



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

July 20, 2023

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

### Members Present:

- Kenneth Coppedge – District 2
- Aracely Tellez – District 3
- Fred Raish – At large member
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Eric Montgomery - District 5 (arrived 6:12)

### Members Absent:

- Cassie McClure - District 1
- Laura Haas - District 6

### Others Present:

- Robert Nunez, Interim Director, Parks and 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
- Greg Shervanick, Public
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

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

### 1. Introductions:

Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

### 2. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda:

1 Board Member Coppedge moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory  
2 Board Meeting Agenda for July 20, 2023, seconded by Board Member Tellez.  
3 Motion carried unanimously  
4

5 **4. Approval of the Minutes June 15, 2023:**

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7 Board Member Coppedge moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory  
8 Board Meeting Minutes June 15, 2023, seconded by Board Member Raish. Motion  
9 carried unanimously.

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11 **5. Public Participation:**

12 There was none.

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15 **6. Action Items:**

16 There was none.

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19 **7. Discussion Items:**

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21 **7.1 FY24 Parks and Recreation Budget - Joy Ann Lucero:**

22  
23 Joy Ann Lucero introduced the Board to Kaitlyn Ruiz, the summer intern for  
24 the past two months, and her last day is Monday. The General Fund budget  
25 was show for the 13 programs. Parks, sports fields, and community forestry  
26 at \$6.9 million. Community recreation \$1.8 million, out of school time at \$1.7  
27 million. Total General Fund Parks and Recreation budget is \$19,442,397. In  
28 additional to the General Fund there is addition funding and one is special  
29 revenue. This is where the Hesky Garden Trust is and revenue from license  
30 plates. Also legislative funding, as well a grants. Capital improvement projects  
31 pay for new competitive pool, and the new skate park renovations and  
32 improvements. After the additional funding is added to general fund, the grand  
33 total for Parks and Recreation budget is \$27,464,154.

34  
35 New requests are additional amounts that are needed for the new fiscal year.  
36 Travel and training requested \$35,000 which is used for seminars,  
37 recertification such as lifeguards, and professional development for staff.  
38 Supplies, the total is \$110,700, this is for items at the new pool, and paint,  
39 fertilizer, and miscellaneous tools for East Mesa Public Recreation Complex.  
40 Services requested \$209,430, for the community events program which pays  
41 for security, barricades, DJ services, and equipment rentals for concerns. For  
42 Meerscheidt remodel and expansion \$186,169 was received. This will  
43 remodel the bathrooms and locker rooms between the league and rec gyms.  
44 This will also to improve flooring and other items. Temp agency requested  
45 \$106,800 for hourly increases. Total of new requests is \$575,130 which have  
46 all been approved.

1  
2 Total full time positions, FY23 had 139, this year has three new positions and  
3 two existing 30-hour positions were converted to 40-hour, which makes five  
4 new full time positions, a total of 144 full time. The three new positions are; a  
5 project manager, marketing and events coordinator, and youth services  
6 administrator. The VAF (Vehicle Acquisition Fund), 16 requests were  
7 submitted and 11 were approved. Those 11 are: three cargo vans, three F250,  
8 three Toro workman vehicles, a Ford Maverick, and one F150. Received  
9 \$496,000 for the vehicle acquisition fund.

10  
11 Question on the training and if an outdoor rec coordinator to train up or give  
12 people leading hikes a consideration. Robert Nunez stated the total money is  
13 spread throughout through all the Parks and Recreation programs and that is  
14 to increase various staff members with their certifications; through aquatics,  
15 recreation, youth services. Vice-Chair Engle was appreciated of the  
16 backgrounds and memes within the slides, and congratulated the intern.  
17 Robert Nunez stated they will provide the entire budget for the City of Las  
18 Cruces and also bookmark specifically Parks and Recreation pages more  
19 itemized for the Board viewing.

## 20 21 **7.2 4th of July Recap - Claud Chavez:**

22  
23 Claudia Chavez stated this year the Electric Light Parade also included a 5k  
24 run and a fun run which included 200 runners in the 5k and over 80 fun run.  
25 The parade included 64 entries, over 200 vehicles, 42 pulling flatbeds, 151  
26 individual vehicles. Parade also featured the internal departments, Las Cruces  
27 Fire department, police, solid waste, US Border Patrol, Doña Ana Sheriff's  
28 department, NM State Police, NMSU, and City streetsweepers. The parade  
29 also features six grand marshals, all local veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.  
30 The staff from all sections of the department helped to make the event a huge  
31 success. An estimated attendance of over 7,000 just in the parade. The  
32 concert was held at New Mexico State University at the Pat and Lou Sisbarro  
33 Park on campus. The concert and fireworks started with the gates opening at  
34 4:00 p.m. From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. included local Chris Baker and Dzaki  
35 Sukarno, and headliner Randy Houser from 8:00 to 9:20 p.m. From 9:20 to  
36 9:35 there was the color guard and the National Anthem was sung by Ms. New  
37 Mexico, Lianna Hartshorn, and welcomed Mayor Miyagishima. The fireworks  
38 at 9:45 was about a 20 minute show and great success. There were a lot of  
39 comments from the general public. In closing with NMSU, the debriefing there  
40 were minimal to no incidents for the entire event. An estimated 20,000 on the  
41 4th of July on campus and surrounding areas, to include Corbett Center Park,  
42 the intermural fields, O'Donnell Park, and adjacent parking lots. A video was  
43 shared that the PIO office created.

44  
45 Question asked if a local marching band was used in the video. The answer  
46 was yes. Not sure which school though.

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3 **8. Staff Member Comments:**  
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5 Cathy Mathews stated there has been progress on projects. They are getting the  
6 construction for the disc golf course under contract. The contract is now signed and  
7 the PO will be issued within a couple of days. Also conducting a cultural resources  
8 study at the Benavidez Community Center Park in preparation for anticipated award  
9 of \$2 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to complete the master  
10 plan at that park. The grant has not been awarded yet, but have been asked to do  
11 the cultural resources study in preparation. The skate park renovation project is  
12 progressing. They are working to get some storm water management issues  
13 addressed and drainage issues. She will meet with the consultants on Monday and  
14 have an update on the schedule. The name of the disc golf is The Big Enchilada.  
15 Board Member Coppedge e-mailed the department about grant opportunities  
16 through the Outdoor Recreation Fund in New Mexico. Staff is aware of the grants  
17 and will probably be applying next year.  
18

19 Franco Granillo stated the number one goal is staff safety with this hot weather.  
20 They are having a lot of water issues and irrigation issues in the parks. Maag softball  
21 complex a booster pump blew the fittings, so no water for a bit and turf is suffering  
22 and some of the trees, but trying to get it all back. There are some water fountain  
23 issues in the park areas, and they are working to get them back up. They are also  
24 supporting music and movies in the park. There are a few events coming at the  
25 Plaza they will support. The ballfields have been heavily used. And then soccer will  
26 begin. In October they will bring some dog park rules to the Board for review and  
27 possible acceptance. Question of if someone notices something that needs  
28 maintenance how to notify the City. There is a 311 system on the website to report  
29 any problems; roadway, park, median, any City property. Also have admin e-mail  
30 too. Suggestion to put something into an app to link to be able to quickly report.  
31 Staff will talk with IT and the community engagement office.  
32

33 Claudia Chavez thanked the Board for touring on Friday. Finished summer Friday  
34 and are full swing back with afterschool programs at six sites and just added a  
35 seventh at Sonoma Elementary. Fall afterschool program is 60 kids at seven sites  
36 and it will go all year long and follow the Las Cruces Public School calendar,  
37 including Weed N Seed and the Teen Connection program, which also houses 40-  
38 60 children at those sites. The Youth Development and Diversion program, looking  
39 to hire a continuum coordinator and fill some vacancies that are in that area. Closed  
40 end of year third year for the grant, and moving into the fourth year. Looking to  
41 expand that program to Anthony and Chaparral. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, District  
42 3 is August 19th clean up. Already planning for Earth Day next year April. Also  
43 partnering with the county department of transportation and Town of Mesilla for  
44 clean the river initiative, which would be something new in the spring. National Night  
45 Out is next Tuesday, August 1, at Downtown Plaza from 6:00 to 9:00. Vice-Chair

1 Engle appreciated the tour particularly the Weed N Seed and the Juvenile Citation  
2 Program.  
3

4 Robert Nunez stated that the land assumption study is being worked on and hope  
5 to be completed by the end of the calendar year. In conjunction with that is the  
6 Realize City standards and rezoning of Public Works, Traffic to include Parks and  
7 that is moving forward. There are still cooling stations available throughout the City,  
8 library, museums, community centers, recreation centers. Last weekend over 160  
9 in total show up at the various facilities to cool down. They are working closely with  
10 Facilities department to have their plumbers for fountains, as Parks does not do  
11 drinking water, only irrigation. Community engagement office houses three staff and  
12 growing to five and they review the 311. The light poles at Hardy Softball Fields  
13 have been difficult to get completed, and Facilities is leading that project. Close to  
14 getting a PO to get that done. The aquatic program is seeing 5,000 transactions  
15 per week. They have deviated schedules now that school has started. Athletic  
16 programs, community recreation. Music at the Plaza this evening. Visit Las Cruces  
17 has helped with some of the number data. Friends of Organ Mountain have reached  
18 out to connect with the Youth Development and Diversion program, as well as Teens  
19 to set up some activities and benefit all. Also the mountain bike group has also  
20 reached out. There is a recommendation for a Parks and Recreation director from  
21 outside of the City. He will be arriving here in next month or so. There were  
22 approximately 15-20 student interns from Doña Ana County through a couple of  
23 programs for the summer. Throughout the year hire youth, juniors and seniors in  
24 high school and about 12 on board throughout the year.  
25

26 **9. Board Member Comments:**  
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28 Board Member Montgomery gave kudos at the aquatic center. Friends hosted a  
29 birthday party and it was amazing. Apologized for being late as working on the  
30 energy system.  
31

32 Board Member Raish stated the 4th of July was awesome and appreciated  
33 everyone.  
34

35 Board Member Coppedge experienced youth at his work at NSMU.  
36

37 Board Member Tellez is amazed at the extensive work and programs, and  
38 appreciated the staff.  
39

40 Vice-Chair Engle stated thank Claudia for her time and the tour. Good to hear the  
41 interns come back. His son did T-ball and is looking forward to next year. His father-  
42 in-law does love what Parks and Recreation does.  
43

44 **10. Adjournment:**  
45

1 Board Member Coppedge moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member  
2 Montgomery.

3  
4 Roll Call Vote:

5 Board Member Montgomery - Aye.

6 Board Member Coppedge - Aye.

7 Board Member Raish - Aye.

8 Board Member Tellez - Aye.

9 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

10 Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairperson