



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

## Quality of Life Policy Review Committee Agenda

This meeting will be held Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 3:00 pm to - 4:30 pm at City Hall in Conference Room 2007A, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1. Call To Order
2. Conflict Of Interest  
“Does any member of the City Council or any member of City staff have any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda?”
3. Acceptance Of Agenda
4. Approval Of Minutes  
From October 27, 2021 Meeting

Documents:

[QOL PRC MEETING DRAFT MINUTES OCTOBER 27, 2021 .PDF](#)

5. Action Items  
Vote for the Vice Chair
6. Discussion Items  
What is the Quality of Life (QoL) Policy Review Committee and what we discuss:
  - a. Introduction of the members

Update of the Crisis Triage Center, Work with the Crisis Now Workgroup, and Statewide 988 Implementation plans presentation by Jamie Michael

Budget QoL

What topics would you like to see in the future?

7. Future Discussion/Task Listing  
Recruit Members

Museum Master Plan

Public Art Funding Ordinance

Master Calendar for Children's Programs

## Utility Structure/Public Art Assets by District

### 8. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 541-2048.

The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.



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The following are minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces Quality of Life Policy Review Committee** held at 3:00 p.m. October 27, 2021, in City Hall, Conference Room 2007A.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve – District 2 – Chair
- Councilor Gabriel Vasquez – District 3
- Dr. Marlena Fraune, Ex-Officio Member
- Diego Medina, Ex-Officio Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Mayor Ken Miyagishima

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Rebecca Slaughter, Quality of Life Deputy Director and PRC Staff Coordinator
- Jill Aguirre, Quality of Life Senior Office Manager and PRC Recording Secretary
- Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator
- Margaret Neill, Library Administrator
- Karla Walton, Marketing and Event Coordinator

**I. CALL TO ORDER** - Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was established with Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve and Councilor Vasquez present.

**II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve read the conflict of interest statement. *“Does any member of the City Council or any member of City staff have any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda?”* All members present indicated there were none.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA** - Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve requested a motion for acceptance of the agenda. Councilor Vasquez made the motion. Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve seconded. Roll was called and agenda was accepted by the committee members present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve requested a motion for approval of the meeting minutes from the August 25, 2021, meeting. Councilor Vasquez made the motion. Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve seconded. Roll was called and minutes were approved by the committee members present.

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. Parks and Recreation Youth Services Program Updates:** Robert Nunez provided a brief introduction of his experience with the City of Las Cruces Parks

1 and Recreation Department. He provided a PowerPoint presentation of the  
2 youth services program. This presentation provided a detailed staffing  
3 breakdown. Mr. Nunez discussed the out of school programs and the  
4 attendance level of each. The After-School programs located at schools  
5 throughout Las Cruces has 248 kids registered and participating. This number  
6 is down from approximately 500 youth. The Safe Haven currently has 60  
7 participants. The Safe Haven provides services to kids K-5<sup>th</sup> grade from  
8 2:30pm-6:00pm on school days and from 7:30am-6:00pm on non-school days,  
9 and during the summer, 8:30am-4:30pm. Mr. Nunez advised the services staff  
10 provide to students during these times. Mr. Nunez discussed cost of programs.  
11 Summer Recreation has room for 225 kids K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Teen Connection allows  
12 for 60 teens 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade. The schedule for the programs runs 3:30-8pm  
13 during the school year and 11:00am-6:00pm in the summer. The other  
14 programs available are the Youth Development and Diversion, Keep Las  
15 Cruces Beautiful, and Las Cruces Youth Board. The Youth Development and  
16 Diversion is the new branding for the Juvenile Citation Program for class three  
17 citation youth. The participation numbers in 2020 were 140 and 375 in FY19.  
18 In FY14, almost 800 youth went through the program. This is a diversion  
19 program to keep youth out of the system, divert them from the courts, put them  
20 through an educational program, and have them participate in community  
21 service. The Keep Las Cruces Beautiful program had 3000 volunteers and  
22 10,000 hours of community beautification projects prior to the pandemic. This  
23 program also has LIBBY the Green Dog. The Las Cruces Youth Board consists  
24 of 16 members grades 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Parks and Recreation is working on creating a  
25 new panel of board members now. Mr. Nunez provided a list of partners that  
26 assist with these programs. Mr. Nunez discussed the budget for these  
27 programs which includes funding and in-kind. Dr. Fraune asked if there are any  
28 tracking mechanisms in place to monitor success in addition to the attendance  
29 tracking that is being done. Mr. Nunez advised that in performance  
30 management, staff are keeping track on how youth are transitioning through  
31 the programs. Councilor Vasquez asked about what the needs of our youth are  
32 and what the City could be doing to support these needs. Mr. Nunez said the  
33 goal is to evolve and work together with our community partners to gather our  
34 resources to provide the best services possible. Mr. Nunez said that he would  
35 like to be able to have a teen facility for youth. Councilor Vasquez detailed his  
36 involvement and interest in this idea. Rebecca Slaughter inquired about  
37 potential issues with having gender-based Youth Development and Diversion  
38 classes. Mr. Nunez advised that evidence-based, these programs work. He  
39 added that this is a situation that will come up more and that staff will have to  
40 look outside the box to address. Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve asked specifically  
41 what the protocol is when youth member is trans or non-binary to make sure  
42 we are adapting to those needs. Mr. Nunez advised that within the program,  
43 staff work with the family and the youth to select the program that they feel the  
44 most comfortable in. Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve asked if there are wait lists for  
45 after school programs. Mr. Nunez advised there are and detailed which  
46 locations where the wait lists exist.

