



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 26, 2022

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.

1  
2 **3. Approval of the Agenda:**  
3

4 Board Member Schuller moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory  
5 Board Meeting Agenda for May 26, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.  
6

7 Roll Call Vote:

8 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

9 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

10 Chair McClure- Aye.

11 Motion carried unanimously.  
12

13 **4. PRAB Minutes of April 6, 2022:**  
14

15 Board Member Schuller moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory  
16 Board Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.  
17

18 Roll Call Vote:

19 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

20 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

21 Chair McClure- Aye.

22 Motion carried unanimously.  
23

24 **5. Public Participation:**  
25

26 Harold Johnson, a member of the Dog Park Coalition stated they are noticing a  
27 couple of things he wanted to bring awareness to around the dog park. There is a  
28 ponding area on the west side of the dog park and it appears some of the pine trees  
29 are beginning to die in that area. The concern is if the trees start dying further that  
30 with the seasonal winds that there may be branches down. He stated a great job  
31 was done on cleaning up the pond. The trees have a bad image for citizens and  
32 users of the park, but also it is a high activity area since it near the ballparks.  
33

34 Harold Johnson's second question is that the dog park has a safety light that is  
35 inoperative and has been for some time. Can the City or Parks and Recreation help  
36 to get that light up and running? During the wintertime people come to the dog park  
37 in early hours, and also in the evening after work and those times it is dark.  
38 Occasionally Meerscheidt will leave a light or two on in the back.  
39

40 Phil Catanach, Parks and Recreation, stated there is a Dog Park update further in  
41 the agenda but Franco Granillo can address the questions. Franco Granillo, Parks  
42 and Recreation, stated that with the trees, over the last couple of years along the  
43 corridor of Hadley where the dog park resides, there has been severe die-off in a lot  
44 of the trees. They consulted with Jeff Anderson, the County Tree Expert, and also  
45 with agents outside of the City, samples to NMSU, and another laboratory and  
46 University in Texas. The results have come back showing we have a mite in town

1 that is attacking native plantings but also different varieties of pine trees, ash trees,  
2 Chinese pistachio trees, Raywood ash which are hardy trees. There have been  
3 several remediation attempts to get some trees back and some did leaf out again,  
4 but there have been over 60 trees along Hadley removed. The pine trees around  
5 the dog park are being looked at presently. These mites are also going after ground  
6 cover, shrubbery, trees, etc.

7  
8 Regarding the lights, Parks and Recreation does not handle electrical, but they will  
9 submit a work order to Facilities and they can address that.

10  
11 Frank Carril, resident District 4, served on Parks and Recreation Board four years  
12 under Mayor Miyagishima and Parks Director Johnson. There are a couple of issues  
13 for which he has tried to solve other ways but with no progress, and is asking the  
14 Board to help. The first is getting a restroom, a portable one, at the Apodaca Sports  
15 Park. There are over 50-75 senior patrons playing pickleball there every day. This  
16 was part of a GO Bond project that was very mishandled, with the bottom line of no  
17 restroom. He stated that the Parks Director stated there is one 1/8th a mile away  
18 on the other side of the park. That is very unacceptable. There are no pathways or  
19 sidewalks in Apodaca Park. He is a Vietnam Veteran and also helps American  
20 Veterans in Las Cruces that are chaired, to get to the park to try to use the park in  
21 different facilities. There are also 4-5 that are pickleball players and others.  
22 Currently the handicapped cannot be taken to the park because of several reasons;  
23 restrooms, several integrated handicapped issues that have not been addressed.  
24 In 2020 he made a formal complaint to City of Las Cruces for which they answered  
25 and Mr. Sedillo concurred that there are no handicapped issues at Apodaca Park  
26 Sports Facility, pickleball. Well in 2022 he convinced the City that there were some  
27 and they took action. They did some very, very minor things; changed a gate from  
28 swinging in to swinging out; put a 2-foot by 2-foot pad because it is required, so if  
29 you bring a handicapped person up a small sidewalk that you can have a bypass so  
30 another person can pass. The one put in was very inadequate, half-mooned shape,  
31 and just throwing nothing at nothing. It has been mishandled. There is also an 8.1%  
32 grade going uphill there which if you have over 5% it is required a banister. Cannot  
33 get handicapped American Vets, disabled, to play there. They have the right to play  
34 there, it is a public facility. Las Cruces on their website very readily admits that they  
35 concur with the ADA (American With Disabilities Act) of 1990 Title I and II. He stated  
36 you cannot put that on the website and not do it.

