

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

May 20, 2021

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on May 20, 2021 at 6:01 p.m. via zoom
2 webinar.

3 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

4
5 Cassie McClure – District 1
6 Jeff Thompson – District 2
7 Stan Engle – District 4
8 Eric Montgomery – District 5
9 Megan Schuller – District 6

10

11 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

12 Eli Guzman - At Large
13 Maryln Zahler – District 3

14

15 Others Present:

16

17 Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks & Recreation
18 Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation
19 Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
20 Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
21 Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
22 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator
23 Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architect, Public Works
24 Jennifer Morrow, Interim Engineering Administrator, Public Works
25 David Viarreal, Project Manager, Public Works
26 Tony Trevino, Public Works
27 Arturo Gonzalez, Architect/Project Manager, ECM International/EI Paso, TX
28 David Shields, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
29 Carrie Denton, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
30 Kurtis Morton, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
31 Ken Romig, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
32 Gregory Shervanick, Public
33 Thomas Winter, Public
34 Joseph Sandoval, Public

35

36 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of May 20, 2021 via Zoom webinar and was brought
37 to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized as having a legal quorum.

38 **1. Introductions**

39

40 1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

41

42 Board members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

43

44 1.2 Parks and Recreation Staff

45

46 Staff introduced themselves and stated their position.

47

48 **2. Conflict of Interest**

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50 No Conflict of Interest.

51

52 **3. Approval of Agenda**

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54 Board Member Montgomery moved to accept agenda as presented, seconded by Board
55 Member Engle. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

56

57 **4. Approval of Minutes**

58

59 Board Member Montgomery moved to approve minutes of April 15, 2021, seconded by
60 Board Member Engle. Motion carried unanimously.

61

62 **5. Public Participation**

63

64 Ms. Hazel Nevarez read email received from Tom and Maggie Winter:

May 20, 2021 Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting



Tom and Maggie Winter <magswheel@aol.com>

To Parks and Rec Admin



5/16/2021

You forwarded this message on 5/20/2021 5:32 PM.

Good evening,

The city asked for public input on two GO Bond projects; designing the rehab of the Apodaca pickleball courts and designing the East Mesa Rec Area. According to the GO Bond website, the design for Apodaca is 100% complete and construction is 45% complete. The design for East Mesa is 98% complete.

How can the public see the final design and specifications for each of these projects?

Whom would we contact if we had questions?

Thank you!

Tom & Maggie Winter
magswheel@aol.com

65

66

67 Ms. Sonya Delgado reported she did report the email inquiry from Tom and Maggie Winter to
68 Jennifer Morrow, Public Works. Ms. Delgado said Ms. Morrow is going to get the information
69 and send to Tom and Maggie Winter. Ms. Delgado added staff is looking to see if this
70 information can be posted on the web but will need to coordinate this with a different

71 organization that is not with the City at the moment. Ms. Morrow said she will follow-up on the
72 email and make sure the concerns are addressed.

73
74 Mr. Gregory Shervanick reported he was at the Capital Improvements meeting this afternoon
75 and heard some very disheartening figures concerning the Nevada Cool Corridor. He said Ms.
76 Delgado also came on the line and made a defense and David Sedillo spoke to the last time. Mr.
77 Shervanick said David Sedillo told the Board he would come back to give the actual figures for
78 the Nevada Cool Corridor since he (Mr. Shervanick) prefaced the Board as there were \$2.2
79 million as total cost, which is incorrect now because those costs have grown. He said 60% of the
80 plant life of the Nevada Cool Corridor has been replaced and the contract for watering them for
81 the six months after they were put in became 12 months. Mr. Shervanick said this flood control
82 demonstration project is not what was told originally in 2018 when this committee listened to
83 ten people who heard what the project was going to be. He said it will never fulfill what the
84 Board was told it was. Mr. Shervanick said the City of Las Cruces basically has blatantly lied to
85 everyone concerning what the cost of this project was. He said it shifted from Sustainability in
86 the beginning to Parks and Recreation because they were going to handle the green space,
87 taking care of the green products in the chicanes which included trees, which there are no trees,
88 and then essentially it now is in the Public Works section of the City of Las Cruces.

