

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting of August 15, 2017

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne Lynch, Megha Budruk, Thomas Rhoades, Isabel Chavez, Robert Branch, and Denise Merdon

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rod Jarvis

**STAFF PRESENT:** RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager; Dawna Taylor, PIO; Aimee Upton, Administrator; 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 15, 2017, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

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

- The regular meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.**

**ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2017, REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM**

- Commissioner Branch motioned and Commissioner Budruk seconded to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2017, meeting. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

**ITEM #4 – DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Director Cardin provided a brief recap of the Director Summary Reports to include the Legacy Sports project, Estrella Youth Sports agreement termination, Buckeye Hills Shooting Range status and the fiscal year end volunteer hours worked. He asked each supervisor to provide an item currently happening within their park. Items included storm damage repairs at several parks, improving the viewing pond for visitors at Usery, new floating restroom at Lake Pleasant, refurbishing of the monument entrance sign at Cave Creek by a Boy Scout, upcoming renovations to the tortoise enclosure at McDowell by their Friends Group, redesigning the turf area at Estrella, preparations for the entry station at Spur Cross, preparation of renovations at the Hassayampa visitor center, Hassayampa staff is learning the cycles of the river through the monsoon season and when to move the small foot-bridges on the trails and staff's preparation of fall/winter/spring special events and programs.

**ITEM #5 – EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin recognized Emily Miller (5 years), Jenny Work (10 years) and Adolfo Mancillas (10 years) for their service to Maricopa County.

**ITEM #6 – SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER PROJECT AND POSSIBLE WILDLIFE RESCUE CONSERVATION CENTER WITHIN MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Linda Searles, Executive Director, Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center and RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**

- Linda Searles provided a brief presentation of their wildlife conservation center which includes rescue, rehabilitation and/or sanctuary of wild Sonoran desert animals, education, environmental stewardship, and

public tours. The center has been open for 23 years and is looking for a possible partnership to relocate/expand their facility at McDowell Regional Park.

- Director Cardin explained to the commission that various agencies frequently approach the County for partnerships. If this is a type of activity that the commission would possibly like to see within McDowell Park, staff would continue the process to publically open up the opportunity through the County's procurement process. The McDowell master plan was already planned to be next in-line for review and this type of activity would be reviewed as part of the master plan update.
- Commissioner Rhoades made a motion to recommend that the Parks Commission support the activity of a possible wildlife rescue conservation center or similar type of compatible facility within McDowell Mountain Regional Park and staff continue to move forward with work relating to such activity. Commissioner Chavez seconded the motion. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

**ITEM #7 – PARKS FINANCIAL BUDGET UPDATES – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Ms. Upton informed the commission that the FY17 budget cycle does not officially close until later this year to allow all financial data to be processed, however, Parks should not see much variance at this point. The FY18 budget included a request for additional revenue and expenditure authority based on financial data; the request was approved. The Board of Supervisors also approved in the FY18 budget \$7.2M for capital improvement projects (CIP) within the Parks' CIP plan.
- Commissioner Branch inquired if the new minimum wage has had any impact Parks. Director Cardin informed the commission that there has been little immediate impact on the budget. However, as the minimum wage increases, staff will look at possibly combining certain temporary positions into fewer regular positions for better retention and continue to work with our volunteers to fill the needed workload.
- Commissioner Merdon inquired if the county has a long-range infrastructure plan to include life cycles. Ken Vonderscher, Planning & Development Manager and Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, informed the Commission that Parks' CIP plan and the new Maintenance Management System takes into consideration infrastructure life cycles (typically 30 years) and with proper maintenance, life cycles can be extended.

**ITEM #8 – NRPA 2017 AGENCY PERFORMANCE REPORT – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that approximately 6 years ago, the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) began collecting data from park and recreation agencies across the county to assist with benchmarking and data sharing. Maricopa County Parks was one of the first contributors. Now many more agencies are contributing and NRPA is providing comparison performance reports based on the data. He provided a brief executive summary of how Maricopa County Parks compares to parks across the country and to other county parks contributing data to NRPA.
- Commissioner Budruk asked if there are other counties with similar populations to Maricopa County. Director Cardin informed the commission that Parks has used Pima County and several counties within California for benchmarking in the past. Other possible similar counties can be found in Ohio and Minnesota.

**ITEM #9 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- None

**Item #10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- Jennifer Waller, Parks Operations Manager, shared with the Commission that Director Cardin received the 2017 Professional Award at the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association's annual conference last week.

**Item #11 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 10:23 am.

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RJ Cardin, Director

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Anne Lynch, Chair