The following are minutes for the meeting of the City of Las Cruces Quality of Life/Education Policy Review Committee held at 10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2019 in the Classroom at the Museum of Nature and Science, 411 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chairperson Councilor Kasandra Gandara, District 1
Councilor Yvonne Flores, District 6
David Dollahon, Assistant City Manager – Operations
Rebecca Slaughter, Museum System Administrator
Margaret Neill, Library Administrator
Andre Moquin, Human Resources Director
Kim Hanson, Museum Manager
Robert Nunez, Rec. and Youth Services Administrator
Elizabeth Teeters, Policy Analyst
David Greenberg, LCPS Community Schools
Terrie Dallman, LCPS Board Vice President

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Councilor Gabriel Vasquez, District 3
Javier Amaro, Supervisor, Juvenile Citation Program
Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:
Jill Rockhill, QoL Senior Office Manager - Recording Secretary
Sonya Delgado, Parks and Rec Director
Jean Berlowitz, Resident
Gregory Shervanick, Resident
Sonya Hicks, Council Student Intern
Cathie Fern, Resident

I. CALL TO ORDER (10:00 AM): Chairman Gandara called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Introductions were conducted. Councilor Gandara announced that Gilbert Gil, QoL member had passed away.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2018: Chairman Gandara asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dollahon motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Rebecca Slaughter. Motion passed, minutes accepted as presented.
III. ACTION ITEMS - NONE

IV. CURRENT DISCUSSION ITEMS AND TASK LISTING:

a. Youth Activities at Community Centers.
   Chairman Gandara introduced Robert Nuñez. Mr. Nuñez made a presentation to the Committee on the CLC “Out of School Time” programs — a place for kids to interact, socialize, recreate and learn when not in school, during after school, spring break, and summer time, etc. Mr. Nuñez reported that the after-school program has eight sites utilizing Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS). There are 240 youth participating in the program. Additionally, there is a Weed and Seed program and Teen Connection programs. A meal is also provided for the youth in these programs. Costs run from free to $4.60 per day, per child. There are some scholarship programs to assist with fees for some of the programs. There are also two programs at the library and the museums.

Ms. Margaret Neill spoke on the library “Out of School Time” programs, like Teen Hang Out – game time, Sound Sessions – guitar lessons; Library Lab – STEM/STEAM activities; Summer Reading Program – Movie making class, creative writing and crafts. All programs are well publicized.

Chairman Gandara expressed concern that the programs are not being publicized, and the students don’t know about the Youth Board. Chairman Gandara also expressed concern that youth in the East Mesa are missing out on these opportunities.

Mr. Dollahon recommended staff evaluating the usage of Safe Café for more activities. The Committee discussed activities, transportation, and opportunities. Mr. Dollahon recommended a meeting with LCPS, specific to the transportation issue. Ms. Daliman, LCPS, will take that meeting suggestion to the LCPS Director of Operations. Attendees will be Mr. Dollahon, Mr. Nuñez, and Transit staff. Ms. Berlowitz commented that although much of the information about these programs is on the City website, the website is not user friendly and is difficult to navigate. Councilor Flores talked to the committee about the Star program — an in-school program for kids, the LCPS could look at. Mr. Dollahon indicated that this issue should be addressed by the Community Schools Initiative. Mr. Greenberg updated the committee on Community School (Lynn Middle) programs.

Ms. Hanson updated the committee on Museum “Out of School Time” Programs – Spring Break Camp; Teen Science Café (with a Teen Advisory Committee); Summer Camps (first summer camp at Railroad Museum and first art history camp this year). Chairman Gandara suggested some ideas to connect the Las Cruces Arts and Culture District with some kid activities/programs.

V. FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS AND TASK LISTING

a. Transit Marketing Plan
b. Arts and Culture District – March 2019

c. Resilience Presentation – March 2019

VI. NEXT DISCUSSION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING DATE

a. New Discussion items for next meeting
b. Next meeting date: March 19, 2019

VII. ADJOURN

Chairperson

3-19-2019

Approved