The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on May 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:
- Cassie McClure - District 1
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Megan Schuller - District 6

Members Absent:
- Eric Montgomery - District 5
- Vacant - District 2
- Vacant - District 3
- Vacant - At Large

Others Present:
- Phillip Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Marina Montoya, Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation
- Sonya Delgado, Director, Parks and Recreation
- Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Martha Moreno, Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation
- Greg Shervanick, Public
- George Pearson, Velo Las Cruces, President
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of May 26, 2022, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. Introduction:

   Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Attending staff also introduced themselves.

2. Conflict of Interest:

   There was no conflict of interest.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Board Member Schuller moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Agenda for May 26, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

Roll Call Vote:
- Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.
- Board Member Schuller - Aye.
- Chair McClure - Aye.
Motion carried unanimously.

4. **PRAB Minutes of April 6, 2022:**

Board Member Schuller moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 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.

5. **Public Participation:**

Harold Johnson, a member of the Dog Park Coalition stated they are noticing a couple of things he wanted to bring awareness to around the dog park. There is a ponding area on the west side of the dog park and it appears some of the pine trees are beginning to die in that area. The concern is if the trees start dying further that with the seasonal winds that there may be branches down. He stated a great job was done on cleaning up the pond. The trees have a bad image for citizens and users of the park, but also it is a high activity area since it near the ballparks.

Harold Johnson’s second question is that the dog park has a safety light that is inoperative and has been for some time. Can the City or Parks and Recreation help to get that light up and running? During the wintertime people come to the dog park in early hours, and also in the evening after work and those times it is dark. Occasionally Meerscheidt will leave a light or two on in the back.

Phil Catanach, Parks and Recreation, stated there is a Dog Park update further in the agenda but Franco Granillo can address the questions. Franco Granillo, Parks and Recreation, stated that with the trees, over the last couple of years along the corridor of Hadley where the dog park resides, there has been severe die-off in a lot of the trees. They consulted with Jeff Anderson, the County Tree Expert, and also with agents outside of the City, samples to NMSU, and another laboratory and University in Texas. The results have come back showing we have a mite in town
that is attacking native plantings but also different varieties of pine trees, ash trees, Chinese pistachio trees, Raywood ash which are hardy trees. There have been several remediation attempts to get some trees back and some did leaf out again, but there have been over 60 trees along Hadley removed. The pine trees around the dog park are being looked at presently. These mites are also going after ground cover, shrubbery, trees, etc.

Regarding the lights, Parks and Recreation does not handle electrical, but they will submit a work order to Facilities and they can address that.

Frank Carril, resident District 4, served on Parks and Recreation Board four years under Mayor Miyagishima and Parks Director Johnson. There are a couple of issues for which he has tried to solve other ways but with no progress, and is asking the Board to help. The first is getting a restroom, a portable one, at the Apodaca Sports Park. There are over 50-75 senior patrons playing pickleball there every day. This was part of a GO Bond project that was very mishandled, with the bottom line of no restroom. He stated that the Parks Director stated there is one 1/8th a mile away on the other side of the park. That is very unacceptable. There are no pathways or sidewalks in Apodaca Park. He is a Vietnam Veteran and also helps American Veterans in Las Cruces that are chaired, to get to the park to try to use the park in different facilities. There are also 4-5 that are pickleball players and others. Currently the handicapped cannot be taken to the park because of several reasons; restrooms, several integrated handicapped issues that have not been addressed. In 2020 he made a formal complaint to City of Las Cruces for which they answered and Mr. Sedillo concurred that there are no handicapped issues at Apodaca Park Sports Facility, pickleball. Well in 2022 he convinced the City that there were some and they took action. They did some very, very minor things; changed a gate from swinging in to swinging out; put a 2-foot by 2-foot pad because it is required, so if you bring a handicapped person up a small sidewalk that you can have a bypass so another person can pass. The one put in was very inadequate, half-mooned shape, and just throwing nothing at nothing. It has been mishandled. There is also an 8.1% grade going uphill there which if you have over 5% it is required a banister. Cannot get handicapped American Vets, disabled, to play there. They have the right to play there, it is a public facility. Las Cruces on their website very readily admits that they concur with the ADA (American With Disabilities Act) of 1990 Title I and II. He stated you cannot put that on the website and not do it.

The restroom part, it seems like since Mr. Carril has been "hammering" them to get this solved, there is a long-term solution in which the derelict swimming pool that closed with weeds, et. al, next to this facility, houses a lot of homeless at nighttime and the plan is that the piping left from removal of the pool would provide a restroom. He does concur with that. There is no portable restroom. Several patrons had emergencies and had to use trees. This park is the heaviest used outdoor facility in Las Cruces, number 1, with 50-60 people daily. He asked for people to over there between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. to view that. He will leave a few pictures on how they are being discriminated against, and how to solve it for simple money. The first
picture is Provencio-Van Dame Park, which has portable restrooms, he feels it should be permanent. During his time on the PRAB he worked to get permanent restrooms there. The Aqua Center has restrooms, but not at the park. Soldados Park on the other side of Meerscheidt Center for football, again the portable restrooms there. Apodaca Park there is nothing. He feels these are small budget items and that this is totally discrimination because they have complained too much. They asked for handicapped, which they should not have had to ask for. Asked for restrooms which they shouldn't have to ask for. Asked for justice in the GO Bond program under contracting. There were seven public meetings concerning the sports complex at Apodaca. Those meetings, including one at the park, there were 100 people at the meeting at the park and various other public meetings, which he feels were a sham. All people gave input into what they felt it should be. When the City wrote what they put on the street for bid, he does have documentation to back up his input and an affidavit that would be accountable in a court of law. The City did it 60 times with GO Bonds. The latest one is for East Mesa for $6 million. They don't put it out for lowest bidder, or even a statement of work. They just write a general paragraph of what they want to see at the end, which is an RFP, Request for Proposal. He has also had over 20 years contracting with the U.S. Government, working program management on one side, and also in fraud. The City is wasting approximately one-third GO Bond money by putting on the street a paragraph which describes a general subject, RFP, which means "I don't really know what I want. Why don't you people out there look and read my paragraph and come back and tell me what I really need." Then the City goes out under Mr. Sedillo and they have a board and come up and read the people what they have proposals. Then under that circumstance you pick anybody you want, so don't have to pick lowest bidder.

In Parks and Recreation it was $1.2 million to fix Hadley Field, Paz Field, Maag Field, Apodaca, and some walking trails. They did not bid it, but put it out for RFP. They put two sentences out there for Apodaca Park, describing after seven public meetings with reams of input that would make that facility correct the way the expertise knows it should be correct. They put it out there because they don't want to really have anyone on the street, in his opinion, to see how much money is going to be spent. In conclusion he read into the record about request for the restrooms and why are they being discriminated against. Next week he will file a discrimination thing with the City. He stated one-third of the GO Bond money is being wasted because the City does not bid for a project.

Phil Catanach stated there is a GO Bond update later in the agenda.

Franco Granillo stated there are permanent restrooms on the north side of the park, but they are not close to the pickleball courts. Also looking into the possibility of adding porta potties out there. They have a citywide contract and are currently at the maximum. Also looking at alternate routes to get restrooms there and alternate funding. For porta potty it will have to go to Council to request funding. If they look at existing facilities, they may not be suitable for restroom use because they have to cross the street. There are restrooms in the park, and at Apodaca baseball, but
again they would have to cross the street that leads into the park. Regarding the ADA, Public Works would be best to provide information. Sonya and David Sedillo have worked on this for a while. There is correspondence regarding Mr. Carril’s inquiries/concerns.

Gregory Shervanick stated the Young Park renovation has been completed. He believes the GO Bond money that was spent on it was spent poorly. He hopes that SMA Architecture and Highland Enterprise will donate to Parks and Recreation, the City of Las Cruces two wonderful benches on the top area of this tiered watershed device that they have created. I hope it does not come back to the board as a liability. He hopes the board will go to Young Park and look at what the GO Bond money has produced at the picnic shelter.

6. Action Items:

6.1 Crosswalk Art/Hadley - Marina Montoya Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation:

Marina Montoya, Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation provided a PowerPoint. She stated over the last 18 months there has been discussion about the Hadley Complex needing a "wow" factor. They discussed various projects, including the cups now on the fences at Harty, Paz, all the fields at the Hadley Complex. With the conversations there was a need for bringing attention to the crosswalks on Hadley from Solano to Walnut, the "wow" factor for the complex and at the same time improving roadway safety. They came up with asphalt art. There will be four different crosswalks; Location A is on Hadley at the entrance to the Aquatic Center; Location B is at Castaneda Building; Location C is the largest project of the four at the cross of Hadley and Hermosa Street; Location D will be a new crosswalk connecting Paz and Harty Fields. Location A art will consist of floating crosswalks above water and the small Ziggy’s floating around in the water. Location B art will play off when trees play wall tile mural over at Castaneda at the entrance, and the crosswalk looks like a ladder going up the tree. Location C art at the four-way intersection, will be Ziggy and kind of showing all the different activities that take place down at the Hadley Complex. With this the only change will be at the left top corner which will be a soccer pattern. Location D art is Ziggy’s version of the iconic Abbey Road Picture. This also going to represent the activities. Ziggy will be wearing his basketball shorts, his lifeguard shorts, and then one will have him holding a baseball and bat.

Vice-Chair Engle asked the longevity on the paint. Marina Montoya stated the artist is thinking it will last about a year as it is the same paint as the street striping paint. Chair McClure asked about the cost, and it will be about $8,000. The action is actually asking for the Board’s support in things like this along the Hadley Complex. Also looking to do some art within Meerscheidt parking lot, over at the Aquatic Center parking lot, and possibly redoing the art over at
the Meerscheidt Center, the big wall already has a mural. Also possibly getting some grants, although the last two they tried for they were not approved. Also looking at trying to get the skate park with some asphalt art.

The money for this project is from last fiscal year. This project has been talked about, had the money, ready to do and it was discussed with federal regulations on crosswalks and also with Traffic Department. They finally got approval with the Public Works Department to go ahead with the project and trying to use the funds before the end of this fiscal year.

Chair McClure asked about maintenance or upkeep costs. That has not been discussed with the artist. Marina Montoya stated this is a pilot project to see how it will work. The artist stated it should last a year but with the sun in Las Cruces it might be less than that. Also asked why Parks and Recreation is paying for this instead of Public Works. Since Parks and Recreation has the Hadley Complex it is what they wanted as a "wow" factor. Board Member Schuller stated it is a short amount of time for the longevity of the project. It is a great idea, fully support, but she does not think there is everything in place to support it at this moment. Chair McClure asked if this is already set up to do. Preparations have started on Wednesday, and the press release was already announced. Vice-Chair Engle stated it seems a weird item when it is already started. Phil Catanach stated this could be tabled and brought back with the next project. The mural at Meerscheidt will have to go to the Art Board, to this Board and get separate funding. This project had funding from last fiscal year during COVID when they were looking for projects, this was something that fit. Although it did not get done, the funds did get rolled over. They are not expecting the artist to come back and touch it up like some of the other art projects at City facilities as this is a one-time deal. Board Member Schuller stated the only way to put it in as an action item is approval of a pilot program to bring the wow factor to Parks and Recreation. Marina Montoya stated it wasn't only the wow factor but also improving roadway safety for the pedestrians that utilize that complex. Vice-Chair Engle stated the work is already being done so even if tabled it sounds just more like it is a discussion and it would be an action item next year if the Board decided to continue. The artist is Louis Jarmon. He is the person putting together the artists in the mall with kiosks and also on Picacho on the first Friday of every month. The purchase order included his ideas that were drawn for each of the crosswalks, and also included the paint and supplies. The artist has been paid for his sketches and the remainder is for the purchase order. Board Member Schuller stated an approval of enhanced crosswalk area as a safety issue entering into the Hadley Complex, as it is already in process. Specifying it is a one-time enhancement to the safety of the crosswalks is probably the way to approve this. Board Member Schuller move that the Board accept an enhanced crosswalk area along Hadley entering into the Sports Complex using fiscal money from prior year to complete the project for a one-time completion. Seconded by Vice-Chair Engle. Chair McClure also consideration of what kind
of artists are in town, getting public participation should be more than "Hey this
is going to happen." The press release went out last week.

Roll Call Vote:
Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.
Board Member Schuller - Aye.
Chair McClure- Aye.
Motion carried unanimously.

7. Future Discussion/Task Listing:

7.1 Velo Cruces - George Pearson, President:

George Pearson introduced himself, Donald Wilson, and Andrea Holguin from
their Board. Velo Cruces, Inc. formed in 2015 is a 501(c)3 non-profit
organization. Their mission statement is "Transforming Las Cruces into a
great bicycle and pedestrian community." They describe that in three different
areas, one is to advocate, to communicate with local county and state officials
the need for safe bike/ped facilities which includes the MPO, the City with the
Active Transportation Plan, New Mexico DOT at their public meetings. They
are working towards bike parking and the updates to the Realize Las Cruces
Zoning Code. Also advocated for traffic gardens so there is a place separate
from the streets where children, young adults, and adults could learn to ride in
traffic when not actually in traffic. Also have an education program, make
bicyclists safe and make vehicle drivers aware of bicyclists to all share the
road safely. Short message is "Be visible and be predictable." To wear bright
clothing when bicycling, at night have a bicycle light which is required by law;
be predictable, follow the traffic signals, stop at stop signs; ride in a consistent
path and not weaving in and out. Also promote bicycling in general.
Participated and helped organize the Mayor's bike ride. Monthly visibility ride
they go from the Train Museum up through town over to University near the
Starbucks and the idea is to show that bicycles are part of traffic. Also they
will have a Father's Day bike ride going from Pioneer Women's Park up to the
airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association has a breakfast up there. A
couple of programs from Velo Cruces are the Hub Community Bike Shop, and
also Everybody Rides with Grace.

Donald Wilson stated the Hub Community Bike Shop has been around four or
five years. They are currently at the Cruces Creatives building between
Lohman and Amador and Campo and Church. The idea of the Hub
Community Bike Shop is to provide a place for people that live in Las Cruces
that have bicycles and want to maintain them, can do that at a very affordable
rate. The tools are there, knowledgeable volunteer mechanics, supplies, and
also education. During the pandemic not much of that was done because of
social distancing, so people would bring the bikes and just leave them with the
Shop to be repaired and return later. The other project of the Hub Community
Bike Shop is the used bicycle distribution program. This allows any resident of the community to perform six hours of community service at any organization in the community that takes community service, churches, food banks, daycares, etc. They fill out a form, the agency verifies they provided the six hours of community service, and they bring that to the Bike Shop and we give them a serviceable bike, including a light if night traveling, bright yellow vest, and a lock. They make sure the bikes have good innertubes with the slim to help against flats. Through that program they have distributed hundreds of bicycles to people in the community that need them. Most recently they have been working with the Afghan refugees and refugees from other parts of the world that have relocated to Las Cruces and help them get and maintain bicycles.

Andrea Holguin, the program coordinator for Everybody Rides with Grace, which is umbrellaed under Velo Cruces. They give bikes to kids with special needs, adaptive cycles. These children are identified through schools, local agencies that support children with special needs. These kinds of resources are extremely limited in Las Cruces, El Paso, and Albuquerque. Grace’s bike was stolen and Mesilla Marshalls started a fund. The bike was recovered and the monies have been used to start the Everybody Rides with Grace. There will be an adaptive cycle parade on June 4th that begins at the park across from the Community Center in Mesilla, the Mesilla Mayor allowed the use of the restrooms in the Community Center, the Mesilla Marshalls will be leading on a one-mile loop. Safe Routes to School will also be there. They are also educating riders and families of the adaptive bikes to know the rules of the road, avoid common crashes. It would be nice to have bike parks just for the children so they do not have to ride in/with traffic. They did receive funding from the Governor's Quality of Life Grant of almost $15,000. With this they promised to give away five bikes, and ended up giving way 10. She has to deal with companies not local and the parts are very difficult to acquire now.

Vice-Chair Engle asked if Grace was able to enjoy the new trails on the EBID laterals. She has not but suggested that might be a fun place to go. With these cycles they need a place to store it, lock it up, and a way to transport it. Chair McClure asked for Velo Cruces to present as she believes there are more collaborations that can happen between Parks and Recreation and the bicycle community. It was mentioned on how cyclists are getting to parks and is that within master plans. There are stipends via Parks and Recreation for hosting things. George Pearson stated he has acquired a stipend in the past and put on a few events. Also to collaborate, he is a league cycling instructor, League of American Bicyclists has a curriculum for how to ride a bicycle safely. There are three or four others in town also qualified. The Youth Board and the Weed and Seed were mentioned for collaborations.

Robert Nunez mentioned through the teens they purchased 12 mountain bikes over the last two years. They have partnered with Friends of the Organ
Mountains. Agrees this is a fabulous idea to get the youth educated and staff.

George Pearson mentioned the Safe Routes to School Program in Las Cruces
is the strongest program in the state and a model for the country, and so Velo
Cruces works closely with them.

7.2 **Dog Park Update - Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks &
Recreation:**

Franco Granillo stated they are in the process of looking at the trees that were
mentioned by the member of the public, but they have had some severe issues
along the Hadley corridor with the trees. They took out roughly 65-70 trees,
but they have been replaced with ornamentals and plants that will grow 10-15
feet but will provide color. The pine trees do have an issue and they believe it
is the same mite they have sent samples to be looked at. He can have results
next meeting or an e-mail, whichever the Board prefers.

Mr. Armstrong came last month and discussed reestablishing the quarterly
meetings. One was put on the calendar and Mr. Armstrong e-mails after the
fact and let staff know he did not see the invite. Those will continue to be
scheduled. Some of the discussion items were the proposed dog park rules.
Mr. Armstrong had discussed the current dog park rules and that they needed
to be more substantial, more teeth in them, and more support from Codes.
Franco Granillo stated they reviewed the old dog park rules with staff,
management, and legal. Jamey Rickman the former community liaison with
Council and the residents helped a lot. He stated once the City ordinances
that are being reviewed, once the Animal Control portion is reviewed and
passed, the dog park rules will pass them as well. We can also look forward
to move forward with the current proposed rules before they become an
ordinance and then get something on the books for upcoming facilities. For
public input they would have three meetings, one in each area; Burn Lake, the
Animal Shelter area, and the current Las Cruces Dog Park to take public input.
Mr. Armstrong had mentioned there were no doggy waste bag removers, but
that was checked the next day and the boxes were full and 80 bags tied up
along the fences where people could use them. The light that was brought up
by a member of the public, Facilities will be consulted for that.

7.3 **On-Line Registration Update - Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator,
Parks & Recreation:**

Frank Granillo stated he knows that there seems to be a long wait and
questions about the registration that took place last month at Meerscheidt. His
portion is the getting the on-line program up and running. Staff has worked
very hard with the new program, called RecTrac. This provides a sporting
module, class counts, on-line registration, permitting for the parks, a lot of
functions that eTRAC provided, the previous program, but RecTrac is different
and at a higher level. His current issue with on-line registrations is, when
someone registers in the programs they have to pay, and the credit card function is not working properly with treasury, and treasury in this case does get the final say on what they want to see. Files from RecTrac have been sent to have treasury test them but there are a lot of formatting issues. One of the issues is determining between a cash payment, credit card payment, or a check. Treasury needs to see the property payment and how it was done. Another issue is formatting. RecTrac files are not matching with Munis files. The inhouse staff person has been running reports to compare and see where the errors are, why it cannot differentiate between the various payment methods. Right now they are waiting to see what kind of file or set up can be used for treasury's programming software to read the RecTrac software.

