



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

March 16, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on March 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

- Cassie McClure - District 1
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Eric Montgomery - District 5
- Laura Haas - District 6
- Fred Raish – At large member

Members Absent:

- Kenneth Coppedge – District 2
- Aracely Tellez – District 3

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
- Catherin Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
- Amelia Corrales, Interim Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Coordinator, Parks & Recreation
- Greg Shervanick, Public
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of March 16, 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.

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

2
3 Board Member Montgomery moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory
4 Board Meeting Agenda for March 16, 2023, seconded by Board Member Haas.
5 Motion carried unanimously.
6

7 **4. PRAB Work Session Minutes of January 19, 2023:**

8
9 February 16, 2023 PRAB will be ready next month due to technical difficulties.

10
11 Vice-Chair Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Work
12 Session Minutes January 19, 2023 seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion
13 carried unanimously.
14

15 **5. Public Participation:**

16
17 Katherine Lucas asked why the beautiful dog park on the Rinconada seems all ready
18 to go except it has locks on the gates. It was explained that that dog park has not
19 been accepted from the contractor as there are some critical elements that need to
20 be completed, electricity to the restroom, and other punch list items. The dog park
21 is part of the Animal Services Center building and unable to separate the two in
22 terms of acceptance. Ms. Lucas made a Facebook page for Rinconada dog park
23 and have 40 members already.
24

25 Greg Shervanick requested again verbatim recording. Also that this week in New
26 Mexico from the 14th to the 20th is Sunshine Week. There are two editorials, one
27 in Albuquerque Journal and one in the Sun News by Gregory Williams from the New
28 Mexico Foundation of Open Government and he hopes the Board will read. He
29 thanked the staff and maintenance and recreation for the work being done at Young
30 Park. April 8th will be an Easter Egg Hunt, and between Walnut and Lees Drive is
31 a section of Nevada, and with the propensity of a lot of children carrying Easter
32 baskets and eggs, he will again send to the street department the neighborhoods
33 idea of limiting traffic on Lees Drive through Nevada to the park. He has spoken
34 with the school district concerning they might or not open their parking lots to
35 parking.
36

37 Kevin Armstrong stated since 2008 he has helped improve the temporary dog park
38 and getting ready for the permanent dog park on Hermosa. He is upset in the delay
39 in opening the dog park at Rinconada. He stated the bathrooms were dropped from
40 amenities at a dog park. He read an article from Friday, September 30th in the Las
41 Cruces Sun News, "Expected completion dates of 2018 Las Cruces GO Bond
42 Projects." Another article from December 14th was read concerning the dog parks.
43 He stated the contract was approved by the City on April 19, 2021 and provides for
44 penalties if it is not completed. He asked what penalties have been or will be
45 applied. Parks and Rec is not managing that project, but the contractor is waiting
46 on the cage elements that are part of the Animal Services Center. There some

1 issues with the trees in the dog park and other items in the dog park that the
2 contractor is slated to address. Cathy Mathews just sent an e-mail to the project
3 manager from Public Works in regards to the potential for separating the dog park
4 from the remainder of the contract. Supply chain has been a real problem with not
5 being able to receive items in a timely fashion. The contractor is allowed an
6 extension on the contract with these such issues. Chair McClure asked to keep the
7 members of the public in the loop with e-mail via Public Works' answer. Kevin
8 Armstrong stated within the contract it is specified if there is any problem with either
9 dog parks or the construction that the contractor will go to Parks and Rec or Public
10 Works, versus if there are problems with the Animal Shelter then they would go to
11 the Animal Shelter. Chair McClure suggested putting dog parks on the agenda for
12 next month.

