



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

October 19, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on October 19, 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
Laura Haas - District 6
Fred Raish – At large member
Stan Engle - District 4

Members Absent:

Aracely Tellez – District 3
Eric Montgomery - District 5

Others Present:

Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks and Recreation
Phillip Catanach, Recreation Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Catherin Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
Judy Barela, Recreation Administrator in Athletics, Parks & Recreation
Greg Shervanick, Public
Aaron Lucas, Public
Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of October 19, 2023, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. Introductions:

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

2. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

1
2 **3. Approval of the Agenda:**
3

4 Board Member Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
5 Meeting Agenda for October 19, 2023, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle. Motion
6 passed.
7

8 **4. Approval of the Minutes July 20, 2023:**
9

10 Board Member Haas moved to amend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
11 Meeting Minutes September 21, 2023, the paragraph that proceeds item No. 1 to
12 read "Representative Kenneth Coppedge" instead of "McClure," and changes that
13 were passed to staff via e-mail, seconded by Coppedge. Motion passed.
14

15 Board Member Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
16 Meeting Minutes September 21, 2023, seconded by Coppedge. Motion passed.
17

18 **5. Public Participation:**
19

20 Aaron Lucas stated at Tellbrook park there were a lot of tires. He appreciates the
21 Adopt-a-Spot, and he is the contact of Mesilla Valley Audubon Society and they are
22 responsible for Sagecrest Park. They pick up at least once a month in the morning.
23 Concerning the Rinconada dog park in July he e-mailed pictures of some issues
24 with the irrigation pipes. He stated this week someone fixed the leaking irrigation
25 pipe. There are two sizes of poop bags, and the smaller have never been refilled
26 since July. Franco Granillo stated the dog park is under warranty and dealing with
27 contractor to fix the irrigation issues. Staff did some repairs also. The City fills the
28 larger dog bags as that is the standard, not the smaller ones. The smaller will be
29 removed on the trash can and City will continue to fill the larger ones.
30

31 Greg Shervanick thanked City staff and the Pachanga organization for altering traffic
32 on Nevada the past weekend. He welcomes the new Director to the Renaissance
33 Fair, which is expecting about 8,000 people. He is asking to have normal traffic/
34 thru traffic on Lees Drive from Nevada and Colorado as a temporary measure.
35

36 **6. Action Items:**
37

38 **6.1 Board Elections - Board Chair McClure:**
39

40 A nomination for Laura Haas was presented for Vice-Chair, which was
41 accepted.
42

43 Board Member Raish moved for Laura Haas as Vice-Chair, seconded by
44 Board Member Coppedge. Motion passed.
45

46 A nomination for Fred Raish was presented for Chair, which was accepted.

1
2 Board Member Haas moved for Fred Raish as Chair, seconded by Vice-Chair
3 Engle. Motion passed.
4

5 **6.2 Parks / Sports Fields Usage - Board Member Coppedge:**
6

7 Board Member Coppedge stated based on conversations with citizens, soccer
8 coaches, baseball coaches, and from C.W. Ward from last month, he would
9 like to make a motion to form a committee or subcommittee to analyze the best
10 way for the City to use the sports fields for youth. Vice-Chair Engle seconded
11 the motion.
12

13 Board Member Coppedge believes the Parks Department is doing the best job
14 to manage resources they have, but they might be narrow minded in scope of
15 how much can be happening there on the fields and seeing how things could
16 be used/utilized. Things are falling through the cracks, gates are locked,
17 people are going without. He mentioned contention between Las Cruces
18 Public Schools and the Parks Department and that the soccer community has
19 been negatively affected. Who owns the fields? Who rents the fields? Who
20 pays for the fields? Who doesn't pay for the fields? Where the GO Bond
21 money is being allocated for bathrooms et al? The subcommittee would look
22 at other leagues in other districts, other sports in Las Cruces and see often
23 they use the fields. Often there are not able to use the fields due to being
24 locked out. Look at other cities: Carlsbad, Roswell, Socorro, Albuquerque,
25 how many fields do they have that are available for practices compared to what
26 Las Cruces has. Looking at number of tournaments and times that the fields
27 our available for practices based on league play or tournament play versus
28 number of hours where kids spend in practices versus in games and see if
29 things are being done the best way possible for the youth. Soledad field is
30 small with lots of use. Steven Bingham stated he has met with Board Member
31 Coppedge. Also some information records acts have been requested. They
32 had a conversation with Steve Armstrong who did extensive review of what
33 they are doing. This is welcomed for advice and as a sounding board. This
34 would be helpful but also include staff for input on the decisions that were
35 made. Franco Granillo mentioned that they do take care of the space but do
36 not running the schedules of the leagues. League directors run those
37 schedules. Parks has offered to help with scheduling but that offer has not
38 utilized. To start the formation of the subcommittee in tandem with the
39 leagues.
40

