

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Regular Meeting of September 17, 2019

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 (via phone), 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; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Aimee Upton, Administrator; 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 September 17, 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 10:00 a.m.

ITEM #2 – INVOCATION – None

ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Commissioner Budruk

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 informed the Commission that the Department submitted a letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding their Recreational Shooting Sports Project. Three of the sites are near the entrance to Lake Pleasant Regional Park and one other is near the Joe Foss Shooting Range in Buckeye Hills Regional Park. The Department is supportive of BLM’s efforts to expand safe recreational shooting, however, requested further study on the regional effectiveness and impacts of the proposed sites.
- Supervisors provided highlights from their divisions.

Commissioner Chavez arrived at 10:19 am

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: Laura Jo Boyd (5 years), Charlie Sizer (5 years), Alma Izaguirre (5 years) and Kyle Randall (15 years).

ITEM #7 – FY19 COMPLETED PARKS CIP REPORT – Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Mr. Vonderscher gave an overview of the projects completed throughout the park system. Significant cost savings were achieved by utilizing our own staff and partnerships with the Facilities Management

Department and the Department of Transportation; additional projects were completed with these savings.

- Chair Rhoades complimented staff on the amount of work and maintenance that has been completed. Commissioner Stapley expressed his amazement on the amount of planning and work that goes into these quality projects.

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

- Ms. Bromley informed the Commission that the title of the plan will be “Parks, Open Space, and Trails System Plan – Vision 2030” or “Parks Vision 2030” for a short title. An updated timeline was presented. The Department has been able to partner with an ASU (Arizona State University) Graduate student who will be conducting research and analyzing data on visitor and national trends. Chair Rhoades and Commissioner Branch have volunteered to be part of the Executive Planning Team.
- Director Cardin added that along with the various regional open-house meetings, a virtual open-house opportunity will be made available for additional input.
- Commissioner Budruk suggested referencing the *Sustainable Development Goals* report by the United Nations and how they might tie in with the *Parks Vision 2030* plan.

ITEM #9 – MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2018-2019 VISITOR STUDY SURVEY RESULTS – Megha Budruk, PhD., Project Director, and Marena Sampson, Graduate Research Assistant, Arizona State University School of Community Resources and Development, College of Public Programs

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that the Visitor Study Survey results will be used in the *Parks Vision 2030* plan.
- Ms. Sampson explained the survey methods, response rates, and data collection analysis process.
- Professor Budruk reviewed the data results and previous study comparisons.
- Commissioner Mears asked how the survey demographic results compared to the County demographics. Professor Budruk informed the Commission that the park industry as a whole sees differences in visitor demographics compared to regional demographics. Studies have found that exposure at a young age to outdoor experiences carries through into adulthood.

ITEM #10 – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – Bill Klewer, Volunteer Coordinator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Mr. Klewer informed the Commission that future goals for the Parks Volunteer program includes increasing hours worked by 3.5% annually, maintain or increase Core Volunteer retention rate, develop mentorship/support to volunteer staff, work with staff on volunteer needs and placement, and create innovative opportunities to connect volunteers to nature. Volunteer types (Core Volunteers, Service Volunteers and Days-of-Service Volunteers) have been classified and defined by duties which will correlate to onboarding and training needs. An audit was completed in each of the software programs to ensure the data matches and has the required information (driving records, background checks, training, etc.). To streamline processes and increase responsiveness, the Parks’ website was updated for easy access by potential and current volunteers to find volunteer opportunities and orientation dates, submit applications, complete waiver forms, and provide FAQ’s with direct links for access to software utilized by Core Volunteers. Two internship opportunities for fall and spring semesters have been approved for students at ASU. Outreach opportunities are also being done through a Facebook page which has increased the number of volunteers.
- Commissioner Chavez suggested reaching out to the large banks that encourage their employees to volunteer and to ASU Alumni groups.

ITEM #11 – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE – Thomas Rhoades, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The Commission discussed the proposed 2020 meeting schedule, dates, frequencies and locations. The consensus is to keep the same schedule as 2019.

ITEM #11 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Branch welcomed the new Volunteer Coordinator and looks forward to the new changes. He also thanked the Parks PIO for her work on the social media accounts as the Visitor Survey results reflect the importance of that forum.

ITEM #13 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chair Rhoades adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.