13
14 Julie Perceful lives at Nambé Arc, which is off of Northrise and Calle Abuelo. Moved
15 there August 2021. She walks her dog frequently up and down on Calle Abuelo.
16 There is a City park without playground equipment and she called the City and was
17 told it was on backorder. Then 18 months later she sees a woman with a child in
18 the park with no playground equipment. The nearest elementary school playground
19 is inaccessible. She called the City again about the playground equipment and
20 heard that it had been cancelled due to complaints from neighbors that the children
21 would be too loud. She feels the opinions of several should not outweigh the
22 benefits of all the children in the area. She proposes the Board relook at this or
23 Parks and Rec Department to provide funding for this playground equipment. Cathy
24 Mathews stated the Park at Calle Abuelo was designed in 2019 with public input on
25 included items, and a nature play was included rather than typical playground, and
26 was designed within budget. In proceeding with the park, it was apparent public
27 changed their mind, and therefore different types of exercise equipment was
28 installed, some spring riders as play elements. Budget was added to include new
29 input from neighbors and time was spent ensuring all equipment was safe. At this
30 time that project is completed.

31 32 **6. Discussion Items:**

33 34 **6.1 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Update - Amelia Corrales:**

35
36 Amelia Corrales states she has been with the City since January 1st. The goal
37 is to end littering, reduce waste, empower youth through educational
38 presentations, graffiti removal, cleanup events, and Adopt-a-Spot locations.
39 She attended the Keep America Beautiful Conference and Las Cruces is an
40 affiliate. Funding comes from New Mexico State Tourism Department.

41
42 This year there have been three public school educational sessions. Plan on
43 partnering with Parks and Recreation department section Out of School Time.
44 There are eight presentations planned for April. Earth day is in April. Pictures
45 of Libby (Las Cruces is Beautiful Because of You) dog. They give students
46 books and explain the difference of what can and cannot be recycled, discuss

1 illegal dumping, and different impactful ways that students can do to beautify
2 their community. The graffiti removal crew works daily. They do work with
3 codes. Since July 1, the crew done 700 graffiti abatements. This year there is
4 the Youth Conservation Corps Grant. Able to hire five youth and an art
5 facilitator. They beautified four murals with restoration in the City and learned
6 important life skills, job skills, and career skills.
7

8 There are different clean ups throughout the year. Toss No Mas is held in
9 October which had a lot of volunteers. Also completed four district cleanups
10 this year. Next clean up is the Great American Cleanup which is annual doe
11 April 22nd for Earth Day. There are two more district cleanups for this fiscal
12 year. There are volunteers communitywide who do cleanups in
13 neighborhoods. They did a presentation at Columbia Elementary and cleanup
14 of the school grounds and the codes officer and Libby. Keep Las Cruces
15 Beautiful graffiti crew and the YCC crew cleaned up downtown. Right now
16 there have been a total of 746 volunteers working a total of 204 hours and
17 cleaned up 11,520 lbs. of trash. Adopt-a-Spot program goal is to have families,
18 businesses, individuals adopt different spots throughout the community. Once
19 a month the adopters go out with City provided trash bags, gloves, and do a
20 cleanup. There are currently four new Adopt-a-Spots, and six contacts that
21 have renewed. The contrast is one year. This program has 85 volunteers
22 working a total of 50 hours and clean up 1,760 lbs. of trash.
23

24 Board Member Montgomery asked about the process for Adopt-a-Spot.
25 Anyone can reach out to Amelia Corrales, discuss the top three spots they
26 have. Larger areas, such as Young Park, can be divided into sections. A
27 contract will be signed for cleaning once a month, also including a cleanup
28 which contains the hours worked, number of volunteers, bags of trash cleaned,
29 and the date and the location of where the bags were left. Also fill out a
30 volunteer wavier which is signed by each person participating. Amelia
31 Corrales will pick up the bags or if the graffiti crew is new that area they will do
32 that. She also asks what they will need for their next cleanup. This has been
33 promoted via the Farmers Market once a month, as well as KLCB. Chair
34 McClure suggested getting testimonials from volunteers, and do a press
35 release. Board Member Haas stated her District is primarily picking up broken
36 bottles which necessitated using more than one bag due to weight, and she
37 wonders if there are other receptacles. Amelia Corrales will look into that as
38 that is important. Board Member Haas mentioned the City's recycling
39 company has changed and that accepted recyclables has changed. Where
40 can citizens be directed for answers on what and where to recycle? Robert
41 Nunez mentioned South Central Solid Waste Authority. Vice-Chair Engle
42 suggested looking into how to deal with dangerous biological waste and
43 volunteers education on that. Chair McClure brought up SB182, an antilitter,
44 recycling, beautification legislation, will open up a lot more grant resources
45 also. Board Member Montgomery stated he would like to be informed if there
46 is an increase in trends in the various program; in graffiti abatement that needs