37  
38 The restroom part, it seems like since Mr. Carril has been "hammering" them to get  
39 this solved, there is a long-term solution in which the derelict swimming pool that  
40 closed with weeds, et. al, next to this facility, houses a lot of homeless at nighttime  
41 and the plan is that the piping left from removal of the pool would provide a restroom.  
42 He does concur with that. There is no portable restroom. Several patrons had  
43 emergencies and had to use trees. This park is the heaviest used outdoor facility in  
44 Las Cruces, number 1, with 50-60 people daily. He asked for people to over there  
45 between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. to view that. He will leave a few pictures on how they  
46 are being discriminated against, and how to solve it for simple money. The first

1 picture is Provencio-Van Dame Park, which has portable restrooms, he feels it  
2 should be permanent. During his time on the PRAB he worked to get permanent  
3 restrooms there. The Aqua Center has restrooms, but not at the park. Soldados  
4 Park on the other side of Meerscheidt Center for football, again the portable  
5 restrooms there. Apodaca Park there is nothing. He feels these are small budget  
6 items and that this is totally discrimination because they have complained too much.  
7 They asked for handicapped, which they should not have had to ask for. Asked for  
8 restrooms which they shouldn't have to ask for. Asked for justice in the GO Bond  
9 program under contracting. There were seven public meetings concerning the  
10 sports complex at Apodaca. Those meetings, including one at the park, there were  
11 100 people at the meeting at the park and various other public meetings, which he  
12 feels were a sham. All people gave input into what they felt it should be. When the  
13 City wrote what they put on the street for bid, he does have documentation to back  
14 up his input and an affidavit that would be accountable in a court of law. The City  
15 did it 60 times with GO Bonds. The latest one is for East Mesa for \$6 million. They  
16 don't put it out for lowest bidder, or even a statement of work. They just write a  
17 general paragraph of what they want to see at the end, which is an RFP, Request  
18 for Proposal. He has also had over 20 years contracting with the U.S. Government,  
19 working program management on one side, and also in fraud. The City is wasting  
20 approximately one-third GO Bond money by putting on the street a paragraph which  
21 describes a general subject, RFP, which means "I don't really know what I want.  
22 Why don't you people out there look and read my paragraph and come back and tell  
23 me what I really need." Then the City goes out under Mr. Sedillo and they have a  
24 board and come up and read the people what they have proposals. Then under that  
25 circumstance you pick anybody you want, so don't have to pick lowest bidder.

26  
27 In Parks and Recreation it was \$1.2 million to fix Hadley Field, Paz Field, Maag  
28 Field, Apodaca, and some walking trails. They did not bid it, but put it out for RFP.  
29 They put two sentences out there for Apodaca Park, describing after seven public  
30 meetings with reams of input that would make that facility correct the way the  
31 expertise knows it should be correct. They put it out there because they don't want  
32 to really have anyone on the street, in his opinion, to see how much money is going  
33 to be spent. In conclusion he read into the record about request for the restrooms  
34 and why are they being discriminated against. Next week he will file a discrimination  
35 thing with the City. He stated one-third of the GO Bond money is being wasted  
36 because the City does not bid for a project.

37  
38 Phil Catanach stated there is a GO Bond update later in the agenda.

39  
40 Franco Granillo stated there are permanent restrooms on the north side of the park,  
41 but they are not close to the pickleball courts. Also looking into the possibility of  
42 adding porta potties out there. They have a citywide contract and are currently at  
43 the maximum. Also looking at alternate routes to get restrooms there and alternate  
44 funding. For porta potty it will have to go to Council to request funding. If they look  
45 at existing facilities, they may not be suitable for restroom use because they have  
46 to cross the street. There are restrooms in the park, and at Apodaca baseball, but

1 again they would have to cross the street that leads into the park. Regarding the  
2 ADA, Public Works would be best to provide information. Sonya and David Sedillo  
3 have worked on this for a while. There is correspondence regarding Mr. Carril's  
4 inquiries/concerns.

5  
6 Gregory Shervanick stated the Young Park renovation has been completed. He  
7 believes the GO Bond money that was spent on it was spent poorly. He hopes that  
8 SMA Architecture and Highland Enterprise will donate to Parks and Recreation, the  
9 City of Las Cruces two wonderful benches on the top area of this tiered watershed  
10 device that they have created. I hope it does not come back to the board as a  
11 liability. He hopes the board will go to Young Park and look at what the GO Bond  
12 money has produced at the picnic shelter.

13  
14 **6. Action Items:**

15  
16 **6.1 Crosswalk Art/Hadley - Marina Montoya Administrative Assistant, Parks  
17 & Recreation:**

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

40  
41 Vice-Chair Engle asked the longevity on the paint. Marina Montoya stated the  
42 artist is thinking it will last about a year as it is the same paint as the street  
43 striping paint. Chair McClure asked about the cost, and it will be about \$8,000.  
44 The action is actually asking for the Board's support in things like this along  
45 the Hadley Complex. Also looking to do some art within Meerscheidt parking  
46 lot, over at the Aquatic Center parking lot, and possibly redoing the art over at

1 the Meerscheidt Center, the big wall already has a mural. Also possibly getting  
2 some grants, although the last two they tried for they were not approved. Also  
3 looking at trying to get the skate park with some asphalt art.  
4

5 The money for this project is from last fiscal year. This project has been talked  
6 about, had the money, ready to do and it was discussed with federal  
7 regulations on crosswalks and also with Traffic Department. They finally got  
8 approval with the Public Works Department to go ahead with the project and  
9 trying to use the funds before the end of this fiscal year.  
10

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

1 of artists are in town, getting public participation should be more than "Hey this  
2 is going to happen." The press release went out last week.

3  
4 Roll Call Vote:

5 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

6 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

7 Chair McClure- Aye.

8 Motion carried unanimously.  
9

## 10 7. Future Discussion/Task Listing:

### 11 7.1 Velo Cruces - George Pearson, President:

12 George Pearson introduced himself, Donald Wilson, and Andrea Holguin from  
13 their Board. Velo Cruces, Inc. formed in 2015 is a 501(c)3 non-profit  
14 organization. Their mission statement is "Transforming Las Cruces into a  
15 great bicycle and pedestrian community." They describe that in three different  
16 areas, one is to advocate, to communicate with local county and state officials  
17 the need for safe bike/ped facilities which includes the MPO, the City with the  
18 Active Transportation Plan, New Mexico DOT at their public meetings. They  
19 are working towards bike parking and the updates to the Realize Las Cruces  
20 Zoning Code. Also advocated for traffic gardens so there is a place separate  
21 from the streets where children, young adults, and adults could learn to ride in  
22 traffic when not actually in traffic. Also have an education program, make  
23 bicyclists safe and make vehicle drivers aware of bicyclists to all share the  
24 road safely. Short message is "Be visible and be predictable." To wear bright  
25 clothing when bicycling, at night have a bicycle light which is required by law;  
26 be predictable, follow the traffic signals, stop at stop signs; ride in a consistent  
27 path and not weaving in and out. Also promote bicycling in general.  
28 Participated and helped organize the Mayor's bike ride. Monthly visibility ride  
29 they go from the Train Museum up through town over to University near the  
30 Starbucks and the idea is to show that bicycles are part of traffic. Also they  
31 will have a Father's Day bike ride going from Pioneer Women's Park up to the  
32 airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association has a breakfast up there. A  
33 couple of programs from Velo Cruces are the Hub Community Bike Shop, and  
34 also Everybody Rides with Grace.  
35  
36

37  
38 Donald Wilson stated the Hub Community Bike Shop has been around four or  
39 five years. They are currently at the Cruces Creatives building between  
40 Lohman and Amador and Campo and Church. The idea of the Hub  
41 Community Bike Shop is to provide a place for people that live in Las Cruces  
42 that have bicycles and want to maintain them, can do that at a very affordable  
43 rate. The tools are there, knowledgeable volunteer mechanics, supplies, and  
44 also education. During the pandemic not much of that was done because of  
45 social distancing, so people would bring the bikes and just leave them with the  
46 Shop to be repaired and return later. The other project of the Hub Community

1 Bike Shop is the used bicycle distribution program. This allows any resident  
2 of the community to perform six hours of community service at any  
3 organization in the community that takes community service, churches, food  
4 banks, daycares, etc. They fill out a form, the agency verifies they provided  
5 the six hours of community service, and they bring that to the Bike Shop and  
6 we give them a serviceable bike, including a light if night traveling, bright yellow  
7 vest, and a lock. They make sure the bikes have good innertubes with the slim  
8 to help against flats. Through that program they have distributed hundreds of  
9 bicycles to people in the community that need them. Most recently they have  
10 been working with the Afghan refugees and refugees from other parts of the  
11 world that have relocated to Las Cruces and help them get and maintain  
12 bicycles.

13  
14 Andrea Holguin, the program coordinator for Everybody Rides with Grace,  
15 which is umbrellaed under Velo Cruces. They give bikes to kids with special  
16 needs, adaptive cycles. These children are identified through schools, local  
17 agencies that support children with special needs. These kinds of resources  
18 are extremely limited in Las Cruces, El Paso, and Albuquerque. Grace's bike  
19 was stolen and Mesilla Marshalls started a fund. The bike was recovered and  
20 the monies have been used to start the Everybody Rides with Grace. There  
21 will be an adaptive cycle parade on June 4th that begins at the park across  
22 from the Community Center in Mesilla, the Mesilla Mayor allowed the use of  
23 the restrooms in the Community Center, the Mesilla Marshalls will be leading  
24 on a one-mile loop. Safe Routes to School will also be there. They are also  
25 educating riders and families of the adaptive bikes to know the rules of the  
26 road, avoid common crashes. It would be nice to have bike parks just for the  
27 children so they do not have to ride in/with traffic. They did receive funding  
28 from the Governor's Quality of Life Grant of almost \$15,000. With this they  
29 promised to give away five bikes, and ended up giving way 10. She has to  
30 deal with companies not local and the parts are very difficult to acquire now.

31  
32 Vice-Chair Engle asked if Grace was able to enjoy the new trails on the EBID  
33 laterals. She has not but suggested that might be a fun place to go. With  
34 these cycles they need a place to store it, lock it up, and a way to transport it.  
35 Chair McClure asked for Velo Cruces to present as she believes there are  
36 more collaborations that can happen between Parks and Recreation and the  
37 bicycle community. It was mentioned on how cyclists are getting to parks and  
38 is that within master plans. There are stipends via Parks and Recreation for  
39 hosting things. George Pearson stated he has acquired a stipend in the past  
40 and put on a few events. Also to collaborate, he is a league cycling instructor,  
41 League of American Bicyclists has a curriculum for how to ride a bicycle safely.  
42 There are three or four others in town also qualified. The Youth Board and the  
43 Weed and Seed were mentioned for collaborations.

44  
45 Robert Nunez mentioned through the teens they purchased 12 mountain bikes  
46 over the last two years. They have partnered with Friends of the Organ



1 Mountains. Agrees this is a fabulous idea to get the youth educated and staff.  
2 George Pearson mentioned the Safe Routes to School Program in Las Cruces  
3 is the strongest program in the state and a model for the country, and so Velo  
4 Cruces works closely with them.  
5

6 **7.2 Dog Park Update - Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks &**  
7 **Recreation:**  
8

9 Franco Granillo stated they are in the process of looking at the trees that were  
10 mentioned by the member of the public, but they have had some severe issues  
11 along the Hadley corridor with the trees. They took out roughly 65-70 trees,  
12 but they have been replaced with ornamentals and plants that will grow 10-15  
13 feet but will provide color. The pine trees do have an issue and they believe it  
14 is the same mite they have sent samples to be looked at. He can have results  
15 next meeting or an e-mail, whichever the Board prefers.  
16

17 Mr. Armstrong came last month and discussed reestablishing the quarterly  
18 meetings. One was put on the calendar and Mr. Armstrong e-mails after the  
19 fact and let staff know he did not see the invite. Those will continue to be  
20 scheduled. Some of the discussion items were the proposed dog park rules.  
21 Mr. Armstrong had discussed the current dog park rules and that they needed  
22 to be more substantial, more teeth in them, and more support from Codes.  
23 Franco Granillo stated they reviewed the old dog park rules with staff,  
24 management, and legal. Jamey Rickman the former community liaison with  
25 Council and the residents helped a lot. He stated once the City ordinances  
26 that are being reviewed, once the Animal Control portion is reviewed and  
27 passed, the dog park rules will pass them as well. We can also look forward  
28 to move forward with the current proposed rules before they become an  
29 ordinance and then get something on the books for upcoming facilities. For  
30 public input they would have three meetings, one in each area; Burn Lake, the  
31 Animal Shelter area, and the current Las Cruces Dog Park to take public input.  
32 Mr. Armstrong had mentioned there were no doggy waste bag removers, but  
33 that was checked the next day and the boxes were full and 80 bags tied up  
34 along the fences where people could use them. The light that was brought up  
35 by a member of the public, Facilities will be consulted for that.  
36

37 **7.3 On-Line Registration Update - Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator,**  
38 **Parks & Recreation:**  
39

40 Frank Granillo stated he knows that there seems to be a long wait and  
41 questions about the registration that took place last month at Meerscheidt. His  
42 portion is the getting the on-line program up and running. Staff has worked  
43 very hard with the new program, called RecTrac. This provides a sporting  
44 module, class counts, on-line registration, permitting for the parks, a lot of  
45 functions that eTRAC provided, the previous program, but RecTrac is different  
46 and at a higher level. His current issue with on-line registrations is, when

1 someone registers in the programs they have to pay, and the credit card  
2 function is not working properly with treasury, and treasury in this case does  
3 get the final say on what they want to see. Files from RecTrac have been sent  
4 to have treasury test them but there are a lot of formatting issues. One of the  
5 issues is determining between a cash payment, credit card payment, or a  
6 check. Treasury needs to see the property payment and how it was done.  
7 Another issue is formatting. RecTrac files are not matching with Munis files.  
8 The inhouse staff person has been running reports to compare and see where  
9 the errors are, why it cannot differentiate between the various payment  
10 methods. Right now they are waiting to see what kind of file or set up can be  
11 used for treasury's programming software to read the RecTrac software.  
12

13 Board Member Schuller about receiving checks and cash when that is not on-  
14 line. Franco Granillo stated at the end of the day with reconciliation the report  
15 does not show what type of payment method was received. Board Member  
16 Schuller also asked about if there were kiosks or plans for such to free up  
17 some manpower for those without cell phones. Franco Granillo stated staff is  
18 already working on a kiosk process which will have to be in conjunction with  
19 Facilities for the electrical and ADA compliance. Possibly a kiosk in the  
20 Aquatic Center.  
21