89
90 Mr. Shervanick said he also, after hearing the draft report for the conservation of water for the
91 City of Las Cruces from Rhonda Diaz at the Utilities work session last week on Thursday, he is
92 going to specify that Parks and Recreation gets a motorized valve for the control water that fills
93 Young Park pond for the simple fact that that line is the Utility of Las Cruces line which services
94 water to the pond. He said it is unacceptable that that pond is filled in the manner that it has
95 been filled for the last ten months. Mr. Shervanick said if there is a problem with conserving
96 water in Las Cruces and if the citizens are going to be penalized, then we also need to be aware
97 of the use of water for filling that pond. He said as he has expressed before in these public input
98 meetings, there is a problem with the pond and if the City doesn't realize that, they should hire
99 somebody that can validate his observation that after a certain point when the pond is filled
100 above the concrete layers, that the physics of water and the pressure of gravity forces the water
101 into the ground and out of the pond.

102
103 Mr. Shervanick said these are items that he is going to pursue because if the Amazing Race is
104 going to start at Young Park, and it should be a nice place to be, there are a number of people
105 that go there every evening, there are fisherman, and since the maintenance, you don't have
106 enough people, but 15 parks are going to be built in the next 24 months, then need to think
107 about how to handle hiring more staff to take care of parks for the citizens of Las Cruces. To
108 Ms. Delgado, Mr. Shervanick said he would defend her to the hilt because she is an employee of
109 the City of Las Cruces and when the Administration above her, including Councilor Vasquez for
110 District 3, does not understand that Ms. Delgado does not have the staff, nor does Councilor
111 Sorg in District 5 understand that he cannot have five brand new park in District 5 over the next
112 24 months without the ability to maintain or take care of them. Mr. Shervanick said it is a
113 ridiculous situation that unfortunately Parks and Recreation is caught in because of the GO Bond
114 as well. He said since the Go Bond staff has met in the last week and has decided that within

115 five weeks they will begin to put out information concerning whether or not there should be
116 another GO Bond round, he will be an opponent and will speak very loudly that the City of Las
117 Cruces should not ask its citizens to pay for more funding for GO Bond projects that cannot be
118 completed since the projects couldn't be completed from the first round. Mr. Shervanick
119 thanked the Board for their time and for listening to him. He said he believes it's important that
120 transparency is coming to play, and he hopes the other respondents during public participation
121 will also tell the truth about what their needs are as citizens. Mr. Shervanick again thanked the
122 Board, Ms. Delgado, and Ms. Morrow.

123
124 Ms. Delgado said she will bring back a presentation that talks about the Cool Corridor in its
125 entirety and will also ask Public Works and any other department that was involved to give a full
126 report on the entire project.

127
128 Regarding the motorized valve at Young Park Pond, Ms. Delgado said staff is already looking into
129 this. She said staff did appreciate Mr. Shervanick bringing this forward and when he did, staff did
130 some research and have started to have discussions to see what can be done. She said staff
131 does understand there are issues with this pond and will address them as quickly as possible.

132 133 **6. Action Items**

134
135 There were no action items.

136 137 **7. Discussion Items**

138 139 **7.1 Veteran's Park Parking Lot – Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect/Parks & Recreation and** 140 **David Viarreal, Project Manager/Public Works**

141
142 Ms. Catherine Mathews informed the Board staff an update regarding the Veteran's Memorial
143 Park parking lot project follows. She said the design process is nearing completion and David
144 Viarreal with Public Works is managing the project and he has invited the consultant to give a
145 brief presentation to see where the project stands and to give the Board an opportunity to ask
146 questions.

147
148 Mr. David Viarreal informed the Board design for the Veteran's Memorial Park parking lot is 95%
149 complete and informed the Board Mr. David Shields of Bohannon Huston will provide a
150 presentation with some plans and mentioned Bohannon Houston's architectural consultants are
151 also present.

152
153 Mr. David Shields of Bohannon Huston informed the Board they are doing the civil side
154 improvements and are teamed with Dekker/Perich/Sabatini on the pavilion and new restrooms
155 proposed for Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Shields provided an overhead presentation and
156 noted they are basing the design on the original masterplan that was initiated by Parks and
157 Recreation of the City of Las Cruces. The presentation covered the demolition plan, overall
158 parking lot layout, utility plan, off site drainage plan, parking lot lighting. Mr. David Shields
turned over the rest of the presentation to Ms. Carrie Denton from Dekker/Perich/Sabatini who

159 then covered the architectural layout and landscape plan for Veteran’s Memorial Park. The
160 presentation was turned over to Mr. Ken Romig of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini who covered the
161 irrigation plan. Mr. Romig turned over the presentation to Mr. Kurtis Morton of
162 Dekker/Perich/Sabatini who then covered the architectural floor and ceiling plans for the
163 pavilion and restrooms, the architectural building elevations and finishes and the architectural
164 building sections. Mr. Shields finished the presentation reviewing cost estimates - pavilion and
165 parking lot \$1,562,973 and offsite drainage \$864,000.
166

167 Mr. Shields ended thanking those who have served our great country and thanked the City of
168 Las Cruces for their continued support in honoring the Veterans of our community and
169 expressed it is an honor and privilege to be a small part of this.
170

171 Chair McClure said it was a great presentation. There were no questions from the Board.
172

173 **7.2 Go Bond Projects Update – Jennifer Morrow, Senior Engineer/Public Works**

174 Ms. Jennifer Morrow, Interim Engineering Administrator for the City of Las Cruces, provided an
175 overhead presentation on GO Bond Program Update. The update covered Question 1-Hadley
176 Recreation Complex, Question 1 – Parks & Sports Courts, Question 1 – Unidad Park, Question 1
177 – E Mesa Public Rec Complex, Question 1 – Dog Parks, Question 4 – Walking, Jogging, Biking
178 Trails, as well as overall program budget.

179 There were no questions from the Board.

180 **7.3 Parks & Recreation Programming Update**

181

182 **7.3.1 Phil, Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator/Parks & Recreation**

183

184 Mr. Phil Catanach gave the Board an update on how the Recreation Section is moving forward
185 with programming, letting them know what current programs are running and what is coming
186 up.

187 In reference to Movies in the Park, Mr. Shervanick provided the following information as an FYI:
188 It is now illegal to park on the south side of Nevada from Walnut to Lees Drive. There are signs
189 that are posted so you can no longer park on half of the street and if you follow the whole street
190 of Nevada to Solano, there are 12 more no parking signs, so for the length of .95 miles is no
191 parking on Nevada. If you go to Movies in the Park, they will ticket you for parking on the south
192 side of Nevada between the park and the school.

193 Chair McClure asked if there is a way to get a reprieve for that day. Mr. Catanach said he will
194 look into this.

195 **7.3.2 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator/Parks & Recreation**

196

197 Mr. Robert Nunez gave the Board an update on what is happening in his Youth Services Section -
198 Juvenile Citation Program, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, Out of School Time, Teen Connection, and
199 upcoming Summer Recreation.

200
201

7.3.3 Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator

202 Mr. Granillo gave the Board an update on the re-opening program for the ball fields and the
203 athletic fields, saying it is going well.

204 Mr. Granillo expressed thanks to Public Works Staff and Arturo's staff for getting GO Bond done
205 smoothly and seamlessly on Hadley.

206 Board Member Thompson asked over the course of opening so far and the way the leagues are
207 going, what has the biggest challenge been from both a participant and spectator point of view.
208 Mr. Granillo said the biggest challenge was the amount of people that showed up and some not
209 wanting to wear masks.

210 Board Member Engle said he was contacted by Councilor Bencomo, who was contacted by Las
211 Cruces Youth Soccer and they had concerns about renting facilities and the over policing of the
212 leagues regarding COVID-19 restrictions, specifically one warning rule before the entire league is
213 reprimanded. Mr. Granillo responded that this was discussed in every meeting with the leagues,
214 letting them know there was a one warning set up but that was for clear disregard of the rules
215 that were put in place and they agreed to. He said at the time, masks were strictly in use and
216 rule was geared toward clear disregard of the rules. Also discussed though were if could see the
217 leagues were trying to comply, help and communicate, discussions would be held to follow up,
218 debrief, see what went wrong and what could be improved. Regarding permits, Mr. Granillo said
219 permits aren't being taken for any open space and leagues are aware their email with their
220 schedules acts as their permit and there were no issues with them getting on the field.