Board Member Schuller about receiving checks and cash when that is not on-line. Franco Granillo stated at the end of the day with reconciliation the report does not show what type of payment method was received. Board Member Schuller also asked about if there were kiosks or plans for such to free up some manpower for those without cell phones. Franco Granillo stated staff is already working on a kiosk process which will have to be in conjunction with Facilities for the electrical and ADA compliance. Possibly a kiosk in the Aquatic Center.

Further discussion on RecTrac and Munis and them not functioning together. There may be some functions of Munis that have not been paid for. Munis is a citywide software, assets, inventory, and financials, right now it is not able to function for a recreation department that takes permits, different programs on a daily basis, etc. Sonya Delgado, Parks and Recreation Director stated that Munis had a piece that could be done with Parks and Recreation and asked Las Cruces to be the guinea pig, but we are way too big to be a guinea pig and start from ground zero. eTRAC had an issue talking with Munis so it was done by hand and the Parks department has outgrown that. RecTrac was supposed to be able to talk with Munis, all departments were on board, but now having this issue. It is being worked by all. Frank Granillo stated cash payments received have to be reconciled that same day. With the current errors they would only be able to reconcile once the errors are solved, putting Parks and Recreation in violation of own protocols. Chair McClure stated she had waited two hours to sign up her children and that is just too much.

7.4 **Butterfield Shooting Range Update - Frank Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation; David Sedillo, Director, Public Works:**

Franco Granillo stated that Mr. Pruitt at the last meeting discussing the entry road into Butterfield Shooting Range. Sonya Delgado did give Mr. Pruitt her business card at the last meeting and he then reached out to her for his concerns. Franco Granillo has spoken to him four or five times since the last meeting and Mr. Pruitt has been every responsive and appreciates the updates. Franco Granillo met with Public Works to determine a timeline of
what they could do. Today was the first day they were out there and they were
able to clean the work site very well and back filled potholes. Since there were
so many they have asked for another day of maintenance. Parks and
Recreation is working with BLM to acquire the road, acquire the right-of-way
as it is not the City's right now. There is a work plan for short term and long-
term care of the road and repair. The long-term fix has still not been decided
due to needing more information after more study at the Range.

7.5 GO Bond Project Update - Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architectural
Project Manager, Public Works:

Jennifer Morrow, Public Works Engineering Administrator gave a PowerPoint
presentation. First discussing the Hadley Rec Complex started in October
2020 and finished last August. Also the Parks and Sports Courts, started in
October 2020 and is essentially complete and the last item was at Young Park
with some erosion control issues which were worked with the engineer and the
contractor and put in small retaining wall and some erosion control measures.
Fourhills subdivision, and Lions Park. A list of all the parks that had been
worked on were displayed; Klein Park, Hillrise, Fourhills, Papan, Bena videz,
Lions, and Apodaca, Young Park, and Metro Verde and the desert trails
system. Also at the bottom of the slide was the extra work for Young Park with
the erosion control. Also Unidad Park, included drone aerials. Precon was
January this year and stated construction soon after. A 100% of demolition is
done and installing the play equipment, splash pad, and restroom. There have
been supply chain issues and so the due date has been extended from
June/July to closer to September. The East Mesa Rec Center, started phase
1 in February which included pickleball courts, soccer fields, baseball fields,
and a general park area with a playground. The GO Bond portion of it will be
done at the end of this year which is basically earthwork and everything except
for the landscaping which was put into ARPA funding for project completion to
be Spring 2023. Dog Parks, Rinconada, survey is about 80% complete, the
site concrete is complete, chain link fence is being installed. They add
restrooms with the ARPA funding. At Burn Lake they are working on that with
the irrigation system and chain link fence, to be completed around September
of this year. The walking, jogging, and biking trails are pretty much complete.
There are a few items to be cleaned up with EBID and some homeowners for
permitting for fencing to be comfortable with the public at the back of their
houses. Also some supply chain issues, mostly furnishings for the Las Cruces
Trail, benches, trash receptacles. This should all be done by early to mid-
September of this year. Mesilla Drain 100% complete. Las Cruces Drain has
some punch list items. The Armijo Drain is having some fencing put on.

Vice-Chair Engle asked about a bad monsoon and the erosion control fails at
Young Park and who would pay. An act of God or nature is the owner's
responsible. If it was a standard monsoon, the erosion control is designed for
100 year storm, but the actual definition of the storm will determine who is
responsible.

