

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

April 21, 2022

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on January 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall
2 Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

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4 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

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6 Cassie McClure – District 1
7 Stan Engle – District 4
8 Megan Schuller – District 6

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10 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

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12 Eric Montgomery – District 5
13 Vacant - District 2
14 Vacant – District 3
15 Vacant – At Large

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17 Others Present:

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19 Rhonda Diaz, H2O Conservation Program Coordinator, Las Cruces Utilities
20 Ronald Borunda, Deputy Director Water, Las Cruces Utilities
21 Phillip Pruett, President, Mesilla Valley Shotgun Sports
22 Greg Shervanick, Public
23 J. Woods, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, Parks & Recreation
24 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
25 Donna Harvath, Public, Vice-President, Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition
26 Kevin Armstrong, Public, Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition
27 Robert Wojcikiewicz Public, Las Cruces Cricket
28 Javed Akhtar, Public, Las Cruces Cricket
29 Ahsan Jamil, Public, Las Cruces Cricket
30 Jake Gutierrez, Manager, Parks & Recreation
31 Wilfred Martinez, Parks & Recreation
32 Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
33 Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
34 Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
35 Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary, Parks & Recreation
36 Sonya Delgado, Director, Parks & Recreation

37
38 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of April 21, 2022, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N.
39 Main, Las Cruces, NM and was brought to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized the meeting
40 as having a legal quorum.

41 42 **1. Introductions**

43
44 Board members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

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2. Conflict of Interest

No Conflict of Interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

Board Member Schuller moved to approve Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Agenda for April 21, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

Roll Call Vote:

- Vice-Chair Engle - Aye
- Board Member Schuller - Aye
- Chair McClure - Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Schuller moved to approve Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes of January 20, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

Roll Call Vote:

- Vice-Chair Engle – Aye
- Board Member Schuller - Aye
- Chair McClure - Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Participation

Prior to public participation, Chair McClure advised public they are allotted seven (7) minutes to speak split between public participation and agenda items.

Phillip Pruett, President, Mesilla Valley Shotgun Sports Inc., began by informing the Board his item is also coming up under Agenda 7.4 and may possibly also speak at that time. Mr. Pruett said he is present to ask for help to fix the entrance road to Butterfield Shooting Range. He said Mesilla Valley Shotgun Sports is a group of shotgun enthusiasts engaged in building, operating, and maintaining the trap, skeet, and sporting clay ranges within the Butterfield Park. They host numerous shotgun shoots every year that attract hundreds of people from within New Mexico and neighboring states. Several other clubs including the Las Cruces Police Department and the general public utilize the park daily. He said other than shooting, the most common topic discussed is the road. The 231-yard road on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land which connects from the I-10 overpass to the Butterfield Range is in extremely horrible condition. He said they are hoping that Parks & Recreation can temporarily repair the road for now and eventually come up with a long-term solution to pave and maintain the road.

Mr. Gregory Shervanick expressed to the Board that he would like to give accolades to Sonya Delgado and her staff for Easter Saturday where the Parks Department co-sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt and the Parks Department cleaned the parks from top to bottom before, during and

93 after. He added the Recreation Department had a truck there, and he believed the ladies name
94 was Frances, who takes care of the children's toys, and she should definitely get a reward. Mr.
95 Shervanick said she spent all day and took care of thousands of children almost by herself. Mr.
96 Shervanick mentioned that the pictures of the event showed thousands of people smiling in the
97 Sun News. Mr. Shervanick added that on Sunday, the Parks Department also did a great job of
98 cleaning up after the public, but the biggest problem on Sunday and with Mother's Day coming
99 up, a lot of vehicles drive into the park and City staff needs to find a way for people to bring their
100 property in and take it out and not stay with their vehicles in the park. It is understood Easter and
101 Mother's Day is a celebratory day, and it is dangerous to be driving in the park with children after
102 celebratory conditions. Mr. Shervanick said the last thing he would like to say is in talking about
103 critical thinking, cost of park projects, and as cost of park projects goes up, he feels the Board
104 must be more vocal about projects. He said the Go Bond provided a brand-new picnic station at
105 Young Park and at that time he mentioned to Public Works as well as others that there is erosion
106 problem caused by metal roof which leaches everything down to the pond so the pond isn't as
107 clear as it should be, and on Monday he read that the building area was going to be closed off to
108 fix erosion. He added he thinks the erosion should have been fixed when the property was
109 changed and being built, and this is a secondary situation where critical thinking and sustainability
110 didn't work out. Mr. Shervanick also offered advice that the recreation department should have
111 a secondary truck for games because as the park system grows, a secondary truck would be
112 valuable to going to other locations, with the number of neighborhood parks that there are.

