Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Agenda

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 15, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 700 N. MAIN

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest

At the opening of each meeting, the chairperson shall ask if any member on the Board or City staff has any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approved Minutes

Documents:

04-20-23 PRAB DRAFT MINUTES.PDF

5. Public Participation
6. Action Items
7. Discussion Items
7.1. Skate Park Renovations - Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
7.2. Las Cruces Youth Soccer Association - C. W. Ward, President
7.3. Youth Development Diversion Program Presentation - Pat Acosta, Youth Development Diversion Program Supervisor
7.4. Las Cruces Public School (LCPS) Agreement Update - Robert Nunez, Interim Director, Parks & Recreation
7.5. Go Bond Update (2018, 2022) - Robert Nunez, Interim Director, Parks & Recreation
7.6. Youth Services Program Tour - Claudia Chavez, Interim Youth Services Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
7.7. Summer Special Events - Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
7.8. Park & Trail Wayfinding Plan - Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation

8. Staff Member Comments

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 541-2550.

The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Posted: June 9, 2023
9. Board Member Comments

10. Adjournment

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Posted: June 9, 2023
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on April 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:
- Cassie McClure - District 1
- Kenneth Coppedge – District 2
- Aracely Tellez – District 3
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Laura Haas - District 6
- Fred Raish – At large member

Members Absent:
- Eric Montgomery - District 5

Others Present:
- Robert Nunez, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation
- Phillip Catanach, Recreation Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
- Claudia Chavez, Interim Deputy Director Youth Services, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
- Greg Shervanick, Public
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of April 20, 2023, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. **Introduction:**

   Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Attending staff introduced themselves.

2. **Conflict of Interest:**

   There was no conflict of interest.

3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Board Member Raish moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Agenda for April 20, 2023, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes - February 16, 2023:**

Board Member Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 16, 2023, seconded by Board Member Tellez. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of Minutes - March 16, 2023:**

Vice-Chair Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes March 16, 2023 as amended by Hazel, seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Public Participation:**

There was none.

7. **Action Items:**

7.1 **Parks & Recreation 2023-2024 Fees and Charges/Facility Use Policy - Robert Nunez:**

This policy did not go before City Council immediately after being presented to this Board at the end of last year. It has now been updated and will hopefully be on the Council agenda sometime next month. There was no change to the introduction. This is the Board's recommended policy to determine user fees, different types of cost recovery, and various internal policies and City policies regarding scholarships, fee waivers, payment plans, programming, and permitting.

The categories of cost recovery are: Minimum Cost Recovery which is normally 0-20% of direct program cost such as out-of-school programs, therapeutic programs, special events, and aquatics; Partial Cost Recovery include youth classes and athletics; Full Cost Recovery include any adult programming. The policy includes definitions of Direct Cost, a list Parks and Rec's facilities, and programming/hours of operation. There are guidelines for sponsorship of groups and Department guidelines for the distribution of City stipends to local recreational youth leagues or organizations/associations. This funding is to help lower the cost of participation for youth members. Currently there are $10,000 budgeted for this and only one club has recently applied for aid. The established clubs have become self-sustaining recently, as they have not applied for aid in some time. The policy includes a refund.
policy, returned check policy, payment plan guidelines, and the youth scholarship program. The scholarship program runs from July 1 through June 30 and uses funds received from unsolicited private donations. A household can receive up to $240,000; individuals can receive up to $120. Sponsored youth are required to pay 50% of the program fees. Scholarships cannot be used to pay for fitness classes, rentals, equipment fees, special events, pass cards, and daily entry to the pool facility. Families who desire scholarships must fill out an application and provide proof of income and residence. Parks and Rec follows State guidelines for income analysis. The policy includes a transfer policy, age categories, seniors, recreation facility age limits, family definitions, organization aquatic fee, restorative pool, weight room program, free swim dates, school district year-end parties, and facility use rental guidelines for all the recreational centers.