7.6 **New 50-Meter Community Pool Update - Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architectural Project Manager, Public Works:**

Jennifer Morrow stated the groundbreaking was last July with notice to proceed. She saw it today and it looks great. The construction budget is $17 million, and added almost another half million with the ARPA funds. They are almost halfway don’t at this time. All underground utilities are done, all the pool excavation, plumbing rough in, the structural steel work was being welded today, exterior shell is about 80%. Drone photos were shared. Some of the painting has been done.

Phil Catanach wanted to let the Board know as the Regional Aquatic Center opens in January 2023, Frenger Pool will close. Board Member Schuller also brought up the repurpose of Frenger Pool if possible. Sonya Delgado stated with the master plans that came forward with Frenger, as it goes to Council it will be the next step. Once the master plan is finalized, in each it talks about doing something different with the pool, and looks like a splash pad of some sort.

7.7 **Gomez Park/Cricket - Steve Pacheco, Senior Engineer, Public Works:**

Sonya Delgado mentioned that at the last meeting a group came to discuss cricket. They had asked for the area to be smoothed out, easier for them to make their game easier. They do play regularly and it is a great space for them. One of the issues is that first and foremost that is a pond, so it has to keep its integrity and part of that dome type shape.

Jennifer Morrow stated the issues with areas that are designed to hold stormwater they have to ensure is that the volume and storage is not changed, no impervious material that is utilized in the pond to ensure the water percolates out. The outlet structure needs to be protected at all times. Ensure to not remove a lot of the vegetation. Also if the vegetation starts to die off, and if it has a good root system when it dies off it will leave "potholes." Also FEMA criteria has to be met. Also elevation changes could affect Parks and Recreations irrigation.

Sonya Delgado stated she will have to work with Public Works as they would have to issue a letter to FEMA, and see if that is even an option. Vice-Chair Engle stated the short term answer is that they are going to have to play the way it is. Sonya Delgado stated yes for the next couple of months as she does not know the process and if it will be granted. When it rains both Gomez and Frenger fill up, like lakes, with people asking to put boats out there, which is not allowed. Many of the older facilities are dual purpose, as they are a pond and a park. The park portion is really only up on the high sides which is around
the edge. At this time Parks and Recreation is not accepting a pond and a
park together as a lot of space is lost. Chair McClure asked if there were
notices saying that that area is a pond. Board Member Schuller stated it
should be noted to be drainage and a not a pond as people will expect water.
Also have Public Works look into the process of regrading. And then possibly
approach FEMA about reissuing as it is a flood zone. And signs indicating this
is a drainage facility.

7.8 4th of July Update - Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks &
Recreation:

Phillip Catanach stated they are teaming up with NMSU again to hold the 4th
of July Celebration at the Pat Lou Sisbarro Park on the 4th of July on the
Monday. The Sunday will be the Electric Light Parade at 9:00, an electric 5K
and fun run at 7:30. Starting to get entries for the parade, and the theme this
year is Patriot Spirit and American Dream. As this is an election year they
figure on having many floats, the average is 40-60 and with all the vehicles,
each float can have up to 15 cars or 20 cars if it is a car club. The parade will
last a bit more than an hour. This year we will have five time Grammy winner
Raul Malo of the Mavericks leading the show, and then the Plain White T’s to
headline. The concert will start at 6:00 and the Plain White T’s will come on at
8:00. Scheduled for fireworks presentation right now. Even with all the the
fires they believe the Governor will allow for municipalities to have firework
shows as professional firework shows are very safe, strict blast zone, fire
department and safety personnel everywhere to make sure that nothing
happens. There are contingencies if things are cancelled. Advertisements will
begin next week, on buses, radio, Bulletin, and Las Cruces Sun News. This
is the biggest event the City puts on. The Mother’s day event was quite
successful this year.

7.9 Team Up to Clean Up Updates - Robert Nunez, Youth Services
Administrator, Parks & Recreation:

Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator for Parks and Recreation, stated
last month they had their first district Team Up to Clean Up event for District 6.
There were approximately 50 new volunteers, and an additional 30 that have
been within the system and either adopted spots or been involved in the
programs. They collected approximately two tons of trash throughout the
district. There were three trash containers: one at the East Mesa Swimming
Pool off of Reynolds, the old T-Time of Del Rey, Telshor, Northrise, and lastly
on the south side near the neighborhood Walmart. There are commercial bins
that are out there which are open to any resident in the community to be able
to dump trash at no cost. During the pandemic there was a major clean up
and everybody went out there, and it was a lot overwhelming. Staff is stationed
there and solid waste also picks them up at the end of program. They will send
everyone the remaining schedule for the year, and District 5 is the next location
in June. Working closely with Community Outreach department to get the word out for District 5, Councilor Corran.

7.10 Parks & Recreation Project Updates - Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation:

Sonya Delgado stated that Catherine Mathews was still in a meeting for the Gallagher Park. Catherine Mathews has her update sheet with here. Sonya Delgado did state that they are working with NMDOT and EBID to get permission to finish up the RTP Trail with the Las Cruces Lateral. Catherine Mathews does have a meeting with EBID on June 10th. This has been a struggle and a challenge with EBID, particularly with the GO Bond trails because there are a lot of farmers and landowners/homeowners who do not want that trail behind them. Moving forward this will be a challenge in trying to expand some of the laterals. They are already being utilized though.