113
114 Ms. Delgado commented that the pavilion at Young Park is not closed, it will be available during
115 the time of fixing the erosion, it just won't be permitted out.

116
117 Chair McClure asked if there are areas for loading and unloading at any of the parks. Ms. Delgado
118 said no, and she had made notation of that.

119
120 Mr. Robert Wojcikiewicz, was present representing group he calls the Las Cruces Cricket Club, an
121 informal group of people that get together every weekend to play cricket. He said the group is
122 made up of entirely of graduate students, most of which are from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
123 He said they wanted presence at this Board meeting because they play at Gomez Park and would
124 like to ask that in the final plan for Gomez Park, there are provisional plans for a 20 meter by 5-
125 meter area for playing cricket. Mr. Wojcikiewicz said there are about 25 of them that play cricket,
126 and it would be nice to have an area for students that are in a foreign place to have an area to
127 play cricket.

128
129 Mr. Kevin Armstrong, President of the Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition, said he was present because
130 there are people at the Dog Park and on Facebook called Dog Parkers saying should go to Council
131 and this Board meeting, and none of the people saying that came. He said he and one other person
132 present who pick up poop and maintaining the park came. He said first off, he would like to say
133 they really appreciate the city, every other week have been doing what they call a wash down
134 because it helps keep the dust and odors down. He said they themselves have been cleaning the
135 park once a month, wash everything by hand, and do a lot of maintenance work in the park. Mr.
136 Armstrong said they do have some problems which lead to some of the comments being made.
137 He said he hesitates, because he has respect for the chain of command, for Sonya, and not all
138 things have been through the chain of command or put into the chain and not responded to. Mr.
139 Armstrong said there use to be quarterly meetings and would like to see them resumed as haven't
140 had any in a long time. He said there were some trees, and two years ago he warned that the

141 pine trees were dying from the top down and should be checked out with no response from the
142 person he thought was responsible. Now the trees are like halfway down. Mr. Armstrong said
143 there are pine trees inside the park that are not yet infected and as far as he knows, the bad trees
144 that are infected need to be cut down. Another thing that upsets him which leads him to question
145 Board's job even though it's volunteer, Board's job should be to make sure Parks and Recreation
146 staff are doing their jobs and should be aware, which would require Board to go to the different
147 parks and the recreation programs and talk to the people there to see what is going on. Mr.
148 Armstrong ended by thanking the Board for their work and their time.

149
150 Chair McClure asked if the Board could put things on the agenda for next time. Ms. Delgado
151 responded yes.

152
153 Ms. Donna Harvath, Vice-President of the Dog Park Coalition, informed the Board the lighting at
154 the Dog Park needs to be fixed, and has been brought up a couple of times. She also said the rule
155 boards need to be more specific, with ordinance numbers would help, at each gate so people
156 understand what they are responsible for.

157
158 Mr. Javed Akhtar informed the Board that they play cricket after class, and it would be nice to
159 have a designated area to play cricket.

160
161 Chair McClure asked to add this to list for next month's agenda.

162 163 **6. Action Items**

164 165 **6.1 Parks and Recreation Department 2021/2022 Fees & Charges/Facility Use Policy – Sonya** 166 **Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director**

167
168 Ms. Sonya Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director, provided a Power Point presentation on the
169 Parks and Recreation Fees & Charges/Facility Use Policy explaining process for updating annually
170 and summarizing policy and fee changes for the 2021/2022 Policy. She informed the Board this
171 will be updated again with the new swimming pool coming on-line at the beginning of 2023.