1 to be addressed, prevalence of types of trash, advocacy for more funding that
2 is necessary, that the Board may need to discuss with City Councilors.
3

4 **6.2 Survey Subcommittee Update - Cassie McClure:**

5
6 Chair McClure stated there were questions. Why do the survey in the first
7 place? What is the scope specifically? What is it aiming to do? What kind of
8 information does the Board want to receive? They had a conversation on what
9 are the key points of what the Board's job is. Four things: being a useful body
10 and serving the staff in the best way possible. Coverage of information from
11 Councilors to Parks and Rec. Visibility specificity. A measure of
12 accountability. Might do a broad information gathering session, Farmers
13 Market, staffing with the Board. What are the perceptions of Park and Rec,
14 and what are the needs that need to happen from the community? Need more
15 information gathering. Board Member Haas added they did not want to waste
16 the public's time with a survey asking what they want to see. If their awareness
17 needs a boost and they are unaware of what is already offered. More
18 interaction with individual district communities, discuss where information is
19 being acquired. Should the Board attend the KLCB at Farmers Market and let
20 the public know of the PRAB? The Board was in agreement. Board Member
21 Montgomery stated the survey is how does the public envision the Advisory
22 Board's role with Parks and Rec, versus how much is input session for
23 programs and operations. Maybe this should be assessed too. Board Member
24 Haas stated that they envisioned discovering how the public sees channels of
25 interacting with the City through the PRAB. Each Board Member do
26 information gathering at the Farmers Market and have a work session to
27 discuss that information and then funnel that to the subcommittee. Amelia
28 Corrales stated March 25th is their next Farmers Market from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00
29 p.m. Discussed having two Board Members at a time and Hazel will do the e-
30 mailing. Maybe a work session before the April 20th Board meeting.
31

32 **6.3 Holiday Hours - Phil Catanach:**

33
34 Phil Catanach stated every year City Council's first meeting sets and approves
35 holidays for employees and for facilities. This year there are 13 holidays. From
36 2016 to 2020 there would be one facility along with the Aquatic Center open
37 every Monday or Friday holiday, varying from East Mesa, Frank O'Brien
38 Papen, and Meerscheidt Center. They found that East Mesa and Frank
39 O'Brien Papen had low attendance. Meerscheidt some playing basketball,
40 pickleball. The Aquatic Center averages of 20-25. The Aquatic Center
41 requires a full schedule of lifeguards. Meerscheidt requires a cashier, rec
42 coordinators, and people to clean, to open and close. Aquatic Center is open
43 Labor day and Memorial Day, July 4th, Mother's Day, Father's Day. Staff work
44 probably 40 weekend days of 52 per year. Meerscheidt open Saturdays,
45 Aquatic Center open weekends, through the season. The park restrooms etc.
46 are cleaned on the holidays and a crew that does touchup on the holidays.

1 Youth services help on the 4th of July and are open whenever schools are
2 open. Chair McClure asked if there was holiday pay. Staff gets eight hour
3 holiday; staff has to work 40 hours first to get overtime/time and a half. Holiday
4 pay is for everyone who works. If staff works 32 hours, then eight hour holiday
5 pay, and then eight hours straight time. Question on promotion of times open
6 on holidays. Phil Catanach stated they do a news release of what is open and
7 closed, and also on Facebook. Open Mother's Day, Father's Day, 4th of July,
8 Memorial Day, Labor Day, the day after Thanksgiving.
9