47 **b. The Big Read Program Presentation:** Margaret Neill provided background on  
48 the how the program came to be. Joy Harjo, the U.S. poet laureate, and her

1 book, An American Sunrise, are the main event. Ms. Harjo will be in Las Cruces  
2 and will a part of various events throughout The Big Read to include a book  
3 reading, a book signing, and a Q&A session. This is the second Big Read this  
4 year, which is not typical for a library. The library and the museums are working  
5 together on this project. In addition to the events with Joy Harjo, there are  
6 numerous events relevant to the topic throughout the program. Ms. Neill listed  
7 various programs to the committee, and she provided direction on how to  
8 access the list of events for the program on the City website. Councilor  
9 Vasquez thanked everyone involved in bringing this to Las Cruces.  
10 Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve asked about how this program is being promoted.  
11 Ms. Slaughter detailed the steady marketing efforts that are occurring with the  
12 assistance of the Communications Office. Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve and  
13 Councilor Vasquez offered Council's assistance with any needs the department  
14 my have in promoting the program.

15 c. **Council District Newsletters, Meetings, and Events:** Karla Walton provided  
16 an overview of the outreach efforts that are happening with City Council. The  
17 first is the digital newsletter program that began in April. Ms. Walton displayed  
18 what the newsletters look like for the committee. The newsletters being  
19 provided at this time are for District 1, District, 2, and District 4. The newsletter  
20 is multilingual meaning it is available in over 50 languages. There are currently  
21 over 500 subscribers. Ms. Walton reviewed the demographics of the newsletter  
22 subscribers. Ms. Walton described the various news items that are being  
23 presented in the newsletters. The promotion of the newsletters was described.  
24 In Person District meetings are being started back up, beginning with the  
25 District 2 Fiesta that occurred Saturday, October 9, 2021. A video highlighting  
26 the event was shown to the committee. Councilor Vasquez commented on how  
27 wonderful this public engagement is and complemented the quality of the work.  
28 Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve expressed her gratitude for staff's work and spoke  
29 of the benefits of these constituent events.

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31 **VI. ACTION ITEMS – None.**

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33 **VII. FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS AND TASK LISTING:** Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve  
34 asked the committee if they had items that they would like to discuss in the next  
35 month or two. Councilor Vasquez asked about the progress of the Utility  
36 Structure/Public Art Assets by District. Ms. Slaughter stated that it is a project that  
37 they continue to talk about, but it is slow-going and is not an easy, quick solution.  
38 Ms. Slaughter explained the process the Public Art Program is working on to satisfy  
39 this request and the progress that has been made thus far.

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41 Master Calendar for Programs

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43 Utility Structure/Public Art Assets by District

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45 Indigenous Culture and Representation

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47 **VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – To be determined.**

1 **IX. ADJOURNMENT** - Chairwoman Abeyta-Stuve requested a motion to adjourn the  
2 meeting. Councilor Vasquez made the motion to adjourn. Chairwoman Abeyta-  
3 Stuve seconded. Roll was called and all members present approved. Meeting  
4 adjourned at 4:29 p.m.  
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9 Chairperson

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12 Approved

DRAFT