172
173 Board Member Schuller asked for clarification of Resident and Non-Resident Fees. Ms. Delgado
174 said Resident are for residents inside city limits and Non-Resident are residents outside city limits.

175
176 Chair McClure asked, regarding Parks and Recreation Advisory Board authority over
177 Leagues/Organizations that utilize City fields and/or facilities being added back into the Fees and
178 Charges, why the language was removed before. Ms. Delgado said it was because league
179 agreements had been done away with and with no league agreement, leagues couldn't come to
180 the Board, which caused some issues, so now reinstated league agreements the language back
181 into the policy.

182
183 Vice-Chair Engle asked if the policy also covers the rental of trails. Ms. Delgado responded yes.

184
185 Board Member Schuller moved to approve the Parks and Rec's Department 2021/2022 Fees and
186 Charges/Facility Use Policy, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle. There was no further discussion by
187 Board or the Public.

188

189 Roll Call Vote:
190 Vice-Chair Engle – Aye
191 Board Member Schuller - Aye
192 Chair McClure - Aye
193 Motion carried unanimously.
194

195 **6.2 Park Master Plan Presentations for Branigan Park, Gomez Park, and Frenger Park (Virtual) –**
196 **Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Emily Rogers & Aaron Zahm, Morrow Reardon**
197 **Wilkinson Miller (MRWM) Landscape Architects**
198

199 Ms. Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect with Parks & Recreation, informed the Board with
200 this agenda item, the Board will hear from Emily Rogers and Aaron Zahm of Morrow Reardon
201 Wilkinson Miller via telephone along with a Power Point presentation. Ms. Mathews said these
202 projects have been ongoing for many months with a lot of public input on what residents are
203 interested in seeing in Branigan Park, Gomez Park, and Frenger Park.
204

205 Ms. Emily Rogers came online telephonically and presented Power Point presentation giving
206 overview of the Master Planning Process, Public Engagement, and Design Concept resulting from
207 community members input for Branigan Park, Gomez Park, and Frenger Park.
208

209 Chair McClure asked how bike access is integrated with Branigan Park. Ms. Rogers responded
210 saying utilizing Hayner Avenue and looking at designated bike lanes or share road from bike
211 connection from Valley over to the lateral trail. She added as far as within the park, the path
212 currently shown is specifically for pedestrians, and the path could be widened. Ms. Catherine
213 Mathews added that the Amador Proximo plan called for the extension of Organ Ave., and that
214 constructed road would connect Valley Drive bike lanes with the Armijo Lateral Multiuse Trail so
215 that road would make sense to provide a possible connection. Chair McClure asked if there is
216 bike parking in this plan and if there is embedded language for this in the master plan. Ms.
217 Mathews responded yes to bike parking and she wasn't sure about the language, but bike parking
218 is always included.
219

220 Board Member Schuller asked on Gomez Park as well as Branigan Park, if there is any
221 consideration, due to lack of gyms, for a full court basketball to give youth the opportunity to
222 practice on a full court. Ms. Mathews said the usable space is limited because Gomez Park is a
223 storm management facility. She added with Frenger, more space is dedicated to court space.
224

225 Board Member Schuller asked what would be an immediate action, based on public comment, to
226 level some ground for cricket pitch at Gomez Park. Ms. Delgado responded this space is primarily
227 a storm water management system, so will need to work closely with Public Works to see what
228 can be done moving forward.
229

230 Chair McClure asked from survey responses, was a full court something that was wanted and did
231 anybody want a plaza. Ms. Rogers responded on the plaza, she was really surprised how many
232 people didn't want that. She said the basketball court, particularly at Gomez, did not get very
233 strong support.
234

235 Chair McClure said she would be interested in seeing a more dedicated crosswalk at the crossing
236 marked #12 for Gomez Park, being that it is a high-density area and with Espina traffic, and getting
237 the people from the residential area tied into this park.
238

239 Chair McClure asked if this falls into Elevate Las Cruces, in terms of high density. Ms. Mathews
240 responded saying the Active Transportation Plan does call for Espina to be a pedestrian enhanced
241 road because it does connect the University to neighborhoods. Ms. Mathews added that at the
242 design stage, an ADA traffic study for this location would be called for to better address how to
243 bring people from the residential area to cross safely.
244

245 Board Member Engle asked if it would be possible to link El Paseo to Gomez Park. Ms. Mathews
246 said the property at the southwest corner of Gomez is private property and her understanding is
247 that the owner is interested in developing that and when developed, there would need to be
248 access to that property.
249

250 Chair McClure asked if it is being proposed to do away with Frenger Pool. Ms. Delgado responded
251 yes because it has exceeded its life span, and this will come back to the Board with more detail.
252

253 Chair McClure expressed, regarding the Frenger master plan, she would like to see one of the
254 sidewalks converted to a bike lane.
255

256 Board Member Schuller advised against a splash pad at Frenger Park or any master plans due to
257 maintenance, upkeep, water, and staffing. Chair McClure added she was curious to know how
258 many people knew of Frenger pool being removed. Ms. Delgado responded saying it was
259 discussed of the pool coming offline because of its age, and the only real reason it is still running
260 is because NMED is aware of the new pool being built. If the 50- meter pool was already online,
261 Frenger pool would not pass inspection.
262

263 Board Member Engle said that in the past, Frenger was used for cycle la crosse bicycle races and
264 asked if that would still be able to be accommodated in this master plan. Ms. Rogers said this
265 could happen again, the question would be how it would mesh with disc golf.
266

267 Ms. Mathews said she has noted Board member comments about not wanting to go with splash
268 pads and also about la crosse bicycle races, and minor edits can be made to address Boards
269 requests.
270

271 Board Member Schuller moved to accept the Park Master Plan Presentations for Branigan Park,
272 Gomez Park, and Frenger Park, seconded by Vice Chair Engle.
273

274 Ms. Mathews commented that as noted in both Gomez Park and Frenger Park, they are primarily
275 storm water management facilities and Public Works has plans to make some improvements to
276 the storm water management capacity at Frenger so the south end of this park will likely have a
277 change so this plan will not be fully implemented on the south end and will have to be adjusted.
278

279 There was no further discussion.
280

281 Roll Call Vote:
282 Vice-Chair Engle – Aye

283 Board Member Schuller - Aye
284 Chair McClure - Aye
285 Motion carried unanimously.
286

287 **6.3 Pioneer Women's Park Gazebo Final Design Plan Presentation – Catherine Mathews, Landscape** 288 **Architect**

289
290 Ms. Catherine Mathews presented to the Board a Power Point presentation on the Pioneer
291 Women's Park Gazebo Design work, giving information on history of the Gazebo, design
292 considerations, Project Team involved with this project, public input meetings held, and finally
293 the metal-work design and color palette selections. A picture board was also displayed to show
294 what the gazebo will look like.
295

296 Board Member Schuller asked what the column for the gazebo is made out of. Ms. Mathews said
297 column is made of durable steel and white was the color selected.
298

299 Board Member Schuller moved to accept the design on Pioneer Women's Park Gazebo, final
300 design plan to move forward, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle. There was no further discussion.
301

302 Roll Call Vote:

303 Vice-Chair Engle – Aye
304 Board Member Schuller - Aye
305 Chair McClure - Aye

306 Motion carried unanimously.
307

308 **7. Discussion Items**

309 310 **7.1 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Update – James Woods, KLCB Program Coordinator** 311

312 Mr. James Wood informed the Board:

- 313 • Recent Great American Clean Up was a success, with 558 volunteers registered for the
314 clean-up, over 34 groups, collecting 2.5 tons of trash, and four roll-offs that collected
315 another 400 tons of trash. He added focus was on the East and West side of the Bataan
316 area.
- 317 • Team Up to Clean Up will start up May 21, 2022 in District 6, 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and will
318 have three roll-offs.
- 319 • Youth Conservation Corp grant was awarded and so will be hiring youth to do some
320 community mural projects, restore, repair, replace if needed.
- 321 • Recently submitted application for New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant.
- 322 • Numerous groups stop by the office to pick up supplies to do clean-ups on their own.
- 323 • National Night out is coming up in August.
324

325 Chair McClure asked where people would go to pick up supplies. Mr. Woods responded supplies
326 can be picked up at the Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
327 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. or make arrangements for a different time.
328

329 Board Member Schuller said she is looking to have her local youth organization do some outreach
330 and appreciates the information received.

331
332 Vice-Chair Engle asked on the murals, if this would include new murals. Mr. Woods said that is
333 possible.

334 **7.2 Water Safety Update – Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator**

335
336 Mr. Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, informed the Board he has asked Mr. Ron Borunda,
337 Deputy Director of Las Cruces Utilities/Water and Ms. Rhonda Diaz, H2O Water Conservation
338 Program Coordinator, to present on the safety of the City of Las Cruces drinking water, and after
339 will present on the safety of our pools.

340
341 Chair McClure added the reason for this agenda item is because Board Member Eric Montgomery
342 requested information on the safety of our water because he had read a story about brain eating
343 amoebas. She said information received at this meeting will be shared with him.

344
345 Mr. Ron Borunda introduced himself to the Board and presented a Power Point presentation titled
346 Is My Drinking Water Safe? Mr. Borunda reported information about the Safe Drinking Water Act,
347 reporting agencies – the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Environmental
348 Protection Agency (EPA), where water comes from addressing surface water and ground water,
349 chlorination in the water, and discoloration of the water. Mr. Borunda said the city has some of
350 the best water quality around because the city's system is solely ground water.

351
352 Chair McClure asked if the water is generally surface water in New Mexico. Mr. Borunda said there
353 are a lot of different municipalities that use surface water.

354
355 Board Member Schuller asked how underground areas are monitored and where are wells and
356 meters monitored to know where the city stands, and whether the wells need to go deeper or
357 drilled in different locations, in balancing daily use with what's available. Mr. Borunda responded
358 saying the City has to have monitoring wells for the entire city and that's where they get depth
359 level readings of aquifers and what's put back into the ground, and this is monitored monthly.
360 Mr. Borunda said metering is a whole other subject because the City meters everything used and
361 said Ms. Rhonda Diaz, Water Conservation Coordinator, and she makes sure that everything is
362 metered and that everything used is accounted for.

363
364 Vice-Chair Engle mentioned that the Board Member not present, his specific question was if there
365 is flesh eating stuff that gets into the circulation of splash pads. Mr. Borunda said he can't speak
366 a whole lot on that, but he does know a little about amoebas, because he has worked with waste
367 water. He said amoebas are formed from waste water, not fresh water. Mr. Borunda said that any
368 sort of bacteria that you would see from fresh water would be more in the line of blood bourn
369 pathogens like cholera but those kind of viruses come from human beings or animals or birds. He
370 said you wouldn't see flesh eating amoebas coming from the fresh water supply.

371
372 Chair McClure directed question to Mr. Catanach, saying splash pads have their own circular
373 system, and hope filters of some sort. Mr. Catanach responded yes, and will have the Aquatic
374 staff up next to talk about the City's pools and splash pads.

375

376 Mr. Catanach thanked Mr. Borunda and Ms. Diaz for their presentation to the Board. He went on
377 to inform the Board Mr. Abraham Celaya, Recreation Facility Manager, and Mr. Jake Gutierrez,
378 Aquatics Program Manager will present on the City's pools and splash pads.
379

380 Mr. Abraham Celaya, Aquatics Facility Manager, presented a Power Point presentation on Why
381 Our Pool Water is Safe explaining the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center's disinfection and
382 filtration process. The presentation covered the pools water filtration system, methods of
383 disinfection, chlorination, and UV pool sanitizers.
384

385 Vice-Chair asked if this is the same system used on the splash pads. Mr. Celaya said yes, and as
386 far as the amoebas the Board member read about, those conditions exist if the splash pad isn't
387 looked after correctly, and here the splash pads are continuously being looked after. Mr. Jake
388 Gutierrez, Aquatics Program Manager, added with the World Aquatic Health Code, which has
389 been enforced and implemented here in the last three years, the systems now are required to
390 have the secondary UV system. Speaking on Frenger Pool, Mr. Gutierrez said with the
391 infrastructure of Frenger Pool deteriorating, they are at the minimum requirements. Mr.
392 Gutierrez said with the World Aquatic Health Code, they are required to check the pools every
393 two to four hours, and documented.
394

395 Chair McClure said she toured Frenger Pool and concurs on all points.
396

397 Mr. Catanach thanked Mr. Borunda, Ms. Diaz, Mr. Gutierrez, and Mr. Abraham and said we are in
398 very good hands with our Utility Water Department and Aquatics staff.
399

400 **7.3 League/Association Agreements – Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator**

401
402 Mr. Franco Granillo, Park Administrator, gave the Board an overview of the League Association
403 agreements. Mr. Granillo informed the Board who the multiple organizations are that Parks and
404 Recreation has agreements with. He said the agreement have what the organization desires from
405 the City, conditions – what the City provides vs what the organization provides, fees, activities the
406 group can provide to youth, and concession use. Mr. Granillo added there are benefits to both
407 the City and the leagues.
408

409 There were no questions from the Board.
410

411 **7.4 Butterfield Shooting Range Update – Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator**

412
413 Mr. Franco, Park Administrator, informed the Board there are six ranges at Butterfield Shooting
414 Range – the skeet range, cover range, silhouette range, pistol range, known distance range and
415 the long-distance range. The known distance and long-distance ranges are going to be improved
416 for ADA accessibility. Mr. Granillo said he would like the work done before end of fiscal year but
417 isn't sure that will happen. He added when this type of work is done, need cooperation from the
418 Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
419

420 Mr. Granillo said a question that has come to the Board is the entrance road to the range. He said
421 Parks and Rec staff doesn't maintain roads, or create them or build them. The issue he has seen
422 with the entry road is it is on a slope and with a heavy rain or bad windstorms, there is a lot of
423 erosion, potholes. He said these issues have been discussed with Public Works and have come up

424 with short term and long-term solutions. Long term would be to provide a plan for actual road
425 upgrade or permanent road repairs, and would have to get BLM approval, and are looking to get
426 a patent for the road because the entry road and the road that goes along the entire range is in a
427 no man's land. It is not considered a right of way or city road. Mr. Granillo said the short-term
428 solution is either pothole repair or actual chip seal. Mr. Granillo said if this isn't cost effective or
429 can't be done immediately, Public Works mentioned could remove the surface do it is more of a
430 dirt surfacing and then can be back dragged or graded anytime there is a heavy rain or wind event.

431
432 Chair McClure asked what the timeline is for something like this. Mr. Granillo said it would depend
433 on funding, and possibly have to go to Council. Short term fixed could happen as long as Public
434 Works is able to help.

435
436 Ms. Delgado added that this has been discussed with Mr. David Sedillo, Public Works Director,
437 and he is aware and working hard to find funding on his end for short-term and then long-term,
438 will have to go to Council. She said also during this process, upon going to BLM to ask permission
439 to work on road, it was discovered road patent was not included with the Butterfield Shooting
440 Range. BLM has given temporary permission to work on the road.

441
442 Chair McClure asked if this was similar to needing some sort of agreement in place for people to
443 do anything on that area. Ms. Delgado said yes, anytime on BLM land, permission is needed, and
444 if allowed, would need to stay within scope. If scope changes, would have to go through process
445 again.

446
447 Vice-Chair Engle said Mr. Pruett reached out to him on this and is glad we have some answers.
448 Mr. Granillo said he will reach out to Mr. Pruett. Ms. Delgado said she did give Mr. Pruett her
449 business card and did explain to him information just shared with the Board so he is aware and
450 she did ask him to reach out to staff.

