

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Regular Meeting of January 15, 2019

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**LOCATION:** McDowell Mountain Regional Park Nature Center, 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive, MMRP, Arizona, 85255

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Isabel Chavez

**STAFF PRESENT:** RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; 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 January 15, 2019, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

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

- The regular meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

**ITEM #2 – INVOCATION** - none

**ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Commissioner Rhoades

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

**ITEM #5 – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation**

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that District 3 Commissioner, Eric Mears, and District 2 Commissioner, Tom Rhoades, were reappointed for another two year term. Commissioner Jack Stapley was appointed as a new Member-at-Large to the Parks Commission. District 5's appointed position (Isabel Chavez) has not yet been renewed.

**ITEM #6 – NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND NOMINATION OF 2019 OFFICERS – Robert Branch, Subcommittee Chair and Megha Budruk and Denise Merdon, Committee Members, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Subcommittee Chair Branch informed the Commission that the nominating committee met electronically and recommend the nomination of Tom Rhoades as Chair and Bob Branch as Vice-chair for 2019.

**ITEM # 7 – ELECTION OF 2019 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OFFICERS - Megha Budruk, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Chair Budruk motioned, seconded by Commissioner Branch to elect Tom Rhoades as the 2019 Chair. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- Chair Budruk motioned, seconded by Commissioner Mears to elect Bob Branch as the 2019 Vice Chair. Commissioner Branch abstained, with all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

**ITEM #8 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- In the interest of allowing more time for the park tour, Director Cardin encouraged the Commissioners to read the report as it contains a great overview of the events, programs, and community partnership work that staff does each month.
- Director Cardin informed the Commission that a new state law went into effect in January that allows Class I and Class II e-bikes (electric bikes) on park trails unless specifically exempted out by a local government. At this time, Maricopa County Parks will follow the Arizona State Revised Statutes and allow e-bikes on the trail system. Staff will closely monitor any issues or accidents that occur and will review usage at that time. Commissioner Mears inquired about accessibility issues. Director Cardin informed the Commission that other powered mobility devices (OPMD) were already allowed under ADA rules. Commissioner Branch asked what the difference is between an e-bike and a motorbike; is it noise or a safety issue? Director Cardin informed the Commission that the Park Rules do not allow any motorized vehicles on the trails. Class I and II e-bikes are pedal-assist vehicles and cannot go over 20-mph.

**ITEM #9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None

**Item #10 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Branch thanked Commissioner Budruk for her service as Chair in 2019. He welcomed Commissioner Stapley back to the Commission.
- Commissioner Mears inquired what kind of safety program the County has for its employees and visitors and what the safety performance has been. Chair Rhoades asked for a future presentation at an upcoming meeting. Director Cardin will schedule.
- Chair Rhoades shared an *Arizona Republic* article regarding the completion of the Maricopa Trail and another article regarding Arizona State Parks and how those changes may affect the County Park System. Chair Rhoades expressed how difficult it has been to invite guests to lead the Commission meetings in an invocation and pledge and would like to have further discussions on options.

**ITEM #11 – McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE/TOUR – Lauren Bromley, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department**

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that a new system-wide master plan was approved in 2009; the previous plan had been approved in 1967. As part of the system-wide plan, each park would update their individual master plans. McDowell is the third master plan going through the update process.
- Ms. Bromley provided a brief history of the park: the first acres were obtained in 1963 from the Bureau of Land Management; the first park master plan was approved in 1967; development started in 1979; and currently, the park is 21,099 acres and is the third largest park in the system. The current master plan update was started in late 2017. Currently, two public meetings, 13 planning team meetings and three status presentations to the Parks Commission have been held. The Trails Plan will be included in the Parks Master Plan update.
- The tour began at 10:35 am. No action items were conducted.

**ITEM #12 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Chair Rhoades asked for a motion to adjourn, motion made by Commissioner Mears, seconded by Commissioner Merdon. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

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R.J. Cardin, Director

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Thomas Rhoades, Chair