One new item there is "rentals cannot be used to conduct private business for personal gain unless approved by Parks and Recreation Director." There are contracts to conduct City programming, permitting procedures, which includes the new permit rule "to request for the use of water-holding structures like but not limited to Las Cruces Dam and Tee time will need prior approval by the Public Works Department before park facility application can be approved." Those two locations are under the authority of Public Works and the Army Corps of Engineers. Also updates was the request for use of parks: Request for use of the following parks but not limited to Apodaca Park, Desert Trails Park, Johnson Park, Klein Park, Women's Pioneer Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Young Park will require a deposit/fee of $250. This payment is nonrefundable and will be applied to your overall rental fee." The policy also lays out nondiscrimination compliance, insurance; the City of Las Cruces requires anyone renting the park and using jumping balloons to carry additional liability insurance with the City listed as additional insured. There are guidelines for sports field requests: If you are not established or in good standing, a 50% payment will be due up front once a permit has been approved. This payment is nonrefundable and will be applied to your overall rental. The remaining balance must be paid within one week after the event. All tournaments require a $250 deposit upon approval of permitting. All organizations, leagues, and field users including point-of-contact and league office that do not reside within City limits will have to pay a non-resident fee and will require a $250 deposit upon approval of permit. This payment is nonrefundable and will be applied to your overall rental fee. A Post Office box will not be allowed as proof of local residence. All organizations will be responsible for collection of event camping fees at tournaments.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board authority over leagues and organizations that utilize City fields and/or facilities: The purpose of this is to provide guidance to local recreational youth, adult leagues, or organizations that utilize City fields and/or facilities, to provide an independent, non-biased committee that has the authority to review league/organization procedures, act
as an appellant body for players, coaches, parents, spectators, suspensions, review financial records and recommend or require changes to league organizational operations. This is per Resolution 12-072. There have been coaches and parents come in, as all leagues are required to have standard operating procedures regarding behavior and actions of fans, league officers, parents, teams, everyone who is in attendance, and there have suspensions coming all the way up to the Board. Complaints start at the level of the section that they are under, then the level of the Director, and if it is unable to be resolved it is brought before the Parks and Rec Advisory Board to be heard. Parks and Rec Advisory Board has the final say in these situations. Board Member Coppedge asked about renting soccer fields and that information is further down in the policy.

There are requirements listed for fishing, swimming, carnivals and amusements, roller skating/rollerblading/skateboarding, golfing, mobile concessions/vending, special use permits, inflatable/portable play equipment, vehicles driving in City parks, the wellness program, the community gardening program including that all participants must be registered annually and all current gardeners can register for one plot from January 3rd through January 31st and new gardeners can register for available plots from February 1st through 28th and beginning March 1st registered gardeners can request a second plot if available. There was a high demand for plots last year so Parks and Rec wants to try to provide enough. Parks and Rec has added the Memorial Tree and Bench Program for people to purchase a new tree for $500 each, and a park bench with a plaque for $2,200 up to $2,500 or without a plaque starting at $1,800 dedicated to the person or group of their choice. A Walk of Honor brick paver would be $35. The list includes park hours and rules for park use. Pet owners’ responsibilities are listed and the locations of the dog parks. The rules are listed for merchandising, advertising, and signs with exceptions, and City fee policies as established by City Council.

A fitness punch card with 30 visits should be increased to $60, the gymnastics program is being discontinued due to lack of instructors and will hopefully be reinstated later if an instructor can be found, open pickleball sessions is $2 per session, pickleball net rental for on-site use only is $10 per net, the Water Cycle Class is $5 per class, the Water Fitness punch card is increased to $60, the Aquatic Weight Room is also increased to $60 for 30 visits. The After School Program fee schedule was $400 per semester; during the pandemic those fees were removed. Now that the pandemic is officially listed as over, the fees will be $100 per semester. Summer Recreation Program fees will be requested to be set at $40 and the Spring Camp and Fall Camp at $20 per session. Pre- and post-program fees will be eliminated, the Life Center Angel Care building has been sold to a private business and so is no longer part of the Therapeutic Recreational Program, for youth sports leagues and cheer with jersey is $50, without jersey is $40, coach rental card is $5 per player, and
with the pilot programming process the Department will be able to improve
their research and innovation for new programming.

The fees will be set at the time of implementation with City Council's approval. Special events fees remain the same. For the swimming program the fees have been adjusted. First aid will be $55, CPR will be $75, recertification will be $50, lifeguard skills recertification will be $90, home swimming pool/spa water safety will be $30, open water safety will be $30, home swimming water safety/open water will be $50. Daily fees remain the same for the swimming pools. There will no longer be punch cards at Frenger, East Mesa, and Laabs. Rentals have been scratched. Natatorium meet and practice fees for nonprofit, commercial, and non-residential have been thoroughly researched and are: Nonprofit $11, commercial $50 per 25-yard lane for practice, and non-residential is $17. A 50-meter lane is $13 for nonprofit, $50 for commercial, and $26 for non-residential. Swim meets: Nonprofit $175 per hour without scoreboard, $700 for commercial, and $220 for non-residential. Starting system per meet: Nonprofit $25, commercial $100, and non-residential $30. Dolphin timers, each per meet: Nonprofit $15, commercial $60, and non-residential $20. Operation fee for timing system will be $30 per operator across the board. Swim meet spectator fee will be $3 across the board. Touch pads: Nonprofit $15, commercial $60, and $20 for non-residential. Swim meets timing system will be $500 across the board. School swim teams per lane is $11 across the board. The new system will have a debit card for daily use, as the punch cards did not work as well as hoped. The debit cards can be used for everything, where the punch cards were specific to each facility. The City will need to hire more lifeguards to be able to keep the facilities open for the hours desired. Fitness room rent is $20 per hour, party area/party room is $100 per three hours. East Mesa Multipurpose Room team rental is $10 per hour. The gymnastics rental package has been scratched. Meerscheidt Recreation Facility, entire building indoors is $100 per hour. The Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center dining room is $30 per hour and the auditorium is $40 per hour. The Meerscheidt Recreation Center team practice rental card allows use of the Multipurpose Room and either gymnasium is six sessions for $50 or eight sessions for $70. Fundraising rentals will need to be coordinated and approved with additional electric panels through the City's Facilities Section and a separate fee will be assessed. Merchandise has been raised to $15, $20, and $25. Pickleballs are $1 each. The Ziggy plush is $10. Park permit fees for organized groups to use facilities: Trails are $2 per participant, parking lot fee is $100 per half lot for four hours or the entire lot for $200, sports leagues per field/court game
fees have been adjusted also, and priority and lower rent is given to local leagues.

Pedestrian barricades, temporary fence, or goal transportation for soccer goals are $250 per setup for residents and $500 for non-residents. Practice field hourly fees are being adjusted for residents and non-residents and will be for a maximum of two hours per day and two days per week. Pickleball and handball court fees and tournament fees have been adjusted for residents and non-residents. Facility change fees for setup and tear-down are $1,000 each time if Parks and Rec is requested to take care of that. Sports groups, camping fees, RV trailers, tents have a resident and non-resident fee. BMX fees, horseshoes, and skate part rentals have been adjusted for residents and non-residents. There is an added vendor fee of $60 quarterly and $150 for a concession space and parking spot on the Downtown area. The mobile concession and vending fees are $150 per quarter. These price increases are not based on a percentage but rather staff salaries and research and comparison with other cities' facilities to keep prices competitive and still recover costs.

As a municipality, Las Cruces is required to set some type of fee on most of the programs. Through policy and with the help of City Council, the youth programs are subsidized and supported to keep prices down while the cost recovery is achieved through the adult programming. The process for renting facilities is posted on the Parks and Rec website and can be included in this Policy. Restrooms are open while the parks are open and the Parks and Rec crews keep them up. The Young Park south restroom is kept locked except for huge events because renters who rent the southwest corner of the park complain when people not in their own party use that restroom, so it is easier to just keep that restroom locked. Restrooms are repaired as soon as possible when they break because the port-a-potty vendor is under contract and using that service would go over contract just to replace a broken restroom temporarily. Staff can look into adding restroom use into the Policy. Posted park hours used to be 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. but there were many issues happening after dark, so park hours were changed to 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the summer and 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the winter. Now, park hours are simply sunrise to sunset and the Department is working on updating the signage and website. This allows Codes and Police to send away people who may be causing problems outside of posted hours.

Board Member Coppedge moved to table this item until the meeting of May 18, 2023, seconded by Board Member Raish.

This Policy is already in the queue for City Council in May. Staff could easily add the language requested and send out the updated document by e-mail for review so that it can still go to City Council in May. The motion to table died.
Board Member Coppedge moved to approve the Parks & Recreation 2023-2024 Fees And Charges/Facility Use with language added regarding bathroom use and field rental process, seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion carried unanimously by acclamation.

8. Discussion Items:

8.1 Organ Mountains Pickleball Club - Jeff Anderson:

Jeff Anderson is the new President of the Organ Mountains Pickleball Club. The club has been around for about three years and has roughly 250 members and about 500 people on the e-mail list. They use City facilities all the time and are very pleased to work with Parks and Rec. The club is a nonprofit group and offers free youth lessons, broken into age groups of 3rd and 4th grade, 5th and 6th grade, and 7th and 8th grade. They also offer free beginning adult lessons. The club works with the Parkinson’s Support Group of Southern New Mexico and the patients get great benefits from the exercise. There was a very successful tournament at Apodaca Park this year. The club raised $3,000 for Soles4Souls to provide shoes for local children and $3,000 for La Casa to help victims of domestic violence. Tournaments at Apodaca Park on Fridays and Saturdays are very well-attended. The club sponsored the Aaron Gifford Annual Pickleball Tournament at Lions Park three weeks ago and it was very successful. Ms. Hunter runs that tournament and she reported that it earned $30,000 for City of Hope to help get veterans off the street and for Mission 22 which is a veterans’ mental health organization. There are beautiful new courts being built on the East Mesa and the club is eagerly awaiting their opening. The club has a website and Mr. Anderson invites everyone to visit Organ Mountains Pickleball there.

8.2 Farmers Market Update - Cassie McClure:

Board Member McClure attended the Farmers Market last month to chat with attendees. She was very impressed with the sign for her booth. There were many people asking questions in Spanish and she suggests that the subcommittee should discuss how to market services in Spanish. Board Member Engle also attended and there were many comments to him about trails, wayfinding, and bicycle path infrastructure. Board Member Haas was impressed with the amount of literature that was provided for her to pass out at the Farmers Market. She requested more literature on the Senior and Youth Programs to give out. She received many compliments on the programming available in Las Cruces. Board Member Raish agreed that there were many people interested in Senior Programs. People are also excited about the new aquatic center. Board Member Engle also received questions about the new dog park opening. Board Member McClure suggested having other days at the Farmers Market for outreach in the future.
8.3 Hike Program Update - Phil Catanach:

Phil Catanach met with Mr. Patrick Nolan of Friends of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument to discuss setting up a hiking program and what Parks and Rec can and can't do to help. They decided to set this up for August of this year as they do not do hiking in the hottest part of the summer. Docent hikes are available in May and June that are open to the public. Mr. Catanach said that Parks and Rec does not have the staff with the safety knowledge to be able to do a high-level program and so he is looking into ways to partner or contract with Mr. Nolan's group. Mr. Catanach is also setting up a list of low-level hikes that will be made available to the public starting in May. These are geared towards beginners, as the staff that will be in attendance to provide CPR and first aid services are also beginner hikers. These will be free of charge and there will not be transport provided for participants. Mr. Catanach will reevaluate a possible hiking program in August. He will keep Marvin and Linda updated with community-wide hiking activities and docent hikes via e-mail. Friends of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument are all volunteer so they will not have the personnel available to help create a high-level hiking program. Other cities in New Mexico such as Farmington are hiring outdoor recreation programmers. There is a New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Conference in the fall. All the hikes that are currently planned around Las Cruces are easy and short. The specific distances and list of supplies to bring will come out with the weekly list of hikes.

8.4 GO Bond Updates - Robert Nunez:

The 2018 Bond, multiuse paths at the sports fields and courts, has been completed. The East Mesa Sports Complex is 94% complete. City Council recently approved $2 million of SSGRT funds for Parks and Rec/Public Works to complete Phase I which includes erosion control, landscaping, and playground and shade structures. The pickleball courts are basically finished but cannot be opened because they are in a construction area. Parks and Public Works will be doing an initial walk-through there. The sod was delayed in shipping but field completion dates have been identified. The meeting to discuss priorities for the $2 million will be next week. The 2022 Bond was recently approved with $5 million earmarked for the East Mesa Sports Complex. Public Works will do the lighting in all the fields and some funds will be left for Parks and Rec to perhaps begin work on a skate park, trails, and further lighting. Parks and Rec also received $2 million for park improvements and plans to immediately work on La Llorona Park restrooms and other improvements and trail maintenance. Three other parks are also on the list for these funds and Parks and Rec will see how much they can do with it. There are three years allowed to spend all these funds.