451
452 Board Member Schuller asked if fees being charged to trap clubs or organizations be put aside
453 solely for this road. Ms. Delgado said Parks and Recreation lives in the general fund and any
454 revenue collected goes back into the general fund but said staff is trying to get some of those
455 funds put back for specific things.

456
457 Board Member Schuller asked if it would be possible if those organizations could set up their own
458 donation pot and donate it to that project. Ms. Delgado said that is a possibility. Mr. Granillo
459 said maybe when he meets with Mr. Pruett, they could get on that path and get some sort of
460 partnership going.

461
462 Board Member Schuller asked what the timeline is on the ADA modifications. Mr. Granillo said he
463 would like to get it done toward mid-June, but if not, by Fall of this year.

464
465 **7.5 2022 Go Bond Survey – Sonya Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director**

466
467 Ms. Delgado informed the Board she wanted to remind them that there is a Go Bond Survey for
468 the Public that is open for a few more weeks and encourage them to take the survey and to share
469 with friends and family. She said that there have been over 500 responses so far. Ms. Delgado
470 also said the survey has been sent out to all Parks and Recreation program attendees who have
471 email addresses, all leagues and organizations.

472
473 Chair McClure asked if Parks and Recreation is able to collaborate with other departments to
474 send out information like this. Ms. Delgado said yes. Ms. Delgado added that mass messages are
475 sent out through our registration software to anybody we have email addresses for.
476

477 **7.6 Letter of Support for Veteran's Park Parking Lot – Sonya Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director**

478
479 Ms. Delgado informed the Board that staff was recently asked by Senator Lujan to provide letters
480 of support in favor of Veteran's Park parking lot. The letters were done by Parks and Recreation
481 and by the the Veteran's Advisory Board and sent out. She said hopefully this will bring in some
482 funding to complete the parking lot.
483

484 Chair McClure asked if copy of the letter could be shared with the other Board Members. Ms.
485 Delgado said yes.
486

487 **7.7 Unidad Park Mementos – Sonya Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director**

488
489 Ms. Delgado informed the Board Unidad Park was built in 2001. She said staff wanted to give a
490 piece of the park to the group that started this park. Ms. Delgado showed board pieces salvaged
491 from the park, with date and name of park, and are working on a list of the committee members
492 to contact, so can do a photo op and present them with the Unidad Park memento.
493

494 **8. Staff Member Comments**

495
496 Ms. Cathy Mathews informed the Board:
497

- 498 • Projects discussed today will be moving forward to Council and anticipate they will come
499 to some conclusion in June or July.
- 500 • Chandler Tank design project is ongoing and contract for traffic study was just initiated,
501 and design work will conclude in July or August, and will then move forward on
502 construction.
- 503 • Getting ready to issue letters of acceptance on two median projects – one was funded
504 through a City Bond and included medians throughout the City, a few medians in each
505 Council District and medians along Sonoma Ranch Blvd. called Sonoma Ranch Blvd. Mile
506 2 between Arroyo Road and Peachtree Hills.

507 Mr. Catanach informed the Board the Recreation Section has a lot of their summer stuff rolling
508 out and encourages them to check out Parks and Recreation's Facebook page – Movies in the
509 Park, Music in the Park, Splash Pads, Mother's Day Concert, and 4th of July information will be
510 coming up.
511

512 Mr. Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, informed the Board his section is wrapping up
513 the school year program and news release for their summer programs has gone out. They are
514 working on getting staff on board, CPR/First Aid trainings done. His section is doing a lot of things
515 with different groups, partnerships to get their expertise involved in our programs and to allow
516 our youth to participate in other programs. There is a lot a positive program happening, and
517 preparing now for opportunities with the balanced school calendar.
518

519 Chair McClure asked about the Youth Advisory Board. Mr. Nunez reported there is a new Teen
520 Connection Supervisor on board, and he is allowing him to roll into the summer and then will get
521 advertisement out for the Youth Board at the beginning of the school year.
522

523 Board Member Schuller asked if Youth Programs are back 100%. Mr. Nunez reported principals
524 kept things status quo so Youth Programs are down 50% with the After School Programs. For the
525 Summer, they should have full capacity in all programs.
526

