

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 webinar.

2 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

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4 Cassie McClure – District 1

5 Jeff Thompson – District 2

6 Stan Engle – District 4

7 Eric Montgomery – District 5

8 Megan Schuller – District 6

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10 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

11 Eli Guzman - At Large

12 Maryln Zahler – District 3

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14 Others Present:

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16 Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks & Recreation

17 Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation

18 Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation

19 Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation

20 Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation

21 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator

22 Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architect, Public Works

23 Jennifer Morrow, Interim Engineering Administrator, Public Works

24 David Viarreal, Project Manager, Public Works

25 Tony Trevino, Public Works

26 Arturo Gonzalez, Architect/Project Manager, ECM International/El Paso, TX

27 David Shields, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

28 Carrie Denton, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

29 Kurtis Morton, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

30 Ken Romig, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

31 Gregory Shervanick, Public

32 Thomas Winter, Public

33 Joseph Sandoval, Public

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

37 **1. Introductions**

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39 1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

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

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43 1.2 Parks and Recreation Staff

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Staff introduced themselves and stated their position.

**2. Conflict of Interest**

No Conflict of Interest.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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


**4. Approval of Minutes**




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

**5. Public Participation**

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](mailto:magswheel@aol.com)

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Ms. Sonya Delgado reported she did report the email inquiry from Tom and Maggie Winter to Jennifer Morrow, Public Works. Ms. Delgado said Ms. Morrow is going to get the information and send to Tom and Maggie Winter. Ms. Delgado added staff is looking to see if this information can be posted on the web but will need to coordinate this with a different organization that is not with the City at the moment. Ms. Morrow said she will follow-up on the email and make sure the concerns are addressed.

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

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

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

116 to pay for more funding for GO Bond projects that cannot be completed since the projects  
117 couldn't be completed from the first round. Mr. Shervanick thanked the Board for their time and  
118 for listening to him. He said he believes it's important that transparency is coming to play, and he  
119 hopes the other respondents during public participation will also tell the truth about what their  
120 needs are as citizens. Mr. Shervanick again thanked the Board, Ms. Delgado, and Ms. Morrow.

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

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

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## 131 **6. Action Items**

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133 There were no action items.

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## 135 **7. Discussion Items**

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### 137 **7.1 Veteran's Park Parking Lot – Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect/Parks & Recreation and** 138 **David Viarreal, Project Manager/Public Works**

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

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

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

160 Dekker/Perich/Sabatini who then covered the architectural floor and ceiling plans for the pavilion  
161 and restrooms, the architectural building elevations and finishes and the architectural building  
162 sections. Mr. Shields finished the presentation reviewing cost estimates - pavilion and parking lot  
163 \$1,562,973 and offsite drainage \$864,000.

164  
165 Mr. Shields ended thanking those who have served our great country and thanked the City of Las  
166 Cruces for their continued support in honoring the Veterans of our community and expressed it  
167 is an honor and privilege to be a small part of this.

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

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## 171 **7.2 Go Bond Projects Update – Jennifer Morrow, Senior Engineer/Public Works**

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

177 There were no questions from the Board.

## 178 **7.3 Parks & Recreation Programming Update**

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### 180 **7.3.1 Phil, Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator/Parks & Recreation**

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

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

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

### 192 **7.3.2 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator/Parks & Recreation**

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

197

### 198 **7.3.3 Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 233 **7.4 4<sup>th</sup> of July Update – Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator/Parks and Recreation**

234  
235 Mr. Catanach informed the Board from what he understands the Governor has said, that July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
236 looks like a date that could open up the community. He said staff has been meeting with NMSU  
237 on a plan for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, July 3<sup>rd</sup> Electric Light Parade. Announcement was sent out

238 for the parade with a theme, Stars and Stripes Forever. Plan is for a concert and fireworks display  
239 on July 4. Governor's orders will be followed. More announcements will go out as things move  
240 forward.

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## 242 **7.5 Board Duties & Responsibilities/Elections – Sonya Delgado, Director/Parks & Recreation**

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

246

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

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

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## 255 **8. Staff Member Comments**

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257 Mr. Granillo said he will bring forward to next meeting Dog Park Rules but isn't sure yet if will be  
258 informational or action.

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

262

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

265

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

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

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

275

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

278

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

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283 **9. Board Member Comments**

284           There were no Board Member comments.

285 **10. Adjournment**

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

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Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Cassie McClure, Chair

Draft