



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2012
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 9:05 a.m. Upon roll call, commissioners present were Jan Johnson (Chair), Anita Kellman (Vice-Chair), Richard Barker (Secretary), Chuck Catino, Tom Drzazgowski, Michael Lundin, Judith Meyer, and Enrique Serna. Commissioners Jim Mazzocco and Victor Rivera were absent. Staff present: Rafael Payan, Joe Barr, Steve Anderson, Carlo DiPilato, Evelyne Thorpe, and Gregoria Tucker.

Guests: Neil Konigsberg and Karen Friar of the county attorney's office; Diana Durazo and Diane Luber of the county administrator's office; Suzanne Shields, director of Regional Flood Control District; and Becky Pallack of the *Arizona Daily Star*.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

C. Consent Calendar:

Duly motioned and seconded, the December 9, 2011 minutes were approved as corrected.

Duly motioned and seconded, the January 6, 2012 study session minutes were approved as corrected.

D. Call to the Public: None responded.

E. Commission Discussion/Action Request: The agenda items were informational only, no commission action was required.

1. Arizona Open Law Update

Karen Friar, civil deputy county attorney, detailed the provisions of the Arizona Open Meeting Law.

Facts:

Quorum is composed of a "majority of the total number of members set forth. . . in the commission." The Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission is comprised of ten members; therefore, six members of the commission must be present to establish a quorum on either a regular meeting or a study session. Robert's Rule: No quorum, no meeting.

The public must have maximum access of the matters to be discussed on the meeting agenda; allowed to attend and listen to the commission's deliberation; the meeting venue must accommodate all members of the public in attendance; all members of the public must be allowed to attend and listen through technological devices (telephonic conference call, e-mail,

Skype, and facsimiles), and scheduled site tours of county facilities by the commission must include the public in attendance.

To avoid violation(s) of the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the commissioners are advised not to engage in exchanging individual "opinions" or "proposals" through e-mails or verbal "chain" on any subject that might be on the future official meeting agenda such as news articles.

Individual fine for a violation of Arizona Open Meeting Law is \$500 per each occurrence. The fee is paid for by the individual committing the violation (commissioner or staff).

2. *Corazon Tres Rios del Norte Project:*

By way of a map, Ms. Suzanne Shields discussed the environmental and cultural restoration improvements along the rivers and trailhead included in the *Corazon Tres Rios del Norte Project*. Ms. Shields stated that proposed acquisition of industrial property would extend to Curtis Road. She also mentioned the proposal to acquire CalPortland property south of the Rillito to the Curtis Road alignment. The property south of the proposed Sunset alignment is a potential site of a cultural resources site, and the proposed Sunset Soccer Complex would offer aesthetic and economic opportunities for the region. Ms. Shields stated that the Regional Flood Control District acquires flood plains areas. The project's five-year plan includes environmental restoration of mesquite bosque, expansion of Dan Felix Memorial Park, the proposed Sunset soccer complex, improvement of the Columbus Park trailhead, and the construction of the first of two potential lakes.

Commissioner Drzazgowski left the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

3. *The Loop Project Update*

Pima County's Administration and public works agencies including the Regional Flood Control District, Department of Transportation, Regional Water Reclamation Department, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and others have been instrumental in the development of *The Loop*. *The Loop* is a 55-mile multiuse trail accessible to non-motorized users including pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists. Predominantly following and connecting the Santa Cruz, Canada del Oro and Rillito rivers and the Julian and Pantano washes, *The Loop* links unincorporated areas in the greater Tucson region, and incorporated communities including Tucson, South Tucson, and Marana. A spur trail along the Canyon del Oro Wash will link the town of Oro Valley to *The Loop*. Numerous staging areas, including city and county parks, serve as convenient points of access.

Like several project that Pima County has undertaken, this project is a prime example of the adaptive re-use and reclamation of underutilized commercial, industrial, fallow agricultural and channelized flood-prone lands. These lands have been, or are in the process of being, converted into a beautified, safe, accessible trail system adding to the region's quality of life. *The Loop* serves not only as healthful way to recreate but is also an economic driver. As the plan develops, Pima County may also identify staging areas that serve as trail access and, because of their close proximity to local businesses, may also serve as a means to promote economic development.

The overall schematic plan for *The Loop* can be viewed on NRPR's website (pima.gov/nrpr).

4: Catalina Juvenile Facility

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections is consolidating its juvenile corrections facility from its Catalina facility to Phoenix. The vacant facility is not expected to be used as a corrections facility in the future, and the Arizona's State Land Department is considering the properties sale. At present, Pima County is exploring the suitability of the site for potential county purposes, but has not established a firm commitment because this acquisition will need to prove to be beneficial to Pima County's residents, the state would need to firm its intent to sell the property, and the price of the property would need to be acceptable to the Pima County Board of Supervisors, amongst other conditions. At this time, all of this is exploratory at best. If these criteria are met, and if Pima decides to pursue acquisition of this property, public meetings to determine its best use and corresponding graphic concept plans would be refined, ultimately leading to the development of a master plan that would be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

Agenda items E.5 and E.6 were tabled.

7: Commissioners Report: Nothing reported.

Commissioner Kellman left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Agenda items F, G, H: None discussed.

Call to the Public: None responded.

Adjournment: Duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.