

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Regular Meeting of November 13, 2018

LOCATION: Hassayampa River Preserve Nature Center, 49614 U.S. Highway 60 / 89, Wickenburg, Arizona, 85390

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Branch, Eric Mears, Megha Budruk and via phone: Isabel Chavez

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Denise Merdon, Rod Jarvis and Thomas Rhoades

STAFF PRESENT: RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; 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 November 13, 2018, 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 9:05 a.m.

ITEM #2 – INVOCATION - none

ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Mears

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

ITEM #5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING AND THE OCTOBER 16, 2018 PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING – Megha Budruk, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Mears motioned and Commissioner Branch seconded to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018, regular Commission meeting; the October 16, 2018, Public Hearing; and the October 16, 2018, regular Commission meetings as presented. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

ITEM #6 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin invited the Commissioners to join the Maricopa Trail dedication celebration. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisor (BOS) proclaimed November 2018 as *Maricopa County Parks and Trails Month* in celebration of the completion of the Maricopa Trail. The Department hired a Natural Resource Specialist to develop the Parks’ first natural resource program. The BOS approved the administrative revisions to the Park Land Disposal Policy to exclude utility easements that benefit the park and are connected to facilities or amenities identified in the park’s master plan to be exempted from the disposal process.
- Supervisors highlighted activities within their division listed in the Director’s Summary Report.
- Commissioner Mears asked staff to explain the Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements and process for Vulture Mountain. Director Cardin and Ms. Bromley reviewed the EA process and indicated the full EA is available for review upon request.

ITEM #7 – EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- The following employees were recognized for their continued years of service to Maricopa County: Kara Currie-Gonzalez (5 years), Jessica Bland (5 years), and Tom Rychtik (10 years).

ITEM #8 – REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (ROSS) FOR MARICOPA COUNTY – Kimberlie McCue, Director, Research, Conservation and Collections

- Ms. McCue informed the Commission that the product of the ROSS is a result of the collaboration of many of the partners within the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance which began working together in 2012. With over +2M acres already planned for future development in Maricopa County, the vision of the ROSS is a sustainable preserve system that supports healthy ecosystems and provides beautiful, safe open spaces for healthy communities by creating a regional strategy. Ms. McCue provided an overview of the planning process, the challenges, goals, objectives, and actions of the plan.

Commissioner Chavez left the meeting at 10:00 am.

ITEM #9 – McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Lauren Bromley, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Ms. Bromley provided an update of the planning process including public input suggestions, proposed additions, and the proposed location and concept design of the SWCC (Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center). Commissioner Branch recommended an educational element associated with the rehabilitation section not open to the public.
- Commissioners provided support for the concept of cabins if they can be cost effective. They also liked the new ideas (sound garden, cabins, etc.) to pilot at McDowell with possible expansion to the other parks if successful. Commissioner Mears suggested that an opportunity to tour McDowell Park be scheduled to assist in visualizing the new concepts.
- Director Cardin clarified this is a conceptual master plan that guides future development opportunities over the next 10+ years. It needs to be recommended by the Commission and approved by the Board of Supervisors. After approval, staff would continue to propose elements for development, which would include cost benefit analysis for any major additions.
- Director Cardin stated that a public meeting was held in Fountain Hills and the 30-day public comment period is currently open. The next steps will be to provide the draft plan to the Commission with a tour of the park during the January meeting. The plan will be tentatively scheduled for approval by the Board of Supervisors in March 2019.

ITEM #10 – SET 2019 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE – Megha Budruk, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Chair Budruk noted that all meetings will begin at 10:00 am. Commissioner Branch motioned, and Commissioner Chavez seconded to approve the proposed 2019 Commission meeting schedule. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

ITEM #11 – APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO NOMINATE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2019 – Megha Budruk, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Commissioner Mears motioned and Commissioner Chavez seconded to nominate Commissioners Jarvis and Rhoades to the subcommittee. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ITEM #13 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Branch notes that the Parks are entering their busy season and thanks staff and volunteers for all their work.

ITEM #15 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chair Budruk asked for a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mears. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.

ITEM #14 – TOUR HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE IMPROVEMENTS – Jessica Bland, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Park Supervisor Bland provided a tour of the Hassayampa River Preserve after the regular meeting adjourned. No formal discussion was held or action conducted.

R.J. Cardin, Director

Megha Budruk, Chair