22 Further discussion on RecTrac and Munis and them not functioning together.  
23 There may be some functions of Munis that have not been paid for. Munis is  
24 a citywide software, assets, inventory, and financials, right now it is not able to  
25 function for a recreation department that takes permits, different programs on  
26 a daily basis, etc. Sonya Delgado, Parks and Recreation Director stated that  
27 Munis had a piece that could be done with Parks and Recreation and asked  
28 Las Cruces to be the guinea pig, but we are way too big to be a guinea pig and  
29 start from ground zero. eTRAC had an issue talking with Munis so it was done  
30 by hand and the Parks department has outgrown that. RecTrac was supposed  
31 to be able to talk with Munis, all departments were on board, but now having  
32 this issue. It is being worked by all. Frank Granillo stated cash payments  
33 received have to be reconciled that same day. With the current errors they  
34 would only be able to reconcile once the errors are solved, putting Parks and  
35 Recreation in violation of own protocols. Chair McClure stated she had waited  
36 two hours to sign up her children and that is just too much.  
37

#### 38 **7.4 Butterfield Shooting Range Update - Frank Granillo, Parks Administrator,** 39 **Parks & Recreation; David Sedillo, Director, Public Works:** 40

41 Franco Granillo stated that Mr. Pruitt at the last meeting discussing the entry  
42 road into Butterfield Shooting Range. Sonya Delgado did give Mr. Pruitt her  
43 business card at the last meeting and he then reached out to her for his  
44 concerns. Franco Granillo has spoken to him four or five times since the last  
45 meeting and Mr. Pruitt has been every responsive and appreciates the  
46 updates. Franco Granillo met with Public Works to determine a timeline of

1 what they could do. Today was the first day they were out there and they were  
2 able to clean the work site very well and back filled potholes. Since there were  
3 so many they have asked for another day of maintenance. Parks and  
4 Recreation is working with BLM to acquire the road, acquire the right-of-way  
5 as it is not the City's right now. There is a work plan for short term and long-  
6 term care of the road and repair. The long-term fix has still not been decided  
7 due to needing more information after more study at the Range.  
8

9 **7.5 GO Bond Project Update - Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architectural**  
10 **Project Manager, Public Works:**

11  
12 Jennifer Morrow, Public Works Engineering Administrator gave a PowerPoint  
13 presentation. First discussing the Hadley Rec Complex started in October  
14 2020 and finished last August. Also the Parks and Sports Courts, started in  
15 October 2020 and is essentially complete and the last item was at Young Park  
16 with some erosion control issues which were worked with the engineer and the  
17 contractor and put in small retaining wall and some erosion control measures.  
18 Fourhills subdivision, and Lions Park. A list of all the parks that had been  
19 worked on were displayed; Klein Park, Hillrise, Fourhills, Papen, Benavidez,  
20 Lions, and Apodaca, Young Park, and Metro Verde and the desert trails  
21 system. Also at the bottom of the slide was the extra work for Young Park with  
22 the erosion control. Also Unidad Park, included drone aerials. Precon was  
23 January this year and stated construction soon after. A 100% of demolition is  
24 done and installing the play equipment, splash pad, and restroom. There have  
25 been supply chain issues and so the due date has been extended from  
26 June/July to closer to September. The East Mesa Rec Center, started phase  
27 1 in February which included pickleball courts, soccer fields, baseball fields,  
28 and a general park area with a playground. The GO Bond portion of it will be  
29 done at the end of this year which is basically earthwork and everything except  
30 for the landscaping which was put into ARPA funding for project completion to  
31 be Spring 2023. Dog Parks, Rinconada, survey is about 80% complete, the  
32 site concrete is complete, chain link fence is being installed. They add  
33 restrooms with the ARPA funding. At Burn Lake they are working on that with  
34 the irrigation system and chain link fence, to be completed around September  
35 of this year. The walking, jogging, and biking trails are pretty much complete.  
36 There are a few items to be cleaned up with EBID and some homeowners for  
37 permitting for fencing to be comfortable with the public at the back of their  
38 houses. Also some supply chain issues, mostly furnishings for the Las Cruces  
39 Trail, benches, trash receptacles. This should all be done by early to mid-  
40 September of this year. Mesilla Drain 100% complete. Las Cruces Drain has  
41 some punch list items. The Armijo Drain is having some fencing put on.  
42

43 Vice-Chair Engle asked about a bad monsoon and the erosion control fails at  
44 Young Park and who would pay. An act of God or nature is the owner's  
45 responsible. If it was a standard monsoon, the erosion control is designed for  
46 100 year storm, but the actual definition of the storm will determine who is

1 responsible.

