstate 10.
- Mr. Anderson is working to prepare a master plan for NRPR shortly and will be forming a study committee. He would like one of the commissioners to be on the committee.

7. There was no report from the Recreation Division

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following will be included in the January agenda:

1. Supervisors' recruitment for vacant seats and attending the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) meetings (Richard Barker to report)
2. Rethinking the dates and times of the PRC meetings (Richard Barker to report and seek the commission's input)
3. County Attorneys office to look into funding mechanisms on behalf of the commissioners (Evelyne Thorpe and Neil Konigsberg to report)
4. Native Seed/SEARCH presentation (Kerry Baldwin should arrange)
5. Update on the Bonds process (Gary Davidson to report)
6. Buffelgrass updates (Kerry Baldwin)
7. Child Care Licensing (Joe Barr)
8. Information on the reduction of bond funding for the Mike Jacob Sports Park (Carlo DiPilato to report)
9. Urban Loop maps for review (Steve Anderson to provide copies and discuss with PRC)
10. Projects for master planning process
11. Slot machines at the Rillito Racetrack (draft to PRC and request Commissioner Barker to discuss with Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Richard Elias)

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No discussion.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Motioned by Mr. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Barker, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.