

**REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COCONINO COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.02
January 6, 2022
4:00pm
Internet/Web Based Video Conference Call
Microsoft Teams**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm by Chair Daniel Hiel. Vice Chair Howard Brown was present. Commissioners Steve Mongrain, Brian Blue, Mary Hendricks, Ellen Parish and Jean Marie Rieck were also present. Commissioner Pam Foti was not present. Staff in attendance was Cynthia Nemeth (Parks and Recreation Director) and taking minutes Kayla Cooper (Administrative Specialist II).

2. Parks and Recreation Commission Purpose

The purpose in establishing the Coconino County Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) is to provide a citizen body responsive to the communities and people of Coconino County and to recommend a policy regarding the development and operations of a well-balanced system of parks, programs, trails, and events.

3. Approval of the Minutes from, Meeting December 2, 2021

December Minutes were approved.

4. Public Appearances/Introductions/Call to the Public

New Business

5. Additional discussion regarding annual PRC goals (30 Minutes)

Chair Hiel and Commissioner Blue led a continuation of discussion 2022 goals. They also Shared Document from last meeting regarding goals.

Commissioner Rieck and Blue then discussed their meeting with Supervisor Matt Ryan about goals and his priorities. Supervisor Ryan has high level goals for Parks and Recreation. Supervisor Ryan is very interested in trails and building connectivity. Commissioner Blue added that Ryan mentioned a need for better signage on Soldier's Trail and supportive of continued trail development. Ryan also expressed that the public

needs more information regarding the Parks and Recreation Department and what the department has accomplished and that this can be done through outreach marketing and that he would specifically see more outreach to the City of Williams.

Blue added that Ryan would also like to see the Friends of Coconino County Parks (FCCP) be a major fund-raising source, he thought that the PRC could work with the FCCP as a coordinator for volunteers and bring more people together.

Commissioner Rieck then shared her notes from the meeting and stated that Supervisor Ryan was very interested in the coordination with the state military and the Centennial Forest, specifically working with Rogers Lake and Camp Navajo and working on the Centennial Landscape Conservation implementation Plan for Camp Navajo, and Ryan is thinking if we can work in a coordination with the military, especially over in the area by Rogers Lake and between Rogers Lake and Camp Navajo, that would be really advantageous for the public as far as trail connectivity and other Parks and Recreation opportunities.

Director Nemeth then shared the Table document based on the guiding principles that were discussed and added Supervisor Ryan's goals to table. Nemeth then asked the group if they had any questions or comments on the document.

Commissioner Blue stated that he would like to see more of the Parks and Recreation Departments voice in the document.

Director Nemeth stated that she will share the document with her staff for their feedback and input.

Commissioner Hendricks then shared her notes from her meeting with Supervisor Judy Begay. Supervisor Begay was not interested in trail development but was interested in Grant writing to help with projects on the reservation. Hendricks also shared that Begay was interested in the Navajo Nation taking ownership of Louis Yellowman County Park and also partnering with Twin Arrows Casino to house Navajo students that are in enrolled at Northern Arizona University (NAU) so they had a closer place to a smaller commute to their classes.

Next Vice Chair Brown shared ideas from his meeting with Supervisor Horstman and Chair Hiel. Supervisor Horstman expressed that fundraising for Parks and Recreation and the FCCP is a priority and that they would discuss more in their next meeting with Horstman.

Commissioner Mongrain answered that he did not get to meet with his supervisor yet but did participate in a survey for the City of Page regarding the Cities goals and they are currently working on another pocket park in Page that has equipment that's more oriented for its seniors. The city is also looking at upgrading the current disc golf course and work on some of the local bike trails.

6. Pam Foti Recognition

Director Nemeth led a discussion on the recognition of commissioner Pam Foti by explaining that she would like to have a small gathering and potentially name a trail head or bench after her. Director Nemeth then opened the discussion up to the group.

Commissioner Parish shared her idea that the group could get an article in the newspaper published or a story on NPR or both, but something that compiles her the work she's done and how it affected the community at large.

Commissioner Blue added that the group could also present her with a plaque and a Kachina doll in addition to the article.

Next Director Nemeth ended the discussion by stating that she will reach out with Commissioner Foti's supervisor to discuss filling her seat on the commission.

7. Commissioner Park Tours

Chair Hiel began the discussion on County Park guided tours for Commissioners by asking the group if they were still interested in taking tours of the County Parks.

The group agreed that the park tours would be beneficial for both the PRC members and for the new County supervisors as well and Director Nemeth will get with Department staff to coordinate the tours.

8. Proposed Service Improvement Requests

Director Nemeth reviewed and sought recommendation from the group to submit the presented Fiscal Year 2023 budget requests. Nemeth presented a list of service improvement requests that are requests outside as a base budget. For example, if there is special project coming up or an augmentation on an ongoing basis to the base budget, they must ask for the service improvement requests. The list is lengthy, but the Parks and Recreation Department managers are still refining the list.

Director Nemeth then explained that the department is asking for \$12,000 for prescribed burns on a reoccurring basis to be added to the budget. They are asking for the money to come from the general Fund and potentially some money in the short term from the infrastructure and Jobs Act. This request is listed as one of the higher priorities as it is a public safety issue. Nemeth then explained that they are also looking for an increase in the recreation and recreation program budget, for a winter activity expense budget to be implemented along creating a specialty fund for the amphitheater.

9. Coconino County Redistricting

Director Nemeth provided information on Coconino County Redistricting. The State is going through its redistricting process as it does so every 10 years following a US census count. Nemeth then shared a link with more information as the county will also be talking about its own redistricting lines.

Director Nemeth then explained that County Manager Steve Peru will be talking about redistricting on January 25th at the 6:00 PM Board of Supervisors meeting.

10. Upcoming Board of Supervisor Agenda Items*

January 11, 2022, at 10:00am- Festival Grant Award from the Arizona Commission on the Arts (consent item)

January 25, 2022, at 6:00pm- Redistricting

**Confirm agenda item dates and times before attending. Board agenda is subject to last minute changes.*

Reports

1. Director's Report

Director Nemeth began her report by reporting on winter recreation and its recent impacts on Fort Tuthill County Park. Over the past weekend the park was full of visitors sledding and playing in the snow. The new bike park restroom, parking lots and the bike park were highly used and therefore the park is discussing implementing a park fee during the winter season.

Next Nemeth reported that in addition to pursuing a grant to leverage some of the public private partner funds for the sewer and parking lot repairs, the department also has an opportunity to utilize state appropriated American Rescue Plan Act funds for that project as well.

2. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Blue reported that he and Director Nemeth met via zoom with Justin, the new supervisor Superintendent as well as Principal of Maine School District in the Community of Parks and that he was interested in collaborating with the PRC and some of his organizations and the community of Parks.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Notice:

*Next Friends of Coconino County Parks Meeting: January 12, 2022, **Microsoft Teams***

*Next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting: February 3, 2022, **Microsoft Teams***

**Coconino County
Parks & Recreation Commission**

Daniel Hiel
Daniel Hiel, Chair

**Coconino County
Parks & Recreation Department**

Kayla Cooper
Kayla Cooper
Secretary to the Commission

