



1 The following are minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces Quality of Life**  
2 **Policy Review Committee** held at 3:00 p.m. February 23, 2022, in City Hall, Conference  
3 Room 2007A.

4 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

5 Councilor Tessa Abeyta – District 2 – Chair  
6 Councilor Becki Graham – District 3 - Vice-Chair  
7 Councilor Becky Corran – District 5  
8 Diego Medina, Ex-Officio Member

9 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

10 Dr. Marlena Fraune, Ex-Officio Member

11 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

12 Ikani Taumoepeau, Assistant City Manager  
13 Rebecca Slaughter, Quality of Life Deputy Director and PRC Staff Coordinator  
14 Christine Rivera, City Clerk  
15 Sergio Ruiz, Administration Policy Analyst  
16 David Weir, Community Development  
17 Ginger Barela, Quality of Life Sr. Office Manager and PRC Recording Secretary  
18 Gregory Shervanick, Member of the Public

19 **I. CALL TO ORDER** - Chairwoman Abeyta called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.  
20 Roll was called, and a quorum was established with Chairwoman Abeyta,  
21 Councilor Graham, and Councilor Corran present.

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

26 **III. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA** - Chairwoman Abeyta requested a motion for  
27 acceptance of the agenda. A motion was made by Councilor Graham and  
28 seconded by Councilor Corran to approve the agenda. Roll was called and the  
29 agenda was accepted by the committee members present.

30 **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Chairwoman Abeyta requested a motion for approval  
31 of the meeting minutes from the January 26, 2022, meeting. A motion was made  
32 by Councilor Corran and seconded by Councilor Graham to approve the minutes.  
33 Roll was called and minutes were approved by the committee members present.

1 **V. ACTION ITEMS: None**

2 **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 3 a. **GO Bond – Upcoming Initiative and Process – Presented by Mr. David**  
4 **Weir, Deputy Director Community Planning:** Mr. Weir presented to the  
5 committee detailing the 2022 General Obligation Bond Program. Mr. Weir  
6 began his presentation by defining a GO Bond as a financial mechanism which  
7 allows cities to fund large projects that will benefit the entire community. The  
8 2022 GO Bond Program will not increase property taxes. In 2018, a tax  
9 increase occurred with the passage of the 2018 GO Bond program. The City is  
10 proposing to cycle the bonds that were approved in 2018. This will allow the  
11 City to move forward with appropriate projects that will support the community  
12 without increasing the rates of property taxes. Mr. Weir further detailed that GO  
13 Bonds will have to be approved by the community. Approval of bond projects  
14 will be recommended by the City, submitted to Council for approval, and will  
15 then be placed on the general election ballot for vote.

16 Councilor Graham inquired if the funds can be used for a purpose other than  
17 what was approved by voters. Mr. Weir confirmed that the funds are very  
18 targeted and cannot be used for other purposes. Councilor Graham further  
19 inquired if a bond project were approved and was unable to be implemented,  
20 due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. COVID), what happens? Mr. Weir  
21 responded that there would most likely be processes in place to extend or  
22 rescind a project. Councilor Corran further inquired what would happen if the  
23 cost of the project is greater than what was approved for the bond. Mr. Weir  
24 responded that the City would be able to look at other funds and grants to cover  
25 any shortfalls or additional expenses. Chairwoman Abeyta added that the City  
26 may want to consider looking at the percentage the contingency percentage for  
27 projects. Mr. Weir also stated that another approach would be to phase a  
28 project to help better plan for costs. Ms. Rebecca Slaughter added that when  
29 identifying projects for approval, succinct completable projects were chosen  
30 that can show that the program is successful. This would help for future projects  
31 that are submitted for voter approval in upcoming years. When utilizing phased  
32 projects, the public perception can be that the City is not completing projects.  
33 Mr. Weir agreed that the challenge for the City is to show that the organization  
34 follows through with the projects to gain the confidence of voters.

35 Mr. Weir listed and provided a brief status of projects that were approved  
36 through the 2018 GO Bond. Ms. Slaughter added that the Public Art ordinance  
37 was approved by Council. Moving forward, it will be part of the GO Bond  
38 questioning to have Public Art added to projects. Although this Ordinance was  
39 not approved prior to GO Bond 2018, it has been approved to have pieces of  
40 Public Art installed at both Fire Station 3 and the Animal Service Center.

