



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

August 17, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on August 17, 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
Laura Haas - District 6
Fred Raish – At large member
Stan Engle - District 4

Members Absent:

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
Greg Shervanick, Public
Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of August 17, 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.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

1
2 Vice-Chair Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
3 Meeting Agenda for August 17, 2023, seconded by Board Member Raish. Motion
4 passed.

5
6 **4. Approval of the Minutes July 20, 2023:**

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

10
11 **5. Public Participation:**

12
13 None.

14
15 **6. Action Items:**

16
17 None.

18
19 **7. Discussion Items:**

20
21 **7.1 Multiuse Trails - Stan Engle, Vice-Chair:**

22
23 Vice-Chair Engle stated he notice near Jason Jiron Park there was a dirt
24 motorcycle bike who rode from the park, up the berm, onto the trails. These
25 trails are supposed to be non-motorized. What can we do to further protect
26 the assets and protect the trails users from having a public space taken away
27 by motorized vehicles? Let's address this before it becomes problematic.

28
29 Staff stated there are various approaches; signage, volunteer groups to
30 monitor trails, barriers, education. Unfortunately there are no significant funds
31 for the enforcement of this, so would need to seek funding. There is signage
32 at most trails but some is inconsistent, as different years for trails opening then
33 had different signage. Most signage mentions no motorized vehicles and
34 pedestrian or bike use only. Parks is looking at updating signage, based on
35 the use of the trail and the way it was installed. They have to rely on Codes
36 heavily, but they only work until approximately 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., and police this
37 is a non-emergency situation. It might be possible to ask Utilities to send
38 mailers with the utility bills, post on Facebook, advertisements in the Bulletin.
39 Signage would need to get uses of the trails set, advertise, and maybe use
40 signage to post in other areas as well.

41
42 Request for a plan in terms of education. City videos have been well done,
43 maybe talk to PIO and a plan for next month's meeting. Staff will bring a plan
44 and recognize there are already steps, but identify what has been done and
45 bring education on what the plan has been and look at some recommendations
46 to fill gaps. The wayfinding plan includes rule signage, informational signage,

1 with suggested wording, and non-emergency phone number to call and citing
2 ordinance that police can refer to noting trespassers. Wayfinding plan does
3 not have funding to implement, but there is a plan with rule signage for trails
4 and parks.
5

6 On older sections of trail, Outfall Channel, and there are signs saying non-
7 motorized use, but are not large. An issue at hand is that vehicles have had
8 free reign prior to the installation of trails/pathways, so struggling against
9 traditional cultural element per se, but anticipate a long effort with this.
10 Bollards are approximately \$300 each and are helpful for limiting access to
11 trails for four-wheeled vehicles, not for motorcycles or dirt bikes, etc. Some
12 bollards were removed because needed ADA access, so 36-inch clear space
13 minimum. Typically bollards are installed in the configuration to slow people
14 down as they cross vehicle traffic areas. Although EBID ditch banks do state
15 "Property of EBID" they are used by others biking. The more rural areas seem
16 to see people running free on the trails and dirt areas, and transitions into City
17 limits and that might be some of the traffic seen. A question on the bike cops
18 and if trails are within their patrol. Right now most of the bike police officers
19 are in the neighborhoods. Police are currently short staffed at present. The
20 wayfinding plan was through a Recreational Trails Program Grant through
21 DOT, and sometimes those grants can be followed up "construction grants" to
22 carry out the project that was planned and designed.
23

24 **7.2 Water Fountains - Frank Granillo, Deputy Director Parks:**

25
26 There is a resident who has concerns about water fountains but did not attend
27 this meeting. Unfortunately Parks and Recreation is not in complete control of
28 the water fountains but they do work with Facilities on them. Right now the
29 biggest concern is Apodaca Park, the fountain has been down for several
30 weeks now. The reason is Facilities staff discovered it was linked to a main
31 line directly and not metered. It will have to be reinstalled for proper water
32 access to the fountain. There is currently not an ETA for Apodaca Park as
33 they are waiting for Maddox Plumbing, their vendor for the new meter.
34 Currently there is only one plumber in the City.
35

36 There are roughly 45-50 fountains citywide. Some of the issues during the
37 summer, the fountains have valves that have thin metal or plastic parts, and
38 when it gets really hot they expand, and at night they retain the expanded
39 shape and then the fountain leaks. Need better parts in the fountain. A
40 fountain costs \$5,500-\$7,500 each. Facilities is now checking the water
41 fountain on a weekly basis. Most of the fountains are closed down in January
42 and February due to very little use.
43

44 **8. Staff Member Comments:**

1 Robert Nunez stated the Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Program does educational
2 presentations to third graders. Already reached two schools and seven other set up
3 in the next couple of months. Also Community Clean Up in October, partnering with
4 Doña Ana County, South Central Solid Waste, Utilities Department, and other
5 groups, nonprofits, as this is the fall community-wide clean up, used to be called
6 Toss No Mass. Also moving forward the grant for FY24, tentatively looking at under
7 \$38,000 for this fiscal year to assist with that program. Out of School Time
8 Programs, seven school sites. Team location at Frank O'Brien Papen. Week 'n
9 Seed Program on Tornillo. Just under 300 students every day at the nine various
10 locations, provide events, activities. Partner with FYI to provide supper for all
11 participants daily. Their Case Manger is setting up a Girls and Boys Group for fourth
12 and fifth graders for life skills, positive relationships, gender specific programs, and
13 other activities with families. Youth Development and Diversion Program, working
14 with JPO, public schools, Gadsden School District, Hatch Valley Public Schools,
15 and law enforcement. Seeing an increase in informal referrals, before it reaches
16 law enforcement. Bring Keep Las Cruces Beautiful next month. Graffiti removal on
17 private property it is their responsibility, but City property Parks, Facilities, Streets,
18 and Codes handle.

19
20 Cathy Mathews stated the disc golf course construction is underway. There was a
21 meeting with the contractor and members of disc golf community to verify the hole
22 and T-locations, and garner ideas for benches and a picnic table. Anticipate
23 completion mid-October. Gallagher Park improvements are being done. Play
24 equipment is on order, hopefully two to four weeks. After arrival of the new
25 equipment then demolition of the old equipment. Metro Verde area finalized and
26 accepted the skate park, and already getting a lot of use. Another park is in process,
27 Twin Parks, two acre park has retention pond in the middle. It is under construction
28 and will have an agreement soon. And done hopefully in three months.

29
30 Phil Catanach stated there are three more weekends in the summer season. Three
31 more movies in the park, August 26th Vivo, September 1st Turning Red, and
32 September 23rd with Super Mario Brothers. Music in the Park has two more
33 concerts, and has been a great season. This Sunday Nathan Krants, who is a
34 sanitation worker from Albuquerque, who is making it big in country music, and
35 Yarbrough Band, local band that is popular. Sunday 27th have Flat Black, rock
36 group from Las Cruces, and headlining will be Metalachi, worlds first and only heavy
37 metal mariachi group. Tonight is youth volleyball indoor championships. Tights and
38 Spikes Flag Football begins on Monday the 21st and will be played at Paz Park.
39 This Tuesday the Cheer Program stated with 60 participants, with two sessions,
40 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classroom sessions for the first few and then cheer for
41 flag football. Kickball tournament coming up with registration on August 28th, for
42 adults. Sand Volleyball League starts on August 28th with 64 teams already signed
43 up. Sixty-four teams sold out on-line in three minutes, with 640 players. September
44 12-18 wood floor in league gym will be closed to resurface. There are three more
45 weekends for the outdoor pools and splash pads. Regional Aquatic Center,
46 Natatorium have been very busy, best summer since tracking numbers with the

1 pools. Employee Wellness Program for City employees, they offer the Stick to it
2 Challenge with daily challenges encourage employees to reach 10,000 steps and
3 keep exercising for 30 minutes at a time. These challenges are done for two weeks,
4 four weeks, six weeks, or eight weeks. Also transformation challenge encourage
5 employees to increase muscle mass and decrease body fat, which is assessed via
6 machines located at their center, utilities, and City hall. New challenge on Monday,
7 with record number sign up at 138. Ziggy challenge is a six month challenge
8 encourage participants to stay active and walk and gain miles for exercise and win
9 incentives such as shirts, water bottles, gift cards, etc., and get over 300
10 participants. Thanked his crew and Parks and Rec staff for a great summer season.

11
12 Franco Granillo stated due to the hot summer the irrigation systems and water
13 fountains were heavily taxed. On Triviz trail there is struggling vegetation but
14 possible some herbicide damage. Routine maintenance is still continuing. They
15 are running out of spaces for trees in parks, and so might start planting trees on the
16 perimeter.

17
18 Steven Bingham is excited to be here. The team has represented the department
19 well. He stated on the 7th, but was in town a couple of other times to get a feel of
20 the community and look for housing. There are a lot of good things going on here.

21
22 **9. Board Member Comments:**

23
24 Board Member Raish asked the status of East Mesa. Work is ongoing and the GO
25 Bond money has been expended and additional funds were identified through the
26 infrastructure money from the federal government. New GO Bond funding will
27 provide lighting for the sports fields, and completion of phase one. Question if the
28 pickleball courts would be ready. They are working on a timeline, but the it is more
29 of a construction site than public use facility.

30
31 Board Member Haas apologized for absence last month.

32
33 Board Member Engle welcomed Steven Bingham as the new Parks and Recreation
34 Director.

35
36 Chair McClure stated her family have been users of the swimming pools this
37 summer and it has been great experience, for access, people there.

38
39 **10. Adjournment:**

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41 Board Member Raish moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion
42 passed.

1 _____
2 Chairperson

DRAFT