10 **6.4 Silver Sneakers - Phil Catanach:**

11
12 Board Member Raish stated there are two programs, Silver Sneakers and
13 Renew Active. The insurance will pay \$33 for a membership. There are eight
14 or nine private facilities in the City that membership. There are other cities that
15 accept these at the city recreation facilities.
16

17 Phil Catanach stated in New Mexico it is Aetna, Amerigroup, Blue Cross Blue
18 Shield, Humana, Presbyterian, Washington Neutral, and Medicare cover Silver
19 Sneakers. It is available to recreation and/or fitness centers that have a certain
20 amount of fitness equipment, free weight. City of Las Cruces does not have a
21 membership fee. Also Silver Sneakers offers evidenced based classes;
22 classic, circuit, yoga, splash, stability, move, muscle, and wind, this classes
23 you would get your certification through Silver Sneakers. City has 11 fitness
24 instructors, all have discipline, all through the hiring process. The City's fitness
25 classes are for the general public, but majority of members are 60+. Senior
26 programs with the City offer dance classes, one through Senior Olympics,
27 through Silver Sneakers those classes are free. Silver Sneakers is for 65+,
28 made to enhance off hours. City will look into getting reimbursement though it
29 is only \$1 for 60+. The Parks and Recreation has opted not to do it as of right
30 now. They will look into it in the future. Flex classes might fit at Munson
31 Center. The hard part is bring instructions on that fit the hiring policies, and
32 also balancing staff time to get the reimbursement.
33

34 Attendee numbers of people 60+ from October to December 2022: fitness
35 classes 2,180, weight room 3,191, open swim 144, lap swim 2,694 (age not
36 tracked but estimate half are 60+). Also City could look for people with that
37 certification when hiring for fitness instructor. Might want to do at Munson
38 Center or Sage Café. Current fitness classes offered at \$1 for 60+ are, 16
39 classes offered weekly, aqua fitness, aqua hit, channel sizing, H2O cardio,
40 H2O HIT, H2O combo, 60+ spin, lunch time spin, splash cycle spin,
41 swimnastics, yoga, advanced yoga, Zumba, Zumba gold, and Zumba toning.
42

43 Board Member Raish stated it seems City looks at this strictly from classes.
44 He stated that Silver Sneakers and Renew Active pay for weights, swimming,
45 all of the activities that are offered but not limited to classes, like 60+. Phil
46 Catanach stated the difference is a private fitness location you pay a

1 membership fee and you have access to everything. The City does not have
2 a membership fee, but charge a \$1, but not covered with the reimbursement
3 for the classes that Silver Sneakers covers or would reimburse for. Chair
4 McClure asked whether there would be a membership opportunity for a wide
5 variety of things, instead of just one specific activity. Phil Catanach stated they
6 have looked into membership fee and family fees for pool, and the City has
7 done pilot program of passes for \$30. They found seniors would do the pass,
8 but not come 30 times in a month. They would still have to apply for Silver
9 Sneakers, apply for reimbursements, and take staff hours to do that. A list of
10 who does Silver Sneakers in Las Cruces: G3 Fitness Center, Planet Fitness
11 on Telshor and El Paseo, Crunch Fitness on Wyatt, Stay Fit Fitness on Foster,
12 The Gym of Las Cruces on S. Valley, and Anytime Fitness on Roadrunner.
13 Mountain View Hospital had Silver Sneaker Classes but discontinued due to
14 COVID and have not returned.

15 **6.5 Skate Park Renovations - Catherine Mathews:**

16
17
18 Cathy Mathews stated this is under design. This is about the skate park
19 located on Hadley and Walnut which was built in last 1990, which was a
20 community build project with staff assistance, and currently is in desperate
21 renovation . The skate community sought funding from the state legislature
22 and acquired \$845,000, and supplemented with \$250,000 from Park Impact
23 Fees. The second public meeting is coming up on April 6th, the City and
24 consultant will be presenting two design options and making refinements to
25 the features included. The public input process will include a near final design
26 presented to PRAB in May.

27
28 Board Member Haas asked about the bidding process. Cathy Mathews stated
29 it was originally put to bid prior to her receiving approval to do so, that then
30 had to be rescinded. Put it out to bid again, and a form was inadvertently not
31 included in the documents in the construction packet but the two bids had to
32 be rejected because of that. Put to bid again and no bids were received.

33 34 **6.6 Trails Update - Catherine Mathews:**

35
36 Cathy Mathews stated the trails projects are transitioning to construction and
37 in planning. These are located in Council District 2. The RTP (Recreational
38 Trails Program) Las Cruces Lateral Trail Project which is funded through
39 Recreational Trails Program Grant from Federal Highway Administration
40 through the New Mexico Department of Transportation. Design is completed
41 and struggling through the bidding process. Of three times to bid, last time did
42 not receive any bids. Consulting with NMDOT (New Mexico Department of
43 Transportation) for suggestions to proceed. The City has funding, have a plan,
44 but large hoops to jump through, which may be part of the struggle of getting
45 a contractor. Also Doña Ana Move Trail and the Tortugas Trail both funded
46 from private funding for Paso del Norte Foundation and though New Mexico

1 State Legislative Grants. Intention is to extend the Las Cruces Lateral Trail
2 from the south end of RTP through the campus of New Mexico State
3 University, and joining into the multiuse trail on Union, and connecting up to
4 the Las Cruces Lateral again, extending the trail into the Village of Tortugas.
5

6 Chair McClure asked about the hoops. Mostly reporting hoops and meeting
7 the requirements of NMDOT and FHWA (Federal Highway Administration),
8 doing things in a particular manner, filling out the forms per se. There were
9 certifications during the process and then those hoops need to be followed
10 through with the construction and final reporting and make the project whole.
11

12 Board Member Engle mentioned that the starting point at Idaho/Avenida de
13 Mesilla, that the City had plans to rehabilitate the intersection, and asked if the
14 Trails Plan accounts for that. Cathy Mathews stated the Public Works
15 Department has a plan for Main Street in that vicinity to include bike lanes.
16 The trail design does take that into account. The overall solution is to pipe a
17 length of the lateral to create more usable space for trails, maintenance, and
18 connecting to the street.
19

20 **6.7 Wayfinding Project - Catherine Mathews:**

21
22 Cathy Mathews stated they are working with a consultant for park and trail
23 wayfinding plan. Wayfinding is signage, maps, directional indicators, and
24 other communications with the public to help them move through the parks
25 system and trails system. This is also funded through Recreational Trails
26 Program Grant, and a match requirement which is coming from Park Impact
27 Fees. They have had stakeholder interviews, a public survey has gone out,
28 day of action in meeting with members of the public and learn what they are
29 interested in seeing and what they feel is lacking and what they need.
30 Visioning session was conducted online by the consultants to develop
31 concepts about sign aesthetics, colors, fonts, locations of signs, etc. They do
32 have a draft strategy report. Next stage is to have a final strategy report which
33 will layout the color scheme, look of the signs, the fonts, information included
34 on different types of signs, and directions and guidance with regard to which
35 types of signs go in which types of locations.
36

37 **6.8 Las Cruces Public School Agreement Update - Robert Nunez:**

38
39 Cathy Mathews stated the soccer field improvements they have made
40 purchases with the fund, and then in planning for the remainder. There is
41 funding from the state legislature to make improvements to the soccer fields
42 that are known as High Noon Soccer Fields, near to Mayfield High School at
43 Bruins and the Mesilla Drain. Some purchases have been made, drinking
44 fountains, some fencing, but still in the planning process. Planning to make
45 three separate contracts which include demolishing the press box in field 2,
46 also install improvements which include drinking fountains, additional

1 gates/fences to help access the fields in a useful way, and also design build
2 contract for the restrooms located Bruins Lane which are needing
3 rehabilitation.
4

5 Robert Nunez stated they did receive the signed agreement from Las Cruces
6 Public Schools which allowed the process moving forward. Chair McClure
7 asked if the leagues were informed. Cathy Mathews stated at the general
8 league meeting there was a short presentation about what they intend to do
9 and funding and ready to go.
10

11 **6.9 Parks and Recreation FY24 Budget - Robert Nunez:**

12
13 Robert Nunez presented the proposed budget recommendations. From the
14 office of the director requesting an additional \$35,000 for continuing education,
15 professional development, travel. These funds assist grant funded programs
16 and general fund programs. Special projects an additional \$7,800, to cover
17 for a staff member through the temp services due to the minimum wage
18 increase. Construction maintenance and beautification, Keep Las Cruces
19 Beautiful, \$79,000 for graffiti crew to help maintain 35-40 hours a week. Sports
20 fields, an addition \$20,000 for supplies. Trails an additional \$18,000 for
21 supplies. Doggie bags are an expensive amenity, at \$40,000-\$50,000 a year.
22 Total for that line of business is \$117,000.
23

24 Fitness, recreation, and wellness. Health and fitness an increase to \$50,700,
25 again new pool opening up at the end of the fiscal year. This includes \$10,500
26 for service and agreements increases, fitness equipment, towels, mats, etc.
27 Total of \$61,200.
28

29 Community recreation increase of \$5,000 due to cost increases for supplies
30 and equipment. \$36,000 for services and agreements, uniforms, printings,
31 sports officials. Total of \$41,000.
32

33 Skills development asking for \$3,000 for cost increase for supplies and
34 equipment.
35

36 Community events, 4th of July, Music in the Park, Movies in the Park, Mother's
37 Day, Father's Day concerns, various events, increase to \$124,000 for services
38 for events. This is for cost increases, security, portable restrooms, barricades,
39 DJ rentals, stage, lighting, generators. Supplies increase of \$10,000.
40 Advertising, talked with Ms. Mandy Guss, they currently have \$28,000 in
41 advertising, but recommended increasing. Parks and Rec do Facebook and
42 social media, but there are other opportunities within advertising. Total of
43 \$174,000.
44

45 Youth services, \$16,800 for supplies and equipment. This again is cost
46 increases. This is the afterschool programs, A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven,

1 Teen Connection. \$25,160 temp services, program fees, copying, printing,
2 advertising. Increase fuel line \$4,000.
3

4 Also in youth services and youth development and diversion, \$2,000 increase
5 in supplies due to cost increase. And \$1,730 for services, assessment and
6 education platforms to cover increase in costs. Total of \$3,730.
7

8 New positions, youth services manager to assist within that section for
9 \$89,830. Special projects for project manager to assist management of scope,
10 objectives, and desired outcomes by the projects with Cathy Mathews, for
11 \$84,151. Another position in community events would be a marketing and
12 events coordinator. This position did exist and was taken from Parks in 2016-
13 17 and asking for that back to help with major community events, social media,
14 advertising, etc. \$79,030.
15

16 Reclassification, two current parttime positions, 30 hour positions. Are
17 considered full time at 30 hours, but requesting the additional 10 hours. They
18 do pay into PERA, receive benefits, accrue sick and personal leave for a total
19 of \$25,790.
20

21 Community recreation and youth services, asking for \$5,000 for sports
22 equipment, sports officials for \$7,500. Working with current case manager for
23 educational gains, guest speakers, creating a parent support group within
24 youth services and help the families utilizing the programs. Total of \$12,500.
25

26 Fitness, recreation, and wellness, capital improvement project, requesting
27 \$220,000. Currently have \$80,000 that would also go towards this program
28 for Meerscheift recreation center improvements, to bringing back on line two
29 restrooms near the rear of the building.
30

31 Vehicles, equipment request, throughout all of Parks and Recreation, asking
32 for 10 vehicles and six pieces of equipment. Just finished request for 2022-23
33 with fleet, and had to realize an additional \$48,000 due to increase in costs of
34 vehicles. Ten vehicles is over \$500,000, and the six pieces of equipment,
35 about \$16,000 each and then two mowers at \$140,000 each. Total of over
36 \$750,000.
37