41 Mr. Weir concluded his presentation by detailing the importance of the GO  
42 Bond Program, the need to establish public engagement, and encourage  
43 members of the public to register to vote. Chairwoman Abeyta inquired the City  
44 would be able to have individuals available at public engagement meetings to

1 register attendees to vote. Councilor Corran added that the League of Women  
2 Voters might be able to assist. Ms. Christine Rivera stated that she did not  
3 believe that there would be an issue with this. She further stated that City  
4 Manager approval would need to be requested to allow this within City  
5 buildings. Mr. Weir stated that the City is currently in the process of scheduling  
6 the public awareness meetings and identifying potential projects. In May and  
7 July staff will present to Council more specific projects and potential language  
8 to place on the ballot. If approved these will be given to the County Clerk to  
9 place on the General Election ballot for November.

10 Councilor Corran inquired if projects that are recommended for GO Bonds are  
11 typically presented for the entirety of a project, or by project phase. Such as  
12 this will cover the architecture phase of a facility and then the construction  
13 phase, or will they be presented as a complete project that encompasses  
14 everything. Mr. Weir replied that they try to approach with phased requests.  
15 This help make the success of a project more presentable. Your taxes went  
16 towards completing this part of the project. Chairwoman Abeyta added that  
17 these discussions will take into consideration input from the public gathered  
18 during the public awareness meetings. It is advantageous to strategize the  
19 pairing of projects to encourage acceptance and support from voters. Ms.  
20 Slaughter agreed that you want to show how the proposed projects serve the  
21 entire community. Pairing projects helps gain support. Mr. Weir also added that  
22 the grouping of projects does form coalitions of community groups that  
23 compliment each other and serve a wider purpose for the community.  
24 Chairwoman Abeyta inquired of the limitations that staff can do regarding  
25 advocacy. Mr. Weir responded that additional research has been conducted to  
26 show that staff can advocate for projects to show the benefit to the community,  
27 as long as there is transparency. A resolution will be drafted to set the  
28 parameters for Council approval that will allow staff to take a more active role  
29 in advocacy. Mr. Ikani Taumoepeau confirmed Mr. Weir's statement. In  
30 previous GO Bonds, the City created a steering committee as a non-attached  
31 organization. After Legal Department review, it was determined that the City  
32 can explicitly announce their support for projects that have been approved  
33 through Council. Councilors will be able to hold meetings in their districts to  
34 advocate for approved projects and foster engagement in the community.  
35 Councilor Corran inquired if these meetings could also be held remotely for  
36 community members that did not have the capability to attend in person. Mr.  
37 Weir responded that he believed we would be able to have the meetings in  
38 person and remotely. Chairwoman Abeyta stated that she felt it would be  
39 advantageous to reach out to community groups such as Greater Las Cruces  
40 Chamber of Commerce and the Home Builders Association to disseminate  
41 information. Mr. Greg Shervanick inquired of Mr. Weir what additional financial  
42 impact will the GO Bonds have on property owners. Mr. Weir displayed a  
43 graphic showing, and provided explanation on, how property taxes are  
44 distributed.

1 **VII. FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS AND TASK LISTING:** Chairwoman Abeyta noted  
2 to the committee that the UTV Ordinance and Noise Ordinance will be on schedule  
3 for March. It was suggested that the March meeting be extended to 5 pm and that  
4 a larger conference room is secured to accommodate a potential increase in public  
5 participation. Chairwoman Abeyta additionally stated that she requested that the  
6 previous ordinance and background information be provided to the committee.

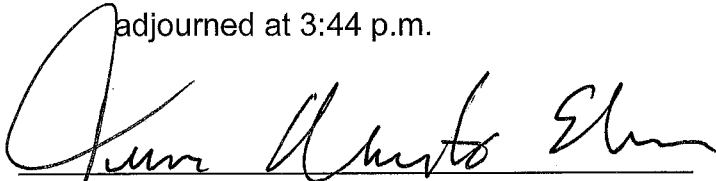
7 Recruitment of Quality of Life PRC Members

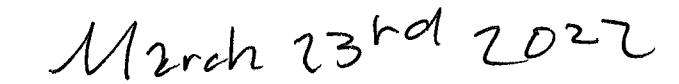
8 Master Calendar for City Led Children/Teen Programs

9 Utility Structure/Public Art Assets List by District

10 **VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 23, 2022.**

11 **IX. ADJOURNMENT** - Chairwoman Abeyta requested a motion to adjourn the  
12 meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Corran and seconded by  
13 Councilor Graham. Roll was called and all members present approved. Meeting  
14 adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

15   
16 Chairperson

17   
18 Approved