527 Mr. Granillo informed the Board he and Jimmy Zabriskie, Community Forester will be going to a
528 work session for a proposal of a Tree Ordinance.
529

530 Mr. Granillo acknowledged the issue of vehicles in Youngs Park during big events which has been
531 an issue for years, and said the problem with Young Park is that there is only one gate there. He
532 said he has looked into the cost of bollards for Young Park, Apodaca Park, and Veterans Park, and
533 cost for these three areas is \$85,000, not installed. Mr. Granillo said he is also looking for alternate
534 solutions like boulders or landscaping.
535

536 Mr. Granillo informed the Board if they would like to see an agreement for their review, to let him
537 know and he will send it forward.
538

539 Chair McClure asked if he can let the Board know how the Tree Ordinance work session goes. Mr.
540 Granillo said he will let the Board know.
541

542 **9. Board Member Comments**

543 Board Member Schuller asked how staff is handling cost increases of landscaping, fertilizer. Mr.
544 Granillo said staff has done well to plan ahead and material was purchased before inflation took
545 place but are starting to run out of materials so staff is prioritizing areas that need upgrades or
546 repairs and using materials towards those areas. As new amenities, new requests from the public
547 come up, Ms. Delgado brings those costs to Council's attention for help with funding.
548
549

550 Vice-Chair Engle expressed his thanks to staff for today's information and for their good job.
551

552 Chair McClure said she was hoping something could be done to work better with the bicycle
553 community, and specifically to include in master plans and what they would like to see in terms
554 of access via biking, to have a sort of collaborative environment where bicyclers know who they
555 might want to talk to and what they might want to see. She said she is interested in putting this
556 on agenda for next Board meeting. Ms. Delgado responded saying there is VELO Las Cruces, and
557 they work closely with the transportation plan and staff could have them talk to the Board on
558 things they are involved in, projects.
559

560 Chair McClure asked about ADA compliance with Pickleball. Ms. Delgado said Apodaca Park
561 pickleball area is ADA accessible. She added there is a range, and the minimum is met.
562

563 Chair McClure asked if there is an update on the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) agreement. Ms.
564 Delgado said she verified today that the City's Legal department did send the agreement to LCPS
565 today, and has received confirmation from LCPS Legal team that they received it.

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Chair McClure asked if the Board meetings are filmed. Ms. Delgado said no.

Chair McClure said with the dog park people, there seems to be an idea that there is citizen activists, not in a bad way, but that they are going above and beyond, and would like staff to reach out and talk to them a little bit more. Chair McClure said she would like to see more engagement - who are these people, why are they doing this, why are they going above and beyond, and are they going above and beyond, and to hear both sides of the story. Ms. Delgado responded saying the last time staff met with the Dog Park Coalition was before Parks and Recreation shut down due to Covid and now that staff is back, staff will start the meetings back.

Chair McClure said she is enjoying the Hidden Gems that is on Parks and Recreation's Facebook because it gives an idea of parks people don't know about. She said to keep doing that and try to promote in different ways on social media. She added she agrees from public comment that Board members should go out to the Parks, and to Parks and Recreation programs.

Chair McClure also said the Board's condolences go out to Maryln Zahler's family, and expressed thanks for her time on the Board.

Board Member Schuller said staff and Board should try to push the War Dog Memorial forward to memorialize Ms. Zahler, since she was an advocate for this. Ms. Delgado said she has discussed this with the Veteran's Advisory Board President, and she will continue to pursue this.

10. Adjournment

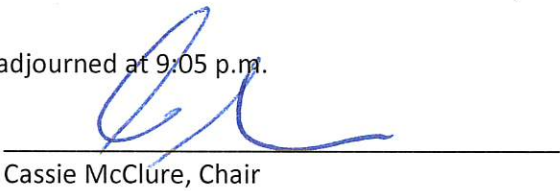
Board Member Schuller moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

Roll Call:

- Vice Chair Engle – Aye
- Board Member Schuller - Aye
- Chair McClure - Aye

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.


Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary


Cassie McClure, Chair