38 Board Member Montgomery stated his concern is bringing new facilities online
39 each year, but not a maintenance component, as there is aging equipment,
40 and not always receiving what is needed to keep up with the demand. And
41 also are there examples of how other municipalities tackle this. Robert Nunez
42 stated City management has created an office to oversee capital improvement
43 plan and projects. There probably are examples and the CIP office has
44 investigated and researched. The City is trying to move towards. Cathy
45 Mathews stated to address this issue, in the 2022 GO Bond was an item that
46 the voting public passed for Parks improvements. And the notion behind that

1 investment is to bring some of the parks more up to date standards to be easier
2 to maintain and more simple and less intensive.
3

4 **7. Staff Member Comments:**
5

6 Franco Granillo stated he mentioned in October that a light pole at Hardy fell due to
7 age and decay. It has been replaced. An assessment has been done of the entire
8 complex with three to four more poles that need to come down. Facilities staff is
9 responsible for the maintenance and the removal. Once those poles are all
10 completed then able to continue to play there. Also tournaments are going on at
11 Hadley or the soccer fields. Parkes events are beginning to kick off as well with
12 Spring Fest. Community Forester started today, Rolando Flores. Construction staff
13 and right-of-way staff are responsible for City's clean sweep initiative, City
14 beautification and on tract there. Put preemergent down in March, August, and
15 December on the need. A lot of vandalism in the parks, slide burned, trash cans
16 burned. Recent lights at Gomez Park were vandalized the first night. ADA tables
17 vandalized at Veterans, which were replaced in a day, at a cost of \$7,000-\$8,000.
18 They do have Sharps containers, bags that are thicker for glass etc. There are 500
19 miles of medians and right-of-way combined, roughly 148 park areas with 60
20 playgrounds, 40 landscaped buildings, 40 miles of trails, and 33 ballfields without
21 the GO Bond areas. There are 50 full time staff to take care of all that, and temp
22 agency staff as well. The reason they can keep up now they can mix and match,
23 and identify areas that can go a week or two without maintaining due to the types of
24 use. Hopefully keep everything at a Class A level of maintenance, but hard with
25 acquiring properties, particularly medians and right-of-way. Suggested a GO Bond
26 with maintenance in perpetuity to get the money yearly.
27

28 Vice-Chair Engle would appreciate an e-mail on all that was covered to pass along
29 to his Councilor as it is important. Chair McClure asked if there is feedback received.
30 Franco Granillo stated they get compliments from the public, with some feedback
31 on unrealistic expectations. Board Member Haas thinks the Farmers Market is a
32 great educational opportunity.
33

34 Claudia Chavez stated currently they are in spring break mode. First week of CAPS
35 at Meerscheidt and at Booker T. Washington and Safe Haven. They went to
36 Spaceport America, did hikes to Baylor Pass. Visiting museums, partnering with
37 Friends of the Organ Mountain to do hikes. Appreciate all the volunteers as it is
38 warming up. The juvenile diversion program supervisor was in the audience,
39 working with public schools and officers in the schools, SRO, seeing a lot of mental
40 health and gearing curriculum to this.
41

42 Phil Catanach stated they are starting a new program Just Keep Pedaling, a cycling
43 program which will have a bike ride each week through November. First ride is next
44 week. March 28th magic gathering tournament, a card game, that is a weekly
45 program and building momentum. April 8th is Spring Fest, and team up with Bravo
46 Mike and Adams Radio. The mobile recreation unit that goes to schools and then in