41 Motion passed for subcommittee for field usage.
42

43 Vice-Chair Engle moved for Board Member Coppedge to Chair the
44 subcommittee, seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion passed.
45

1 Steven Bingham hopes that three members of the advisory board would help
2 with that. Want to include people from the public. Hear from other sports
3 groups, but to get a more fair advisory, hear from them but create some
4 separation so it is not advice of individual sports organizations being self-
5 serving. Be sure all users, small and large, have a significant say on the
6 committee. Suggestion of soliciting participation from referees or officials that
7 see some of the problems.
8

9 **7. Discussion Items:**

10 None.
11
12

13 **8. Staff Member Comments:**
14

15 Robert Nunez stated the Youth Development and Diversion Program is preparing
16 for the application process through CYFD, State of New Mexico. Looking at a three
17 year period for the application process. They will be providing services as they
18 currently do throughout the county. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful program, upcoming
19 dumpster day, Saturday in November, specifics will be e-mailed. Putting open-
20 topped dumpsters throughout the City to allow community for fall clean up. They
21 have their Fall Festival taking place next Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at A.
22 Fielder Memorial Safe Haven. A haunted house, costume contest, and some
23 community partners Department of Health, State Police, CYFD, and others
24 providing information to families.
25

26 Judy Barela stated the Natatorium having Friday Fright Splash Nights. Movies to
27 be shown on the big screen at the Natatorium and float on the water. Additional
28 games and activities too. The next without Fridays will be for the entire family.
29 Tomorrow night is Frankenweenie, next Friday is Nightmare Before Christmas. Cost
30 of admission is one nonperishable thanksgiving food item per person. For athletics
31 at Meerscheidt have Spooky Spikes Adult Volleyball Tournament on the weekend
32 before Halloween, which is a two-day event. Adult Indoor Volleyball League that
33 they are taking registration for on November 13th. Indoor Youth Soccer is taking
34 registration starting in November, with play starting in January. Great Pumpkin
35 Candy Drop taking place October 29th, 11:00 to 4:00 at Maag Softball Complex,
36 with free candy, local radio station providing music, games, activities, and
37 information booths.
38

39 Franco Granillo stated they recently had the Whole Enchilada Softball tournament
40 that went well. There were issues with one of the fields where a light pole went
41 down. The tournament got going okay. And many City departments pitched in to
42 be sure that was taken care of. There were several events last weekend that were
43 staffed, the Pumpkin Palooza, a tennis tournament required some staff for the
44 restrooms clean and up and running due to so many participants. Other events
45 include Fall concert and Pachanga. Turf is going into dormancy. Transitioning
46 maintenance into winter projects which include resurfacing and re-scalping ball

1 fields in the Hadley area, looking over different park areas for projects to improve
2 maintenance for next summer, also planting trees and replacing shrubs that
3 struggled through the hot summer this year. At the High Noon Soccer Complex are
4 some chain link repair, adding gates for walk through, ADA accessibility, which is
5 part of the overall legislative funding received from the State. Also have removed
6 the press box for safety. It will also include improvements at the restroom and
7 concession stand, get the building into better working order and better ADA
8 compliance. Also additional drinking fountains in the soccer fields. Fencing and
9 drinking fountains will be completed December 15th, the restrooms work should be
10 completed by June 30th. At High Noon Soccer fields the smaller U-10 fields the
11 parking lot is in bad repair. The problem with that parking is there is a culvert
12 underneath it (probably EBID) as it is water passage and not City property. Staff
13 will reach out whoever has oversight on that area to see what they can do.
14

15 Steve Bingham stated they have a great team. He thanked Chair McClure for her
16 six years of service. And welcomed the new Chair and Vice-Chair.
17

18 Hazel Nevarez stated she will be sending Board Member Raish and Board Member
19 Haas and e-mail the Monday of the week before the PRAB meeting for agenda
20 setting, probably 4:00 on Tuesday afternoon.
21

22 **9. Board Member Comments:**
23

24 Board Member Raish appreciated working with Chair McClure.
25

26 Board Member Haas also appreciated Chair McClure and wished Chair McClure
27 luck in further life phases.
28

29 Vice-Chair Engle stated his almost-7-year-old is in youth basketball and expressed
30 that it all seemed to go well. Kids seemed to have fun. Sad to see Chair McClure
31 go.
32

33 Chair McClure thanked the board. A good six years. Appreciated everyone.
34

35 **10. Adjournment:**
36

37 Board Member Coppedge moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Haas.
38 Motion passed.
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44 _____
Chairperson