8.5 City Parks & Sports Fields Update - Franco Granillo:
League practices are at a minimum but soccer practice can be done in baseball outfields as well. The funding has been identified to remove the poles at Harty so the field can be used for daytime play. The side fields are still lit for night play. The Springfest was last week and went very well. Staff worked very hard on litter control, restroom cleaning, keeping people out of the pond, and occasionally assisting vendors. It was well-attended and everyone seemed happy with it. The Mira! Las Cruces event is coming up on April 29, 2023. Staff is working hard on that. The plaza is already decorated, including a Christmas tree, and staff will continue adding to it as the event comes closer.

Great American Cleanup is this weekend and staff is assisting KLCB to get that done, providing roll-offs in various places and helping out. Orlando, the Community Forester, started in mid-March with tree plantings. He placed 38 in Frenger Park and is looking at other places to plant before the planting season ends. Summertime is too hot for planting. He will attend the Earth Day event and provide outreach and swag for proper tree care. There will also be an Arbor Day event with planting two trees in each Council District.

Maintenance in all areas is very busy, with warmer temperatures causing the plants to grow quickly and require more cutting. Irrigation costs and times will increase as the season gets warmer. Public Works has filled the holes in the road out at the shooting range. Long-term fixing is being planned and will be submitted to BLM for a case file update and approval. The City is looking to acquire the road and entryway to facilitate upkeep, as right now no one is actually responsible for it. The clubs at Butterfield Shooting Range are aware of this and understand that it will take a while.

8.6 Parks & Recreation Projects Update - Catherine Mathews:

Butterfield Shooting Range ADA improvements are complete. Gomez Park lighting is completed as of earlier this month. The neighbors had requested the lighting and two public meetings were held in 2019 regarding safety concerns in the neighborhood and park after dark. Ms. Mathews is generally reluctant to add lighting to parks due to the posted hours of operation; however, in many locations around town the communities have requested lights. The second public input meeting for the Skate Park Renovation Project was April 6, 2023 and was well-attended. There was lively discussion and many opinions expressed to the consultants. There were three different options presented and participants were very excited. The consultants will take all the data from the meetings and create a single plan to be presented at the May meeting with visuals. The New Skate Park Project has received proposals. Purchasing Department is currently doing the reference checks which are anticipated to be completed in May and the Selection Advisory Committee will rate the proposals and make the selection.

Two projects went before Council on Monday, including the Disk Golf Course and the Safe Haven Playground. Both were approved, the budget adjustments were approved, and the CIP adjustment was approved for the Disk Golf
Course and the Safe Haven Playground. Both projects are now on the CIP and Parks and Rec is allowed to work on them. The name issue did not come up at that meeting. The Purchase Order Requisition has been released, it will go through its process of contracting, and construction can begin. Safe Haven Playground will undergo a design process because there is a plan and requests for what should occur and now there is a budget and a final project can be created out of it. Gallagher Park Improvements Project had a $150,000 budget approved by Council and Parks and Rec has started using that budget. Based on input from the neighbors Parks and Rec is purchasing bicycle racks, Adirondack chairs, a replacement slide and safety swing, and safety surfacing. There were supply chain issues with everything. It has been difficult to get all the equipment. Ms. Mathews already has a quote from the manufacturer for the equipment for the playground equipment. She just needs a quote from the certified playground installer for equipment installation. She expects the equipment to take eight to 12 weeks to arrive.

The trail system between University and Boutz/Missouri project is ongoing. Ms. Mathews needs to get an RFP for design before proceeding. Katherine Harrison-Rogers is now the new planner in NMSU's Architects Office. She is very proactive and is aware of that project and can help smooth the process to speed it up. At the public input meeting for the skate park, the consultant presented the three options and then allowed the members of the public to talk about it. There was a microphone and individuals spoke. At the end the consultant allowed people to come up to the screen and point and talk about the most popular options. Most attendees seemed to be satisfied.

9. Staff Member Comments:

Claudia Chavez of Youth Services mentioned the Great American Cleanup. The roll-offs will be at Apodaca Park, Young Park, Tony Gomez Park, and on the corner of Thurmond and Sonoma. There will be a lot of community engagement. District Cleanups are scheduled: May 20th is District 6, June 10th is District 5, July 15th is District 4, August 19th is District 3, September 16th is District 2, October 14th is the big event for Toss No Mas, and November 18th is District 1. There has been great input and Amelia has been doing a great job with the 311 calls from the community. Youth Service Week had an overwhelming response. Parks and Rec is providing a $250 stipend for groups to get out and work on their chosen area and there is now a wait list for that program. Parks and Rec is working with Dona Ana County to get interns for summer programs to help them develop skills and get experience to hopefully graduate and become part of the Parks and Rec team. The summer lottery has three school sites this year. It will be a six-week program with 180 spots. They will be released on May 10th. Ms. Chavez is excited that the youth programs are in high demand.

