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Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION and to the general public that the TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public:

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015  
3:30 p.m.  
Tucson Parks and Recreation Administration  
Mesquite Room  
Tucson, Arizona**

## **MINUTES**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grey-Ganz at 3:32 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Commissioner Si Schorr, Mayor Representative  
Chair Caroline Grey-Ganz, Ward 2 Representative  
Commissioner Michelle Crow, Ward 3 Representative (Arrived 3:59 p.m.)  
Commissioner Kendall Kroesen, Ward 4 Representative  
Commissioner Willie Blake, Ward 5 Representative  
Commissioner Bob Kovitz, Ward 6 Representative

**Absent:**

Vice Chair Andrea Altamirano, Ward 1 Representative

**Staff Present:**

Fred Gray, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Mike Hayes, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Jane Duarte, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Peg Weber, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Jason Jacobs, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Glenna Overstreet, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Midge Irwin, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Sierra Davenport, Tucson Parks & Recreation  
Debby Keenan, Tucson Parks & Recreation

2. Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2015

**Motion was made by Commissioner Schorr, duly seconded by Commissioner Kroesen, to approve the February 25, 2015, minutes as written. Motion carried by a voice vote of 5-0 (Vice Chair Altamirano and Commissioner Crow absent).**

3. Call to the Audience

No one spoke.

4. Commissioner Awards Program

Chair Grey-Ganz provided an update on the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commissioner Awards Program. She referred to the 2015 guidelines and lists of previous recipients that were included in the meeting packet and stated the deadline for submitting nominations was April 18. Director Gray added that due to the award selection occurring during the April 22 meeting, the Mayor's office/Agenda office would be contacted to request that presentation of the awards take place during the Mayor and Council meeting scheduled for the second week in May.

It was the consensus of the Commission that nominations would be forwarded to the Commissioners for review as they are received, and it was requested that the award program information be forwarded to the ward offices.

5. Pima County Bond Planning Process Update

Director Fred Gray provided an update on the Pima County Bond Planning Process. He referred to the Bond Advisory Committee's Recommended 2015 Bond Package 3.13.15 handout that was included in the meeting packet and highlighted the Tucson Parks and Recreation Projects still being considered. Three recreation centers were included in the Community Facilities category; the Reid Park Zoo African Expansion Phase II was included in Museums and Tourism category; the Historic Fort Lowell Park Master Plan Implementation was listed in the Historic and Cultural Resources category; and seventeen City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Proposals were included. Director Gray reported that currently the total allocated for Tucson Parks and Recreation was \$69,230,000. He also referred to Bond Package Item CD2, the Pima County Neighborhood Investment Program (\$25,000,000), which is included in the Neighborhoods, Affordable Housing, Public Health, Justice & Law Enforcement category. Historically, Tucson Parks and Recreation has been allocated a good amount of funding for restoration of parks and new facilities for parks and neighborhoods that qualify. Discussion followed regarding the percentage of Tucson Parks and Recreation projects included in the current recommended package.

Director Gray reported that the bond package would likely be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April for their final recommendation. Commissioners will be notified of community meetings that would follow, and the bond package would be included in the November election if the Board of Supervisors decided to go forward.

6. Examples of Community Use of Golf Courses

Director Gray stated that Commissioner Kovitz had requested a report on examples of potential use of golf courses by other communities. Deputy Director Mike Hayes reported that he contacted the Professional Golf Association (PGA) of America and his research included three categories of golf courses: private club, daily fee, and municipal. He said two big factors that affect usage were enterprise versus general fund, and whether the course was City-operated or contract managed. The geographical location of the municipal courses was also a factor as the golf facilities located from Texas to the West Coast that are generally available year-round were primarily contract managed. In the northeast part of the country, a shared use was cross-country skiing and the lakes were used for ice skating and hockey. Evening fishing in golf course lakes was also available in summer; however, they don't utilize reclaimed water. Smaller cities in the Midwest have many 9-hole city courses that are used for special events such as picnics and large holiday celebrations because in many cases the courses are the biggest turf areas in cities with smaller park systems. He continued with examples such as Coronado closing two times year for special events, Balboa Park closing on July 4<sup>th</sup> for fireworks, and the Pasadena Municipal Course closes on Saturdays for football game tailgate parking.

Deputy Director Hayes also contacted the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and they indicated several cities choose to close golf courses for a day to accommodate special events. He continued that University of Arizona cross country events were held at Randolph and Dell Urich, and this was cost effective for the university because there were less security costs due to the event was being held in a closed environment.