2  
3 **7.6 New 50-Meter Community Pool Update - Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj,**  
4 **Architectural Project Manager, Public Works:**  
5

6 Jennifer Morrow stated the groundbreaking was last July with notice to  
7 proceed. She saw it today and it looks great. The construction budget is \$17  
8 million, and added almost another half million with the ARPA funds. They are  
9 almost halfway don't at this time. All underground utilities are done, all the  
10 pool excavation, plumbing rough in, the structural steel work was being welded  
11 today, exterior shell is about 80%. Drone photos were shared. Some of the  
12 painting has been done.  
13

14 Phil Catanach wanted to let the Board know as the Regional Aquatic Center  
15 opens in January 2023, Frenger Pool will close. Board Member Schuller also  
16 brought up the repurpose of Frenger Pool if possible. Sonya Delgado stated  
17 with the master plans that came forward with Frenger, as it goes to Council it  
18 will be the next step. Once the master plan is finalized, in each it talks about  
19 doing something different with the pool, and looks like a splash pad of some  
20 sort.  
21

22 **7.7 Gomez Park/Cricket - Steve Pacheco, Senior Engineer, Public Works:**  
23

24 Sonya Delgado mentioned that at the last meeting a group came to discuss  
25 cricket. They had asked for the area to be smoothed out, easier for them to  
26 make their game easier. They do play regularly and it is a great space for  
27 them. One of the issues is that first and foremost that is a pond, so it has to  
28 keep its integrity and part of that dome type shape.  
29

30 Jennifer Morrow stated the issues with areas that are designed to hold  
31 stormwater they have to ensure is that the volume and storage is not changed,  
32 no impervious material that is utilized in the pond to ensure the water  
33 percolates out. The outlet structure needs to be protected at all times. Ensure  
34 to not remove a lot of the vegetation. Also if the vegetation starts to die off,  
35 and if it has a good root system when it dies off it will leave "potholes." Also  
36 FEMA criteria has to be met. Also elevation changes could affect Parks and  
37 Recreations irrigation.  
38

39 Sonya Delgado stated she will have to work with Public Works as they would  
40 have to issue a letter to FEMA, and see if that is even an option. Vice-Chair  
41 Engle stated the short term answer is that they are going to have to play the  
42 way it is. Sonya Delgado stated yes for the next couple of months as she does  
43 not know the process and if it will be granted. When it rains both Gomez and  
44 Frenger fill up, like lakes, with people asking to put boats out there, which is  
45 not allowed. Many of the older facilities are dual purpose, as they are a pond  
46 and a park. The park portion is really only up on the high sides which is around

1 the edge. At this time Parks and Recreation is not accepting a pond and a  
2 park together as a lot of space is lost. Chair McClure asked if there were  
3 notices saying that that area is a pond. Board Member Schuller stated it  
4 should be noted to be drainage and a not a pond as people will expect water.  
5 Also have Public Works look into the process of regrading. And then possibly  
6 approach FEMA about reissuing as it is a flood zone. And signs indicating this  
7 is a drainage facility.  
8

9 **7.8 4th of July Update - Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks &**  
10 **Recreation:**

11  
12 Phillip Catanach stated they are teaming up with NMSU again to hold the 4th  
13 of July Celebration at the Pat Lou Sisbarro Park on the 4th of July on the  
14 Monday. The Sunday will be the Electric Light Parade at 9:00, an electric 5K  
15 and fun run at 7:30. Starting to get entries for the parade, and the theme this  
16 year is Patriot Spirit and American Dream. As this is an election year they  
17 figure on having many floats, the average is 40-60 and with all the vehicles,  
18 each float can have up to 15 cars or 20 cars if it is a car club. The parade will  
19 last a bit more than an hour. This year we will have five time Grammy winner  
20 Raul Malo of the Mavericks leading the show, and then the Plain White T's to  
21 headline. The concert will start at 6:00 and the Plain White T's will come on at  
22 8:00. Scheduled for fireworks presentation right now. Even with the all the  
23 fires they believe the Governor will allow for municipalities to have firework  
24 shows as professional firework shows are very safe, strict blast zone, fire  
25 department and safety personnel everywhere to make sure that nothing  
26 happens. There are contingencies if things are cancelled. Advertisements will  
27 begin next week, on buses, radio, Bulletin, and Las Cruces Sun News. This  
28 is the biggest event the City puts on. The Mother's day event was quite  
29 successful this year.  
30

31 **7.9 Team Up to Clean Up Updates - Robert Nunez, Youth Services**  
32 **Administrator, Parks & Recreation:**

33  
34 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator for Parks and Recreation, stated  
35 last month they had their first district Team Up to Clean Up event for District 6.  
36 There were approximately 50 new volunteers, and an additional 30 that have  
37 been within the system and either adopted spots or been involved in the  
38 programs. They collected approximately two tons of trash throughout the  
39 district. There were three trash containers: one at the East Mesa Swimming  
40 Pool off of Reynolds, the old T-Time of Del Rey, Telshor, Northrise, and lastly  
41 on the south side near the neighborhood Walmart. There are commercial bins  
42 that are out there which are open to any resident in the community to be able  
43 to dump trash at no cost. During the pandemic there was a major clean up  
44 and everybody went out there, and it was a lot overwhelming. Staff is stationed  
45 there and solid waste also picks them up at the end of program. They will send  
46 everyone the remaining schedule for the year, and District 5 is the next location

1 in June. Working closely with Community Outreach department to get the  
2 word out for District 5, Councilor Corran.  
3