Phil Catanach presented his updates for April 2023: Youth Basketball, Youth Cheer, and Adult Sand Volleyball are all in week four. Youth Cheer is cheering at
Youth Basketball games on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Youth Basketball and Adult Sand Volleyball have over 500 participants. Little Sluggers Baseball starts May 15th. Outdoor Youth Soccer in-person registration is Saturday, online began today, and that league starts on May 15th as well. There will be a short Adult Basketball League in May and registration will be May 1st online. Youth Volleyball in-person for the summer will be on May 30th. Parks and Rec will be working on the Mira! Las Cruces event on April 29th. Plaza de Las Cruces Interactive Fountain, Metro Verde Unidad Splash Pad will be officially open Memorial Day through Labor Day, but since the weather has been nice they were opened early on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. The fountains are not open during the weekdays because school is not out yet. The outdoor pools, Laabs and East Mesa, are getting ready for inspection and opening on Memorial Day Weekend. Contractors at the new Community Natatorium are working on punch list items, applying nonslip surfacing to the deck, and landscaping to try to open on Memorial Day Weekend. If anything happens it could be pushed back but right now the plan is for Memorial Day Weekend. The Regional Aquatic Center has increased attendance in all areas in the past three months. In Recreation Programming, Keep Pedaling is ongoing. They have done four rides so far and the next one is set for next Wednesday. The next Saturday ride will be Saturday, May 13th. Other ongoing programs include Magic the Gathering, Thursday night therapeutic Boot Scootin’ Boogie exercise class, bingo, billiards, arts and crafts, karaoke, volleyball, kickball in the park, and a monthly dance. Parks and Rec is also preparing for summer events and the Mobile Recreation Unit is filling up with requests. The schedule is set for Movies in the Park and there will be a news release in the next couple of weeks. Music in the Park and the Mayor’s Jazz Fest is set, 17 concerts with 33 groups beginning May 28th and continuing through August. The call for floats for the Electric Light Parade will go out next week and the theme will be announced. The Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks will be partnering with NMSU again. The lineups will be announced in the next couple of weeks. Employee wellness programs are continuing with great participation for City employees to participate in recreational activities outside of work. There will be many news releases, social media posts, and radio and print advertising in the next few weeks as this is the planning time for the busiest season. Year-round school does not affect the year-round weekend and evening activities. The bigger community events happen during the school holidays so it does not do anything to that. Parks and Rec has adjusted programming schedules to accommodate those children.

Franco Granillo commented that Robert Nunez and everyone have been very helpful with unrealistic expectations from the public and thanks them for all the daily assistance they provide, and hopes he is as helpful to them as they are to him. Board Member Engle spoke to his Council representative regarding how much maintenance is required to keep up the new equipment being installed. Mr. Granillo concurred and mentioned that replacing a vandalized slide will cost $14,000 which has to be taken from something else to do it.
Robert Nunez mentioned that FY 24 budget is going to a work session next week and Parks and Rec staff will be attending to answer questions regarding the ask for FY 24 and hoping the request is approved. Board Members and Parks and Rec team were thanked for all their hard work. The CAPRA accreditation application has been submitted as of almost two weeks ago. The core team will be available to answer questions. The review team for Las Cruces consists of a person from Washington State, one from Texas, and one from Florida working on Las Cruces’ application over the next ten weeks. If all goes well, the review team will be here in mid-June for a site visit. They may also wish to talk to Board Members.

10. Board Member Comments:

Board Member Engle also thanks Parks and Rec staff for their hard work. His son is enjoying the splash pad Downtown occasionally and riding the free RoadRUNNER Transit to parks on the weekends. Board Member Engle’s son is signed up for Little Sluggers and staff was able to help him get the applications done on RecTrack. He was very thankful for the help. Board Member Engle also thanks the Board for their hard work.

Board Member Raish thanks staff for all their hard work.

Chair McClure thanks staff for their hard work.

11. Adjournment:

Vice-Chair Engle moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Haas.