7.11 Gallagher Park Renovations Update - Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation:

Sonya Delgado showed a PowerPoint on the Gallagher Park improvements. It is located on West Gallagher Avenue. A $150,000 was received from Council to help with some improvements. The first public meeting was April, and tonight was the second. Today they were to make some choices. They wanted gathering spaces for families, shaded picnic tables, and other shaded areas, game places, structures to play on for children. It is not a very large space. Tonight the meeting was to discuss which elements they really wanted to have. A $150,000 is not a lot for park improvements so there were some decisions to be made. Also talked about rubberized safety surfacing for the swing. At present there is a swing and a slide, and they were discussing getting new ones which would require new safety surfacing which is also expensive. They also wanted another covered shaded area what was open space that people can use and bring their own chairs. Also pet pickup boxes with the bags. And game tables with chairs. Also some sustainable features as well from stormwater harvesting and solar power for lighting. The question was asked if another $150,000 would be guaranteed for next fiscal year, which was explained that that is not a guarantee, but put it into the budget, but may not get funded. Other types of funding opportunities were discussed, State Legislative grants, etc. The residents asked about fund raising and it was explained there are entities that do some minor fund raising and it does help leverage when they approach State Legislators and/or City Council. They did like the big jungle gym and that would it with the safety surface, maybe add some chairs or benches, but that idea was dropped in favor of again just a swing or slide. The City does have an agreement with Friends of Gallagher Park and they are adopting that park and have been doing so for the last two years. The residents pulled the weeds by hand as Parks and Recreation does not spray that park. The neighborhood does enjoy
that park space so Parks and Recreation are trying to help improve it.

7.12 Las Cruces Public School Agreement - High Noon Soccer Fields (1-5) -
Sonya Delgado, Director, Parks & Recreation:

Sonya Delgado stated the agreement is with LCPS. She spoke with the lawyer today and he still has it. He might have a couple of questions but that will go back to City Legal. He is probably going to have to go to the school board and that is unknown timing.

8. Staff Member Comments:

Robert Nunez, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, they are getting out the stipends for cleanups. There were 22 this fiscal year and that is winding down with various clubs, schools, private groups, Boy Scouts, NMSU clubs. Adopt-a-Spot, we added another four new groups this last month. Graffiti abatement, there is an increase in graffiti which is targeting the electric boxes and the light poles. A crew of two are out working eight hours a day trying to remove that, which then also creates a canvas for them to return. They are looking forward to FY23 grant notification. They submitted the application last month and should be hearing back hopefully by the end of June.

Out of school time, school has finished as of yesterday. We are prepping for a very short summer, approximately 26 days for the summer program. Summer recreation starts on Tuesday and Weed and Seed and Teens start on June 1st, Wednesday and 8:00 to 5:00 in all programs. All programs have filled up, with a waiting list of approximately 75-80 families/kids in the community that need the program or would like to get in the program. The issue right now is staffing. They are advertising, and working with temp services to acquire staff. They will be getting student interns through Doña Ana County that will be of assistance but they will be shadowing a staff member throughout the day. It is a $15 an hour job and they will look at recruitment.

Youth development and diversion, winding down the FY22 grant. CYFD sent the agreement for next fiscal year, so working closely the grants office. June 21st going forward for YCC mural rehab and community forestry projects. This will be an opportunity to hire 15 youth this summer until December 31st to get the two projects completed.

Chair McClure stated $15 was good but $16-17 would be better. Robert Nunez stated the City did the adjustments to minimum wage going from $10.50 to $15. They are looking for creative ideas to bring people onboard. Also working with NMSU with the work study program.
Franco Granillo stated they have a lot of routine maintenance work. The community forestry staff did make their goal and planted over 250 trees this year. Planting slows down with the heat of the season but will pick up again in cooler weather.

Phillip Catanach stated Little Hoopsters basketball ended this last weekend. Youth Basketball Tournament ends this next week. Cheerleading program just ended this week. Youth Soccer starting May 28th, and T-ball starting June 4th. They ended up with over 450 kids for the two sports. Adult basketball, doing a mini league and it begins on May 31st and there are 28 teams for that. Also doing registration for Youth Volleyball and that league is about full, possibly room for one more team. FitLot Grant that was started on the FitLot outdoor fitness center at Benavidez Center and we have hit the goal of at least 6 students for each class as the grant requires. To check it out go to Eventbriter and register to take the classes. This weekend starts the Music in the Park series with Mayor's Jazz Fest with Paula Atherton, Sunday, 6:00 at the Plaza de Las Cruces. Next week Music in the Park series with music every Sunday until August 28th. The first Sunday at Young Park is the Pistoleros and Mariachi Agui las and start at 7:00. On June 1st start Lift Up Las Cruces program, bringing activities to Apodaca Park which will start with family game nights on Thursday night June 1st and then kick into Movies in the Park and the first movie is June 11th which will be Encanto. This Monday is free swim day at the outdoor pools open this weekend as do the splash pads. The regional aquatic center hit capacity yesterday.

Sonya Delgado stated that at Young Park Pond there is training in mid-June with New Mexico Game and Fish. Once that is done, then solidify how the pond will get stocked, when and with what species and tonnage, then it will get stocked first week in July with catfish. Currently the pond is doing great. Utilities put in aerators and that are working great. They were also able to disc golf and they are looking at behind the Las Cruces Dam. There is a PO in place and then some insurance documents and when that finishes up then a notice will be received to proceed and move forward. It will be a nine holes disc golf, and hopefully up and running in early fall, maybe end of summer. There are also some safety tips going on social media pages regarding summer care, being out in the hot sun and working, know who is around, buddy up, being around water, etc. Also in the process of purchasing the bilingual book-walks. Currently have three of them. And working with the library to have a program with that as well. Still finalizing the spaces for them.

Sonya Delgado stated next month she will be giving a presentation on the budget to include CIP, things that were approved by City Council, and the strategic plan. The strategic plan still needs approval. Also discussing CAPRA accreditation through National Recreation and Park Association, the process, the role the Board has with regards to that. The CIAC, Capital Improvement Advisory Committee received a tour from Parks and Recreation and they were most interested in the number of people that work on the projects as there are quite a few projects. There is a three person team.
Chair McClure asked that once they have a full complement of the Board she would like to do a tour for the Board also.

Sonya Delgado also mentioned an ADA walk through on Tuesday, 31st with Ms. Hope Reed from the New Mexico Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. This request came from Mr. Frank Carril who sent an e-mail to the state. He wants a tour of Apodaca Pickleball courts, Paz, and Lions. With regards to Paz and Lions, she is not sure what he is wanting to look at, but Public Works Director, David Sedillo; Community Development Director, Larry Nichols; and Sonya will be there. She did say the facilities do meet the requirements for ADA access. With all things there are different levels; minimum, medium, and the “Cadillac.” Parks and Recreation is requesting additional funding to assist with the restroom issue brought up earlier in public comment. Board Member Schuller asked about the porta potties in the City, asked if the vendor is responsible for maintenance, and how often. Franco Granillo stated their contract is for anywhere there are not permanent restrooms on sports facilities, or when restrooms are shut down. It is not made for an entire park system. The vendor supplies cleanings on the amount the City requests, usually twice a day. They porta potties are rented for $85 each depend on ADA or not, but cleanings cost $15-25 each time. This ends up being a big bill. They would have to go to Council to increase the PO or ask for separate funding for another vendor, which would be difficult as one is on contract. This vendor does do tournaments, sporting areas, but this is not something he is used to and he has other work. There are permanent restrooms near the pickleball courts, in that park location, they have to cross the street. There is a specific path that is ADA accessible to the current restrooms at Apodaca Park.

9. Board Member Comments:

Board Member Schuller gave kudos for the Music in the Park and the Movies in the Park as her friend just moved down and Albuquerque does not offer these. Vice-Chair Engle mentioned the Mother’s Day Concert and his father-in-law liked it. It seems like there were some people using 1,000 lbs. motorcycles on the brand new trail system. Sonya Delgado let Codes and PD know with that issue. Motorized has to be on the street, not sidewalk or paths. And there is signage for no motorized on paths.

Chair McClure asked about the hiking program. Sonya Delgado stated this was just discussed and they are looking to see to partner up with Friends of Organ Mountain to assist with the adult and senior hiking programs. The individual that was the lead on that program is no longer with the team. Chair McClure mentioned Ocotillo Hikers. It is a senior focused group with a website, but hike at your own risk.

Chair McClure mentioned Veterans Memorial Park and also a constituent that was asking about signage to not climb things. Sonya Delgado stated they are talking with the Veterans Advisory Board and they did ask for update on some signs. Also they are asking that the name be changed, remove Park from the name, and only
have Veterans Memorial. It will change the context of that area. Also some additional things they would like to do with that space. They have requested to come to this Board probably next month and working with Larry Nichols from Community Development who is the liaison for the Veterans Advisory Board. Chair McClure also asked about the master plan with growth of parking and possibly extension into sort of what is now desert land. Sonya Delgado that is still moving forward, currently at about 90% on the parking lot. They will need to find funding. The parking lot is $2 million, Parks has about $500,000, and so they need the remainder. City Council and the City Manager have been approached and they are working through that process. No final decisions have been made yet. There is talk to remove the playground at that site.

Chair McClure stated she was there with the 400 people and it was disappointing. Did not seem to be management of how the people were organized. Inside it was chaos and the indoor space was not being used accurately. It should not have been that long of a wait or such a mess.

10. Adjournment:

Board Member Schuller moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.