221 Board Member Engle clarified no outside facility rentals are being done yet. Mr. Granillo
222 concurred. Board Member Engle clarified it wasn't just youth soccer, but all leagues were
223 treated equally. Mr. Granillo concurred saying there were twelve meetings, documented,
224 recorded and all leagues were given the same guidelines to follow and they all agreed.

225 Board Member Thompson understood from Ron Nestle, Las Cruces Youth Soccer, that all
226 scheduling of fields is run through Las Cruces Youth Soccer and asked if this was correct. Mr.
227 Granillo said when it comes to Las Cruces Youth Soccer, fields are shared with Adult, Youth, and
228 FC Grande (Alexis Ruiz). Mr. Granillo said the permit process doesn't allow double booking, so
229 what happens is Adult will put in a permit and will coordinate with Youth to coordinate the
230 fields, or vice versa. Board Member Thompson understood from Mr. Nestle that Las Cruces
231 Youth Soccer holds the permit for all the fields. Mr. Granillo responded Las Cruces Youth Soccer
232 does not hold the permit for all the fields, they work with the Mesilla Valley Soccer Association,
233 with Dominic's group, with FC Grande, and themselves. It depends on who submits the permit
234 at the time. Board Member Thompson asked if the permit process goes thru Parks and
235 Recreation and Mr. Granillo concurred.

236 **7.4 4th of July Update – Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator/Parks and Recreation**
237

238 Mr. Catanach informed the Board from what he understands the Governor has said, that July 2nd
239 looks like a date that could open up the community. He said staff has been meeting with NMSU
240 on a plan for a 4th of July Celebration, July 3rd Electric Light Parade. Announcement was sent out
241 for the parade with a theme, Stars and Stripes Forever. Plan is for a concert and fireworks
242 display on July 4. Governor’s orders will be followed. More announcements will go out as things
243 move forward.
244

245 **7.5 Board Duties & Responsibilities/Elections – Sonya Delgado, Director/Parks & Recreation**
246

247 Ms. Delgado informed the Board it is time for Chair and Vice Chair elections. The Board was
248 previously sent Board Duties and Responsibilities to review prior to next meeting.
249

250 Board Member Schuller said this would be a could time to inquire what Board Member
251 Guzman’s position is for the foreseeable future on the Board, since he has been absent in
252 meetings and Mayor at Large is a voting position. Ms. Delgado said she will reach out to Board
253 Member Guzman to see if he is still interested and provide an update at the next meeting.
254

255 Ms. Nevarez added also sent to the Board for review prior to this meeting were City Ordinance
256 Board member rules which also addresses attendance of meetings.
257

258 **8. Staff Member Comments**
259

260 Mr. Granillo said he will bring forward to next meeting Dog Park Rules but isn’t sure yet if will be
261 informational or action.
262

263 Ms. Mathews informed the Board the AARP Fitlot at Benavidez Community Center is completed.
264 She said the punch list is being addressed by the contract in the next week or two.
265

266 Ms. Mathews said at Metro Verde, the Ninja Park, which has American Ninja style pieces of
267 equipment along a trail, has a punch list that needs to be addressed.
268

269 Ms. Mathews said the Red Hawk Villas Park, a passive recreation space, is coming along. She
270 said the contractor is having difficulty finding plant material.
271

272 Ms. Mathews said City Bond Medians Phase 1 is being managed by Public Works and anticipated
273 completion and close out is this summer.
274

275 Ms. Nevarez informed the Board she will be sending forward to the Board the red line Fees and
276 Charges to review before the next Board meeting. Ms. Delgado added the red line Fees and
277 Charges will be up for discussion at the June meeting and for action in July.
278

279 Ms. Delgado informed that Board she has not had an opportunity to look into Parolees and their
280 dogs but will look into it and hopefully has some information for the next meeting.

281
282 Ms. Delgado expressed thanks to the entire Parks and Recreation team who has done an
283 outstanding job pulling together programming to get the youth and adults out playing while still
284 maintaining COVID-19 safe practices.

285
286 **9. Board Member Comments**

287 There were no Board Member comments.

288 **10. Adjournment**

289
290 Board Member Montgomery moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
291 meeting, seconded by Board Member Engle. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned
292 at 7:55 p.m.

293
294
295 _____
Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair

Draft