

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Regular Meeting of August 20, 2019

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**LOCATION:** Maricopa County Forensic Science Center, Large Conference Training Room, 701 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Rhoades, Megha Budruk, Jack Stapley, Robert Branch, Eric Mears, and Isabel Chavez

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Denise Merdon

**STAFF PRESENT:** RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the August 20, 2019, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Thomas Rhoades, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- The regular meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m.

**ITEM #2 – INVOCATION – None**

**ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Chair Rhoades**

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

**ITEM #5 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Director Cardin provided highlights from the report to include recent department awards and recognitions. A financial impact comparison was conducted on the new CMCA (Commercial Management Concessionaire Agreement) format: under the new format, the department incurred a loss of \$789 from current agreements and gained an additional \$5,340 by approving new agreements through the streamlined process.
- Power has been installed to Buckeye Hills Regional Park, the Joe Foss Shooting Range and the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Shooting Range.
- Supervisor provided highlights from their division.

**ITEM #6 – EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Director Cardin presented the following employees with their continued years of service pin: John Rose (5 years), Tony Blanco (20 years), and Dawna Taylor (20 years).

**ITEM #7 – SIX FLAGS HURRICANE HARBOR PHOENIX PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS – Emily Miller, Contract Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Ms. Miller provided a site map of Adobe Mountain Regional Park and the proposed pool activity expansion site for Hurricane Harbor. The Parks Department provided a letter of approval of the proposed activities that will be submitted with the permitting process. The tentative construction timeline slates groundbreaking around January 1, 2020 and completion by Memorial Day weekend 2020.
- No action was taken on this item.

**ITEM #8 – STRATEGIC SYSTEM MASTER PLAN UPDATE KICKOFF – Lauren Bromley, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Ms. Bromley informed the Commission that the last system-wide Strategic Master Plan was completed in 2009. She provided the draft planning process and the tentative timeline.
- Commissioner Mears inquired on the participation level from the Parks Commission. Ms. Bromley requested that representation by the Commission be involved on the Executive Planning Team.
- Director Cardin also informed the Commission that an update would be provided at each Park Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Mears inquired if there are any groups that would possibly resist potential changes. Director Cardin said based on the 2009 plan, he does not foresee any opposition. County growth could potentially be the greatest challenge.
- Commissioner Branch inquired on the inclusion of the valley cities and towns. Director Cardin confirmed that invitations would be sent to cities/towns adjacent to the parks to be involved in the stakeholder meetings and surveys would be sent to the other local governments.
- Director Cardin informed the Commission that this system plan update will closely tie with the County's 2030 Vision Plan.

Chairman Rhoades left the meeting at 10:53 am and Vice-Chair Branch led the rest of the meeting in his absence.

**ITEM #9 – SPUR CROSS CONSERVATION AREA WATER RIGHTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that the water rights associated with the Spur Cross Conservation Area were never transferred to the County when the property was obtained. Staff, the County Attorney's Office, a specialized water rights attorney, and the Town of Cave Creek have been working on this transfer for the past 10 years. One of the challenges has been ensuring that the application complies with the valid uses of water recognized by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and under Arizona law.

**ITEM #10 – SPUR CROSS CONSERVATION AREA EASEMENT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that the Town of Cave Creek, Maricopa County, and the State of Arizona through the Heritage Fund, each purchased a third of the Spur Cross Conservation Area property. The State then transferred their portion to the County and laid a conservation easement over the whole property. When the property was originally acquired, there was a right-of-way easement for ingress/egress access and utilities to one piece of property. When the property sold, the new owners requested access to the easement to begin building homes on the property. The County felt the easement had been extinguished when the property was sold and took the case to court; the ruling was in favor of the new property owner. Currently, staff is working with the property owner to find an alternate route that better fits the activities and uses at the park. Until the new route can be established, the property owner has requested to do minor improvements to the existing easement to allow survey, planning, and design crews to the property. The grading permit has been processed through the Town of Cave Creek with input from Parks.

**ITEM #11 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None

**ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Vice-Chair Branch inquired about the Volunteer Coordinator position. Director Cardin stated that Bill Klewer had been hired and will provide a report at the next Commission meeting.

**ITEM #13 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Vice-Chair Branch asked for a motion to adjourn, motion made by Commissioner Mears, seconded by Commissioner Stapley. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.