Director Gray reported that the NRPA Forum indicated that disc golf was being incorporated into courses and used to fill unsold tee times. He said the department was currently looking into the possibility of utilizing a portion of Fred Enke golf course for this option, and that special events were mostly held on driving ranges rather than the golf course. Deputy Director Hayes added that OB Sports still works with the Tucson Police Department for canine training in the evenings and also has an arrangement with the Tucson Audubon Society to use the El Rio course for bird counting purposes.

Commissioner Schorr asked about examples of walking paths around the perimeters of golf courses. Deputy Director Hayes answered that his primary focus was on the interior of the courses he researched. Discussion followed on some of the issues involved with moving fence lines to accommodate the expansion of existing walking paths. Deputy Director Hayes added that in regards to expansion of perimeter walking paths, a required safety corridor has to be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Kovitz thanked Director Gray and Deputy Director Hayes for their reports. He commented that there appear to be no regular activities other than disc golf that are held on public and contract-managed courses comparable to Tucson courses. Commissioner Kovitz said the current discussion grew in part out of a larger discussion regarding alternative uses in general for golf courses, and the public and political will, as well as finances, would all be necessary to make changes to parks and golf courses. Commissioner Kroesen suggested that national and local emerging trends should be included in the upcoming department strategic planning process. Commissioner Crow inquired if there were organizations that could assist with placement of trees between the Reid Park walking path and the street. Chair Grey-Ganz stated that she would ask the question of adding 'street trees' when she attends an upcoming meeting of the Shade Committee.

## 7. Reports / Announcements

### a. Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Commissioner Kroesen announced he would be leading a bird watching field trip at Fort Lowell Park on Saturday, April 4, at 7:00 a.m.

Commissioner Kovitz announced a free Civic Orchestra of Tucson concert on Sunday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park; children's petting zoo opens at 6:00 p.m. He also expressed his thanks to Mark Phielex, Parks and Recreation Event Coordinator, and staff for their assistance.

### b. Staff (distributed in meeting packet)

Sierra Davenport, Parks and Recreation Community Promotions and Marketing Manager, announced that EGGstravaganza would be held at the Donna Liggins Recreation Center on Saturday, April 4.

### c. Director

Director Gray reported on the following topics:

- FY16 department budget had been submitted and was virtually the same as last year.
- Eight (8) summer pools would be open this year, in addition to the (ten) 10 year-round pools.
- Tucson Parks and Recreation Department reaccreditation process was ongoing, and the self-assessment was ready for submission. A site visit by reviewers will occur and the Commissioners should have an opportunity to meet with the reviewers. Commissioner Kovitz added that Tucson Parks and Recreation should be proud that it was the third parks department in Arizona to receive accreditation.
- Strategic Plan Update: A contract would be signed soon with Norris Design. A kickoff discussion should occur during the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Commission meeting and meetings would be held with each ward office. He added that trends and bench-mark comparisons would be included in the scope of services.

## 8. Mayor and Council Agenda Items

### a. Future, Pending, and Adopted Agenda Items (distributed in meeting packet)

Director Gray reported on the following:

- Tucson Parks and Recreation would be partnering with City Transportation for the Summer GoPass Program; students in 9th grade through high school can utilize the passes for the bus and admission to the pools. Commissioner Kroesen commented that new homes are not being built with pools as frequently so there will be more need than ever for public pools due to population growth.

- Homeless Urban Camp Downtown: City of Tucson Parks ordinances in regards to individuals being in parks after a specific time and no camping without special permits were upheld by the courts, and the encampments on the sidewalks have been eliminated at this time. Development of an urban camping ordinance would be considered in the future by Mayor and Council.
- Tucson Presidio Trust for Historic Preservation Agreement was approved for transfer of day-to-day operations to the Presidio Trust effective in May 2015, with declining City support over a 5-year period.

9. Commission Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

a. Future Agenda Items:

Commissioner Crow asked for a future agenda item regarding parking and accessibility to parks and mentioned Catalina Park as an example that has several restrictive parking signs.

Commissioner Kroesen offered to present information to the Commission on the economics of wildlife watching.

b. Next Meeting Date:

The next Tucson Parks Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

c. Location:

No discussion was held.

10. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Commissioner Schorr, duly seconded by Commissioner Kroesen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a voice vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.**