4 **7.10 Parks & Recreation Project Updates - Catherine Mathews, Landscape**  
5 **Architect, Parks & Recreation:**  
6

7 Sonya Delgado stated that Catherine Mathews was still in a meeting for the  
8 Gallagher Park. Catherine Mathews has her update sheet with here. Sonya  
9 Delgado did state that they are working with NMDOT and EBID to get  
10 permission to finish up the RTP Trail with the Las Cruces Lateral. Catherine  
11 Mathews does have a meeting with EBID on June 10th. This has been a  
12 struggle and a challenge with EBID, particularly with the GO Bond trails  
13 because there are a lot of farmers and landowners/homeowners who do not  
14 want that trail behind them. Moving forward this will be a challenge in trying to  
15 expand some of the laterals. They are already being utilized though.  
16

17 **7.11 Gallagher Park Renovations Update - Catherine Mathews, Landscape**  
18 **Architect, Parks & Recreation:**  
19

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

1 that park space so Parks and Recreation are trying to help improve it.  
2

3 **7.12 Las Cruces Public School Agreement - High Noon Soccer Fields (1-5) -**  
4 **Sonya Delgado, Director, Parks & Recreation:**  
5

6 Sonya Delgado stated the agreement is with LCPS. She spoke with the lawyer  
7 today and he still has it. He might have a couple of questions but that will go  
8 back to City Legal. He is probably going to have to go to the school board and  
9 that is unknown timing.  
10

11 **8. Staff Member Comments:**  
12

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

23 Out of school time, school has finished as of yesterday. We are prepping for a very  
24 short summer, approximately 26 days for the summer program. Summer recreation  
25 starts on Tuesday and Weed and Seed and Teens start on June 1st, Wednesday  
26 and 8:00 to 5:00 in all programs. All programs have filled up, with a waiting list of  
27 approximately 75-80 families/kids in the community that need the program or would  
28 like to get in the program. The issue right now is staffing. They are advertising, and  
29 working with temp services to acquire staff. They will be getting student interns  
30 through Doña Ana County that will be of assistance but they will be shadowing a  
31 staff member throughout the day. It is a \$15 an hour job and they will look at  
32 recruitment.  
33

34 Youth development and diversion, winding down the FY22 grant. CYFD sent the  
35 agreement for next fiscal year, so working closely the grants office. June 21st going  
36 forward for YCC mural rehab and community forestry projects. This will be an  
37 opportunity to hire 15 youth this summer until December 31st to get the two projects  
38 completed.  
39

40 Chair McClure stated \$15 was good but \$16-17 would be better. Robert Nunez  
41 stated the City did the adjustments to minimum wage going from \$10.50 to \$15.  
42 They are looking for creative ideas to bring people onboard. Also working with  
43 NMSU with the work study program.  
44

1 Franco Granillo stated they have a lot of routine maintenance work. The community  
2 forestry staff did make their goal and planted over 250 trees this year. Planting  
3 slows down with the heat of the season but will pick up again in cooler weather.  
4

5 Phillip Catanach stated Little Hoopsters basketball ended this last weekend. Youth  
6 Basketball Tournament ends this next week. Cheerleading program just ended this  
7 week. Youth Soccer starting May 28th, and T-ball starting June 4th. They ended  
8 up with over 450 kids for the two sports. Adult basketball, doing a mini league and  
9 it begins on May 31st and there are 28 teams for that. Also doing registration for  
10 Youth Volleyball and that league is about full, possibly room for one more team.  
11 FitLot Grant that was started on the FitLot outdoor fitness center at Benavidez  
12 Center and we have hit the goal of at least 6 students for each class as the grant  
13 requires. To check it out go to Eventbrite and register to take the classes. This  
14 weekend starts the Music in the Park series with Mayor's Jazz Fest with Paula  
15 Atherton, Sunday, 6:00 at the Plaza de Las Cruces. Next week Music in the Park  
16 series with music every Sunday until August 28th. The first Sunday at Young Park  
17 is the Pistoleros and Mariachi Aguilas and start at 7:00. On June 1st start Lift Up  
18 Las Cruces program, bringing activities to Apodaca Park which will start with family  
19 game nights on Thursday night June 1st and then kick into Movies in the Park and  
20 the first movie is June 11th which will be Encanto. This Monday is free swim day at  
21 the outdoor pools open this weekend as do the splash pads. The regional aquatic  
22 center hit capacity yesterday.  
23

24 Sonya Delgado stated that at Young Park Pond there is training in mid-June with  
25 New Mexico Game and Fish. Once that is done, then solidify how the pond will get  
26 stocked, when and with what species and tonnage, then it will get stocked first week  
27 in July with catfish. Currently the pond is doing great. Utilities put in aerators and  
28 that are working great. They were also able to disc golf and they are looking at  
29 behind the Las Cruces Dam. There is a PO in place and then some insurance  
30 documents and when that finishes up then a notice will be received to proceed and  
31 move forward. It will be a nine holes disc golf, and hopefully up and running in early  
32 fall, maybe end of summer. There are also some safety tips going on social media  
33 pages regarding summer care, being out in the hot sun and working, know who is  
34 around, buddy up, being around water, etc. Also in the process of purchasing the  
35 bilingual book-walks. Currently have three of them. And working with the library to  
36 have a program with that as well. Still finalizing the spaces for them.  
37