1 the summer to different parks, has had 13 requests for January, February, and
2 March. Youth basketball is getting ready to start, 52 teams with over 600
3 participants. Adult sand volleyball league is getting ready to start in a couple weeks
4 with 58 teams and over 600 participants. Youth cheer will run in conjunction with
5 youth basketball and 32 participants, maxed out. Just finished therapeutic program
6 dance, with 140 people attended. In the employee wellness program getting ready
7 for a City employee sand volleyball tournament and hit max for teams, held March
8 28th, 30th, and April 1st. In the Aquatic Center gearing up for the summer season,
9 had inspection for Metro Verde splash pad today and the interactive fountain at the
10 Plaza de Las Cruces today, both passed. Unidad park splash pad inspection
11 tomorrow. If all well, open splash pads during spring break on Tuesday, hopefully.
12 From there they will open it on the weekends leading up to Labor Day weekend
13 when it is usually open up the splash pads. Only time closed would be due to wind
14 or servicing concerns. The new 50-meter pool is moving forward, but some delays
15 on some concrete work on the deck. Pushing back opening for that closer to Labor
16 Day as well. Frenger pool has lost three feet of water in the last couple of weeks.
17 After Facilities looked at it, it seems to be pipes underneath are giving out. That will
18 be closed. There are two staff in West Virginia attending Revenue Management
19 School. This is a helpful program that is two years. Tomorrow finalize Music in the
20 Park series, 17 concerts, 34 musical acts from Las Cruces, El Paso, regional,
21 Northern New Mexico, Texas, and a few national acts. Start with Mayor's Jazz Fest
22 on May 28th, and all the way through August 28th. Movies in the Parks, the movies
23 have been selected to be shown June, July, and August, 8-10 movies. He met with
24 Patrick Nolan, Friends of the Organ Mountain, talking about a partnership,
25 contracting possibility. Hikes are not going to be to the level they were, and Patrick
26 does not have that capability either. Hopefully put together a solid hiking program
27 to start up in August. In April start with some of Phil's staff with some lighter hikes
28 to get the program going. Dawson Hikes with Friends of the Organ Mountains do
29 hikes about every week. BLM does hikes as well and have one this weekend at the
30 discovery site, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument.

31
32 Music in the Park and Movies in the Park will be located at Young Park which is
33 more conducive for music. Moving to Apodaca Park the attendance dropped from
34 over 1,000 to about 200, part is parking, part is the area, part not conducive. So
35 some on the Plaza, Thursday night music, and Sundays where bigger acts are
36 brought in. Using Klein for Make Music Day in June.

37
38 Cathy Mathews there was a project just completed at Butterfield Shooting Range,
39 which increased accessibility to the long known distance range and the short known
40 distance range. At the request of a member of the public, requested from Council
41 some funding from the General Fund to make those accessibility improvements
42 which included parking spaces, relocation of some tables, and concrete walkways.

43
44 Board Member Haas has received comments about the shooting range
45 improvements. Obviously, a popular facility.

1 Robert Nunez sends kudos to the administrators attending the meeting, all Parks
2 and Rec staff. Upcoming legislative funds are currently on the governor's desk.
3 Thanked the Board for time and expertise.
4

5 **8. Board Member Comments:**
6

7 Board Member Haas stated they received great information today and if it was
8 possible to share the PowerPoints. Thanks for the tour of the pool. Thanks for the
9 public input meeting for the skate park people.
10

11 Board Member Raish also thanks for everything this evening. Also asked where the
12 booth would be at Farmers Market. Amelia Corrales she will e-mail Hazel, but it is
13 at a different location every time.
14

15 Board Member Montgomery thanks the staff for doing a great job.
16

17 Vice-Chair Engle mentioned frustration that the Veterans parking lot has not
18 happened yet. Also appreciate the staff.
19

20 Chair McClure agreed with kudos. Glad to hear they are getting a marketing person.
21

22 **9. Adjournment:**
23

24 Greg Shervanick stated the situation about sustainability, maintenance, and all
25 came up last year when Gil Sorg presented a plan to put a park in District 5. Some
26 of this Board made mention to speak to representatives concerning feasible to not
27 incorporate new projects without knowing that there is a budget for sustainability on
28 those projects for the future, since they are in perpetuity. Appreciates all that Parks
29 and Recreation Department does and how hard they work.
30

31 Board Member Haas moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Montgomery.
32 Motion carried unanimously.
33

34 Meeting adjourned 8:43 p.m.
35

36
37
38
39
40



Chairperson