

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of May 15, 2018

LOCATION: Estrella Mountain Regional Park Nature Center, 15099 W. Casey Abbott Drive N., Goodyear, Arizona 85338

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Merdon, Megha Budruk (via phone), Robert Branch, Thomas Rhoades, and Isabel Chavez

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Rod Jarvis

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Donna Southard, Recorder; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Dawna Taylor, PIO; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager; and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney.

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the May 15, 2018, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Denise Merdon, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The regular meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

ITEM #2 – INVOCATION – None.

ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Chavez.

ITEM #4 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM #5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2018 MEETING – Denise Merdon, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Chavez motioned and Commissioner Branch seconded to approve the March 20, 2018 minutes. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #6 DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Ms. Waller provided a brief recap to the Parks Commission on current events within Parks including: Hassayampa River Preserve Grand Re-opening was held on March 24, 2018. Department staff stepped up to make this event a success. Ms. Waller handed out Key Moment photographs to the Commission from the May 2017 event; McDowell Regional Park was recognized as one of the top 10 hidden-gem parks and campgrounds around the country in a recent *USA Today* issue; the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution providing delegation of signature to the Parks Director to authorize and execute Commercial Management Concessionaire Agreements; and the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to rescind and replace the 1984 resolution with the 2017 updated Maricopa County Park Road Design, Construction and Maintenance Standards.
- Park Supervisors provided highlights of current events within each of regional parks and Desert Outdoor Center.

ITEM #7 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS - Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM

- The following employees were recognized for their continued years of service to Maricopa County: Jennifer Johnston (15 years) and Patty Sanford (20 years).

ITEM #8 TRAILS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS MANUAL UPDATE APPROVAL – Lauren Bromley, Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Ms. Bromley presented the final draft Trails Maintenance Standards Manual for approval by the Parks Commission. The original manual was approved in 2004. The manual will be able to be used by other agencies as best management practices for planning, construction and maintenance of trails.
- Commissioner Rhoades, seconded by Commissioner Branch motioned to approve the May 2018 Trails Maintenance Manual. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #9 MARICOPA TRAIL UPDATE AND BACK COUNTRY TRAIL WORK – John Rose, Maricopa Trail Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department and Jordan Rolfe, State Director and Jack McMullin, Project Coordinator, American Conservation Experience – INFORMATION ITEM

- Mr. Rose informed the Commission that the 310-mile Maricopa Trail is 83% overall complete with the main loop 99.5% complete. Maintenance of the segments outside of park boundaries are primarily being done by the Maricopa Trail + Park Foundation and the Trail Steward Program.
- Mr. Rolfe and Mr. McMullin provided a brief overview of their program and the work they performed on the Maricopa Trail.

ITEM #10 MCDOT/PARKS PARTNERSHIPS – Kim Richard, Volunteer Coordinator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department and Nicole Moon, Public Information Officer Supervisor, Maricopa County Department of Transportation – INFORMATION ITEM

- Ms. Richard informed the Commission that National Public Lands Day is a nationally recognized Special Day of Service and has been utilized for several years to recruit hundreds of volunteers each fall to assist with garbage clean up after the busy summer season at Lake Pleasant. Parks has teamed up with Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) in the development of a Trash Prevention Plan focusing on anti-littering. The National Public Lands Day event will continue each year.
- Ms. Moon explained the program funded by MCDOT and the Waste Resources and Recycling Departments will purchase and provide orange trash bags and additional trash dumpsters. Parks will distribute the bags, maps of trash dumpster locations and additional outreach material on reporting roadway hazards to visitors entering Lake Pleasant Regional Park on the three major holiday weekends: Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. Social media contests will also be utilized to bring attention to the new program.
- Future plans are to expand the Adopt a Highway concept to roads within the other parks.
- Commissioner Chavez inquired if bags are available any other times of the year. Park Supervisor Jordan informed that trash bags are available upon request. Commissioner Budruk inquired if Parks partners with other organizations similar to “Pack It In/Pack It Out.” Ms. Waller informed the Commissioners that Parks does regular social media campaigns regarding anti-littering and clean up.

ITEM #11 ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PARTNERSHIP – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Ms. Waller informed the Commission that Parks staff is working with Arizona Game and Fish Department to develop a more robust partnership. Possible options include kiosks within the parks, conservation promotion, and interactive visitor experiences through animal blinds, expanded programs, etc.

ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ITEM #13 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None

ITEM #14 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Commissioner Chavez motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Branch. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

R.J. Cardin, Director

Megha Budruk, Chair

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