



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



December 11, 2015

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 December 11, 2015.

Commissioners present were Michael Lundin (Chair), Jan Johnson (Vice Chair), Peter Chesson, Anita Kellman, Victor Rivera and Tom Purdon. Karen Cesare, Enrique Serna, Kimberly Marohn and Richard Barker were absent.

Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Kerry Baldwin, George Kuck, Steve Anderson, Joe Barr, Robert Vaughn, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Lundin introduced the commissioners to two staff members from the office of District 4, Vanessa Schmidt and Frank Franco.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Rivera made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chesson, to approve the November 13, 2015 minutes. The motion passed.

DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS:

1. Planning Division (Steve Anderson): Commissioner Johnson asked how many people were expected at the Arizona Trail dedication and Mr. Anderson said he expected about 20-30 people. Commissioner Rivera asked about the Starr Pass Trail construction and whether it was the one dedicated to Lorraine Lee. He was informed it was not. Commissioner Chesson asked where the new trail would start and was informed that it was a loop trail that would start and end at the Yetman Trail. Commissioner Purdon asked where it was in relation to the Genser Trail. Mr. Anderson said that was a trailhead at Starr Pass and not a trail. Commissioner Johnson asked where the Cochise Trail ended and was told that it extends to Douglas but our involvement ends at the Pima County line.
2. Recreation Division (Joe Barr): Mr. Barr informed the commissioners that the division had hired several experienced staff members and that he was happy to have them on board. Chair Lundin asked whether there were still open positions and was informed that the division was fully staffed at the supervisory level. Chair Lundin also asked about staffing at NRPR in light of the hiring freeze at the City of Tucson. Mr. Cawein informed him that there were always openings, especially intermittent employees and those at lower levels, but was fully staffed at the supervisory level. Commissioner Purdon asked if all the employees were full time with benefits and was informed that all these were. Mr. Barr provided the commission with a few highlights of the division. A pilot Trap and Skeet league began in October and ended last week. The pilot program was highly successful and Pima County will look at additional offerings next year. He also informed them that Youth Day at Old Tucson Studios is coming up and invited them to attend. Mr. Barr said that since the Ajo Pool was due to be resurfaced, the department in coordination with Arizona Game and Fish stocked it with fish and had a fishing clinic which was well attended. Recreation recently opened winter registration through ActiveNet and it went extremely smooth. At Robles Ranch, the contractor replaced the artificial turf on the playground under NRPR's warranty repair request since it was not

durable enough and was showing premature wear and tear. The poured-in-place (PIP) surfacing at Bud Walker Park is also slated for repairs due to installation issues. Mr. Barr was asked if this surfacing was the best. He informed them that it was, but it was also the most expensive. Mr. Kuck informed the commission that wood fiber was ADA accessible, if it was well maintained. A potential library may be housed at the Desert Winds Elementary school near Picture Rocks Community Center and NRPR staff have been asked to assist with this project.

3. Natural Resources (Kerry Baldwin): Mr. Baldwin informed the commission on the steps NRPR is taking to address the vehicle access and parking issues at Sweetwater Preserve. This includes new informational signage at the end of Camino de Oeste stating that the road ahead is a private road easement and not open to the public and adding boulders to the two open areas to discourage parking. NRPR also offered to work with the neighborhood to correct the differences between their legal access and the actual location of the road on county lands as well as placing a gate at the end of Camino de Oeste on county land to further restrict any potential public access on their non-county road. Commissioner Johnson asked if the county was setting a precedent in allowing this and was informed that this had been done before for historic easements. Mr. Cawein also informed them that the county tries to repair and redo easements similar to this one. Commissioner Chesson asked about buffelgrass management and what treatment was used. Mr. Baldwin informed him that there was a three-year cycle to treat and track buffelgrass and the usual method was spraying it, though they are trying to add a pre-emergent to reduce regrowth as well. Commissioner Purdon mentioned that ADOT causes problems by not correctly treating buffelgrass alongside roads and frontage roads. Commissioner Kellman asked about the Colossal Cave Mountain Park opening in January. Mr. Baldwin said he had no definite information as yet but would provide the information to the commission when he did. Commissioner Johnson remarked that many other organizations involved in removing buffelgrass try to control it before it went to seed instead of allowing it to go to seed. This is the best strategy, but often not possible due to the amount of buffelgrass to control and lack of resources available.
4. Operations Division (George Kuck): Mr. Kuck informed the commissioners that there was a slight delay in the installation of the play structure at Thomas Jay Park due to insurance liability limitations requested by the contractor that were not acceptable. The issue has been resolved and the contract has been awarded. The work on the asphalt paths at Arthur Pack Park had begun, and there was a lot of positive feedback regarding the large dog park improvements at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park. The grass was replaced with decomposed granite. Trees, benches and picnic tables were added, thus there is much less dust. Mr. Kuck said they were going to try mulch for the medium dog park there to see which surface works better. The Rillito Vista Community Center was demolished and a new swing set will be located in its place.
5. Special Projects & Trades Division (Robert Vaughn): Mr. Vaughn gave the commission an update on the work undertaken by the Special Projects and Trades Division. He mentioned that the Native Plant Nursery was involved in plant salvage, seed collection and propagation of plants for public projects. Commissioner Chesson mentioned that some government nurseries sold native plants to the public and that this could be an opportunity for NRPR. Mr. Vaughn said that they sold plants only for use in public projects and did not compete with local nurseries. Mr. Baldwin said that Desert Survivors, who NRPR works with, sells plants which are native to the region.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) : Update on the Chuck Catino Award

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.