38 Sonya Delgado stated next month she will be giving a presentation on the budget  
39 to include CIP, things that were approved by City Council, and the strategic plan.  
40 The strategic plan still needs approval. Also discussing CAPRA accreditation  
41 through National Recreation and Park Association, the process, the role the Board  
42 has with regards to that. The CIAC, Capital Improvement Advisory Committee  
43 received a tour from Parks and Recreation and they were most interested in the  
44 number of people that work on the projects as there are quite a few projects. There  
45 is a three person team.  
46



1 Chair McClure asked that once they have a full complement of the Board she would  
2 like to do a tour for the Board also.

3  
4 Sonya Delgado also mentioned an ADA walk through on Tuesday, 31st with Ms.  
5 Hope Reed from the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disabilities. This  
6 request came from Mr. Frank Carril who sent an e-mail to the state. He wants a tour  
7 of Apodaca Pickleball courts, Paz, and Lions. With regards to Paz and Lions, she  
8 is not sure what he is wanting to look at, but Public Works Director, David Sedillo;  
9 Community Development Director, Larry Nichols; and Sonya will be there. She did  
10 say the facilities do meet the requirements for ADA access. With all things there  
11 are different levels; minimum, medium, and the "Cadillac." Parks and Recreation is  
12 requesting additional funding to assist with the restroom issue brought up earlier in  
13 public comment. Board Member Schuller asked about the porta potties in the City,  
14 asked if the vendor is responsible for maintenance, and how often. Franco Granillo  
15 stated their contract is for anywhere there are not permanent restrooms on sports  
16 facilities, or when restrooms are shut down. It is not made for an entire park system.  
17 The vendor supplies cleanings on the amount the City requests, usually twice a day.  
18 They porta potties are rented for \$85 each depend on ADA or not, but cleanings  
19 cost \$15-25 each time. This ends up being a big bill. They would have to go to  
20 Council to increase the PO or ask for separate funding for another vendor, which  
21 would be difficult as one is on contract. This vendor does do tournaments, sporting  
22 areas, but this is not something he is used to and he has other work. There are  
23 permanent restrooms near the pickleball courts, in that park location, they have to  
24 cross the street. There is a specific path that is ADA accessible to the current  
25 restrooms at Apodaca Park.

26  
27 **9. Board Member Comments:**

28  
29 Board Member Schuller gave kudos for the Music in the Park and the Movies in the  
30 Park as her friend just moved down and Albuquerque does not offer these. Vice-  
31 Chair Engle mentioned the Mother's Day Concert and his father-in-law liked it. It  
32 seems like there were some people using 1,000 lbs. motorcycles on the brand new  
33 trail system. Sonya Delgado let Codes and PD know with that issue. Motorized has  
34 to be on the street, not sidewalk or paths. And there is signage for no motorized on  
35 paths.

36  
37 Chair McClure asked about the hiking program. Sonya Delgado stated this was just  
38 discussed and they are looking to see to partner up with Friends of Organ Mountain  
39 to assist with the adult and senior hiking programs. The individual that was the lead  
40 on that program is no longer with the team. Chair McClure mentioned Ocotillo  
41 Hikers. It is a senior focused group with a website, but hike at your own risk.

42  
43 Chair McClure mentioned Veterans Memorial Park and also a constituent that was  
44 asking about signage to not climb things. Sonya Delgado stated they are talking  
45 with the Veterans Advisory Board and they did ask for update on some signs. Also  
46 they are asking that the name be changed, remove Park from the name, and only

1 have Veterans Memorial. It will change the context of that area. Also some  
2 additional things they would like to do with that space. They have requested to  
3 come to this Board probably next month and working with Larry Nichols from  
4 Community Development who is the liaison for the Veterans Advisory Board. Chair  
5 McClure also asked about the master plan with growth of parking and possibly  
6 extension into sort of what is now desert land. Sonya Delgado that is still moving  
7 forward, currently at about 90% on the parking lot. They will need to find funding.  
8 The parking lot is \$2 million, Parks has about \$500,000, and so they need the  
9 remainder. City Council and the City Manager have been approached and they are  
10 working through that process. No final decisions have been made yet. There is talk  
11 to remove the playground at that site.  
12

13 Chair McClure stated she was there with the 400 people and it was disappointing.  
14 Did not seem to be management of how the people were organized. Inside it was  
15 chaos and the indoor space was not being used accurately. It should not have been  
16 that long of a wait or such a mess.  
17

18 **10. Adjournment:**

19  
20 Board Member Schuller moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.  
21

22 Roll Call Vote:

23 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

24 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

25 Chair McClure- Aye.

26 Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

32 \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson