



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

June 16, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on June 16, 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:

- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
- Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Joy Ann Lucero, Management Analyst, Parks & Recreation
- Larry Nichols, Director Community Development
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC
- Elisa Romero, Public
- James Turner, Veterans Advisory Board
- Hubert L. Gay, Veterans Advisory Board
- Rod Gajewski, Veterans Advisory Board Vice Chair

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of June 16, 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 with the removal of items 7.2 Gallagher Park Renovations
6 Update, and 7.3 Parks & Recreation Project Update, to next month's meeting on
7 July 21, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.
8

9 Roll Call Vote:

10 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

11 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

12 Chair McClure- Aye.

13 Motion carried unanimously.
14

15 **4. PRAB Minutes of May 26, 2022:**
16

17 Chair McClure had two amendments: it was the April 30th softball/soccer
18 registration that had 400 people, and also that there was a request from the family
19 of the child who died at the Veteran's Memorial Park to have the placard included.
20 Board Member Schuller moved to amend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
21 Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2022 with amendments of Chair McClure's e-mail sent
22 on June 10th, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.
23

24 Roll Call Vote:

25 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

26 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

27 Chair McClure- Aye.

28 Motion carried unanimously.
29

30 **5. Public Participation:**
31

32 There was none.
33

34 **6. Action Items:**
35

36 **6.1 Renaming Veteran's Memorial Park – Rod Gajewski, Veteran's Advisory**
37 **Board Vice-Chair:**
38

39 Larry Nichols, Community Development Director recognized members of the
40 Veteran's Advisory Board in the audience, Rod Gajewski, Hubert Gay, and
41 James Turner. They are bringing a special use designation and naming of the
42 Veteran's Memorial Park. The City Manager Policy 3.3 which was handed to
43 the Board requires certain number items that are required for this to be
44 considered, and those requirements have been fulfilled, specifically the name
45 that is being proposed, the reason for the proposal, and also accomplishment
46 of two goals for protecting and providing the Veteran's Remembrance.

1
2 Rod Gajewski stated one of the things they try to do with Veteran's Memorial
3 Park is it is a memorial. There has been damage to the park in 2018, a running
4 group got a permit and ran through and marked up the grass. Also damage to
5 the helicopter. Mr. Granillo had planted some plants next to the Purple Heart
6 Monument and within two weeks they were stolen. Mr. Gajewski is a Purple
7 Heart Veteran. There has been other damage to the park. Their park is a
8 preeminent park. They have a ladies monument that doesn't rival, it is better
9 than one in Washington, D.C., for which he has been to the one in Washington,
10 D.C. It is better than the one in Albuquerque. The park is a memorial to those
11 who have served and those who have fallen.
12

13 The park was dedicated in the May 1999 by City Ordinance. The City has a
14 Park Master Plan that was adopted in 2019 with a Special Use Park category,
15 Chapter 2, Section 1. It was constructed by the Las Cruces Home Builders
16 Association. It is a 9+ acre memorial park. It has a Garrison Flag Plaza, the
17 Monument Walkway, and it consists of 11 Veteran Monuments. A listing of the
18 monuments was shown. Whenever there is a request for a monument to be
19 added, this would go before the Veteran's Advisory Board who will look at the
20 viability, location, and vote on it. They try to make the monuments appropriate
21 to what is representative of our community also.
22

23 There is a Parks Master Plan and in the Special Use category is where this
24 park falls under. There are other special use parks within the City. This is
25 about giving the park it's proper memorialization, no limiting the neighborhood.
26 Groups will have quinceañeras and put tape on the pergolas and then the City
27 staff has to remove the tape, and in taking the tape down it peels the paint
28 down. A couple of years ago the Purple Heart painted the pergolas and they
29 currently look they have not been painted because they have been damaged.
30 There is football and soccer in both of the grass areas. Parking is done
31 haphazardly. They are trying to get the park to its designation as a special use
32 park as per the City's Park Master Plan.
33

34 The park is currently 9-plus acres, but the 5.2 acres next was recently
35 acquired. The plan is for the 5.2 acres for parking upon acquisition of funding.
36 They do have events there, The Run for the Wall, the Welcome Home Vietnam
37 Veterans, on Memorial Day they have the candle lighting ceremony honoring
38 the 204 Southern New Mexicans who has fallen in combat. At the moment
39 when there are large events people are parking on the street. People tend to
40 speed.
41

42 The naming criteria for a City facility is to complete the City Manager policy
43 form 3 which has been done which may be submitted by an individual or a
44 group. In this case in a motion last month at the Veteran's Advisory Board,
45 and the signed petition was given to the Board, they are the group that is
46 submitting the request for the name change. Also a written statement

1 indicating request for naming modification. The reasons are stated in the
2 packet the Board received. The review process is to submit the form to Parks
3 and Recreation Advisory Board for review, staff check for duplication or conflict
4 with existing facility names, the City Manager considers if the request is to be
5 considered and he determines if the name request will be considered by City
6 Council, and City Council by a vote of four or more at a formal City Council
7 meeting to grant the naming request or deny it.
8

9 Veteran's Memorial Park does not emphasize the significance of a monument,
10 sacred setting on remembrance of Veterans service, creates an understanding
11 of mixed use, memorial versus recreation. Primary utilization is for Veterans
12 events and functions. There are 23 garrison flag dates per year, Memorial
13 Day, Veteran's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Run to the Wall, and also the
14 Welcome Home Vietnam which has been done for 10 years now. The
15 secondary utilization is for citizens park activity, walking, relaxation, family
16 sized outdoor activities. They are not trying to stop those, but trying to
17 memorialize the monuments and the respect. The Master Plan allows for the
18 parking lot expansion, additional restrooms, parking lot landscaping, parking
19 lot lighting, potential veterans cemetery. The City Manager brought up that in
20 Utah they have done cemeteries. The lower grass area in the park has that
21 potential. There is currently not a veterans cemetery in Las Cruces, and a
22 veteran would have to go to Fort Bayard. Down the road the monument
23 walkway expansion, additional security cameras. The recently installed
24 cameras and the lighting has helped immensely towards the reduction and
25 problematics with the park.
26

27 Larry Nichols stated that what is being requested is in the Master Plan which
28 was adopted by the City Council. And this would be a clarification for the
29 citizenry to know that that particular park, along with some of the other special
30 use parks, are available to them.
31

32 ROD GAJEWSKI SHARED WITH THE BOARD SOME PICTURES ON HIS
33 CELL PHONE. Larry Nichols stated they will get the pictures to be able to
34 share with the Board. Rod Gajewski stated these pictures have all been
35 shared with the City Manager.
36

37 Rod Gajewski stated people are to get a permit for taping on the pergola and
38 that to do that people had to have ladders over 8 feet to do such and so the
39 Parks and Rec people are having trouble removing it.
40

41 Board Member Schuller asked for clarification on regular park versus special
42 use park, and how Veteran's is established with the parties and/or practices.
43 Franco Granillo stated the difference between Veteran's Park and other park,
44 it is basically considered a memorial which is a destination park for people that
45 want to have functions there regarding the military. Young Park is a heavily
46 used park in the City as is Apodaca Park, but there are no memorials. Young

1 Park and Apodaca are first come, first serve use, but you do have permit them
2 for major events. Permits are required in parks for events, provide insurance.
3 At Veteran's Park they do some of the same events, but as Mr. Gajewski
4 mentioned they do put up banners, fliers and things on the pergola and his
5 staff is not allowed to go higher than eight feet, based on discussions with the
6 union and other departments. The Facilities Department has lifts and ladders
7 to go higher. Veteran's Park is a public park, it is used just like Young and
8 Apodaca, the difference is the memorials and the intended use for that park
9 versus other parks which are first come, first serve for anybody, but still
10 necessitating permitting for larger events. One issue is with the athletic fields,
11 during this time of the year people are playing leagues and not practicing. All
12 of the sports fields are fenced in and set up for sanction play are being used.
13 Any athletic group will try and find open space anywhere; parks, the university,
14 or renting fields. They are having daily practices at Veteran's Park on the field
15 on the west end, soccer, baseball, rugby. The issues Parks sees, they do not
16 confine themselves to the lower area, they will get on the top turf area where
17 the wall is some kids climb on the wall. These would be the things the
18 Veteran's group is trying to eliminate, the handling of the memorial. It has been
19 discussed if the park did change its use, there could be a Veteran's
20 ambassador that takes children throughout the park and let's them know what
21 the memorials are for, who served and when.

22
23 Rod Gajewski stated 13 organizations are represented by the Veteran's
24 Advisory Board. If one of the group is in the park and someone is looking, they
25 are well versed in what the things that go on and why the things are there.
26 Johnny's Cactus has significantly reverence of the fact that John Risner
27 planted the sprig of cactus in his front yard and said to his sister they will
28 transplant it when he gets home, but he never came home alive. Currently
29 there are over 100 communities nationwide that have sprigs of that cactus.

30
31 Athletes that come park head in and block all the spaces, disabled and
32 otherwise, seeming not to care. They are trying to get a reverence to the park.

33
34 Board Member Schuller asked how the monitoring with this proposal would
35 work as it seems the Veteran's Board wants to keep it open to the
36 neighborhood communities and able to utilize it as recreational portion. Rod
37 Gajewski stated additional signage, and when the word gets out people will
38 start to adhere. But he agreed there will be a significant challenge. Chair
39 McClure had heard from constituents with the same question about how does
40 respect get shown since it is a recreational space too. Her concern is that it
41 will not create an understanding of mixed use. An expansion upon the name
42 as it stands might need to be considered, such as Veteran's Memorial Park
43 and Public Park to make that delineation very clear. At this point it would be
44 hard to stave off some of Mr. Gajewski's concerns with a shortening of the
45 name. Interesting to see the special use and the Board was not aware of the
46 special use so that is something the Board would also need to consider. Chair

1 McClure also asked if there had been a public hearing. Rod Gajewski stated
2 they had not had a public hearing and it has not been a requirement. He
3 mentioned that when it goes before the City Council that would entail a public
4 hearing. He mentioned in Doña Ana County there are 80-some-hundred
5 veterans and they will be in force to state their position. The Civilian Based
6 Outpatient Clinic on Del Rey has grown greatly, and are already in the process
7 of expanding that facility. The veteran community is growing here. Looking
8 for respect to the park. There are people that ride bicycles across the grass
9 area in the front. There are small signs on the wall that say No Roller skating,
10 but people do it, and it needs to stop.

11
12 Chair McClure stated the expansion too because of the Master Plan is going
13 to kind of help that delineation in space, one side, that is going to be much
14 more focused on the memorial, and the five acres is going to be a little bit more
15 perhaps recreational, perhaps parking. Rod Gajewski stated the five acres is
16 going to provide 161 parking spaces. Chair McClure also mentioned walking
17 areas that will pull away some of the disturbances that are happening in the
18 park. There might be discussion we can have about moving some of the more,
19 bar-b-que, etc., into that other portion. That is not determined until that is
20 actually is created. It might be a good faith effort to actually have a public
21 meeting before the name change happens to get the input of what the people
22 are thinking in that space. Family members might be aware of who is doing
23 the graffiti.

24
25 Also, is this damage being reported to LCPD and could those reports be
26 acquired for the record? Rod Gajewski stated they are and had been provided
27 to the City Manager. He mentioned that the prosecution for the damage to the
28 helicopter was dropped. But the Veterans did save the City money by going
29 to the boneyard at White Sands Missile Range and get some of the parts for
30 the helicopter. The helicopter would have cost \$30,000 to fix, but had donated
31 labor from White Sands. The City Manager has the District Attorney's file on
32 the helicopter damage, and pictures of the damage in 2018 done to the grass,
33 and also the current issue with the taping of things. There is currently not
34 enough signage, and more prominent signage. There are people who do not
35 respect any of the parks, but this park has a nature of respect to the veterans
36 of the community and the 204 who have died and over 8,000 who are alive
37 and still here.

38
39 Chair McClure stated that the Board has been invested in Veteran's Memorial
40 Park. They are looking to expand what they honor at the park. And it has
41 been in consideration for a while how to balance not just the respectful nature
42 but also the fact of what the veterans died for. There is an educational
43 opportunity to bring children there, have family time, and also go and talk about
44 this is history.

1 The playground was brought up. Mr. Gajewski stated in the Master Plan it
2 goes, it is out. There is an information building to be there, additional
3 restrooms. It would be hard to explain to the citizens that use that playground
4 but it is a special use park. The War Dog park was brought before the
5 Veteran's Advisory Board by Ms. Zahler. They have monuments appropriate
6 to significant number of veterans who have participated in those items. There
7 are only four people in New Mexico that trained and did groundwork as War
8 Dogs, and only one is alive here in Las Cruces. And he does not want a War
9 Dogs monument. The last five monuments installed in the park were raised
10 by community efforts by Richard Lewis, who recently passed. He and his
11 group raised the money to pay for the monuments. There are quite a number
12 of specialities and they could over do it, but they don't. They have over 250
13 Purple Heart recipients, 65 members are active members within their chapter.
14 There are a significant number of Vietnam Veterans that reside in the City and
15 county.

16
17 Chair McClure asked what he would tell the neighborhood residents that use
18 the playground. Rod Gajewski stated the Master Plan states that would go
19 away. He mentioned that if you entered or left the service as a resident of
20 Doña Ana County and to the wall committee you present your DD214 and then
21 you can be on that wall. Sgt. First Class Ray Rodriguez was the 204th resident
22 who was killed in Afghanistan.

23
24 Vice-Chair Engle asked about the open space on the west with the Master
25 Plan. Rod Gajewski stated that would be cut out from practices and items like
26 that. The concept is it could be a cemetery. He mentioned that on Monday's
27 the trash cans at Veteran's Memorial Park can be overflowing and trash around
28 the areas.

29
30 Larry Nichols stated it should be designated as a special use park, which
31 activities would be restricted to one or two uses, which differs from a general
32 use park. One people have the idea of a memorial park in mind the usage
33 becomes more to the purpose of the special use. Before you are two goals,
34 one to get recommendation to the City Manager that the grounds be
35 recognized for the purpose of the veterans remembrance, and also that the
36 Veteran's Advisory Board duty and authority is to recommend facility
37 improvement to the City Manager and City Council to maintain the facility. He
38 believes that would go a long way to governing how the different usage of the
39 park from different people.

40
41 Board Member Schuller mentioned that the facility improvement then shifts to
42 the City Manager and City Council, does that then shift from Parks and
43 Recreation maintaining that facility. What comments have been made and
44 what resources are available? Larry Nichols stated it brought to this Board for
45 a recommendation to the City Manager. It does not mean that the
46 maintenance of the park would move. Chair McClure stated there needs to be

1 clarity on that as it says, "maintain the facility." Franco Granillo stated if it is
2 going to be a special use facility and going to veterans use only, then the
3 maintenance will have to be looked at as Parks and Recreation would not be
4 able to maintain it as it should be in that situation. He believes it would be best
5 to treat as a private area to be contracted or maintenance turned over to
6 others. He stated the west side of the facility, the memorial walkway would be
7 extended down west on the left hand side of the field that is there now. There
8 are utilities under the field and those could be used to light and water the
9 extension of the memorial walkway. Rod Gajewski stated each of the 13
10 veterans organizations has a month where they do limited park maintenance.
11 Franco Granillo stated they do have a good partnership with the veterans
12 groups. He feels it should be dedicated maintenance daily for the level it
13 requires and the use. It is on a system so they see it once or twice a week
14 only instead of daily and they count on the veterans groups to let the City know
15 when something is out of place.

16
17 It was asked if the City maintains other cemeteries. There are cemeteries
18 under City property but not under the Parks and Recreation maintenance
19 schedule.

20
21 Vice-Chair Engle moved that they table this action item until the July 21st
22 meeting; Board Member Schuller seconded.

23
24 Vice-Chair Engle stated he recognizes the deep significance of the location to
25 the veterans, but the worry is the loss of open space for the community
26 members in the area. Also to be able to consider more carefully. Board
27 Member Schuller would like to revisit the Master Plan for this park. She wants
28 to be sure it is in line with removal of the playground equipment, and the long-
29 term vision of that park is and coming in line. Her other concern is vandalism
30 and that the cameras have helped reduce that. Also discuss some additional
31 signage in the short term. Chair McClure added that there should be a
32 consideration about expending, especially if there is a need for enforcement
33 that can be enabled by saying there is a clear delineation between a Veteran's
34 Memorial Park and public park. Truncating it is going to add in anybody's mind
35 that it isn't a park, expansion of the parking lot, car shows there, there will be
36 similar problems. Signage will help. Looking at the Master Plan again is going
37 to help for the Board to be able to say these are some of the aspects that are
38 needed, and have the veterans consider as well to move forward with a name
39 change in the future.

40
41 Roll Call Vote:

42 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

43 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

44 Chair McClure- Aye.

45 Motion carried unanimously.

46

1 They would like to see the Master Plan, the LCPD reports of the vandalism
2 and what Parks and Recreation has done with the cameras etc. to ramp up
3 enforcement in the area.
4

5 **7. Future Discussion/Task Listing:**
6

7 **7.1 FY23 Budget – Joy Ann Lucero, Management Analyst, Parks &**
8 **Recreation:**
9

10 Joy Ann Lucero stated the total Parks and Recreation by program. Special
11 revenue funds, state, local, and federal grants, legislative appropriations and
12 donations. There are 13 programs which include with the budget: Office of
13 the Director \$5.1 million; Special Projects; Construction Maintenance; Keep
14 Las Cruces Beautiful \$164,000; Medians and ROWs (Right-of-Way); Parks,
15 Sports Fields and Community Forestry \$11,600,000; Health and Fitness;
16 Community Recreation \$1.5 million; Employee Wellness; Skills Development
17 \$579,000; Community Events \$606,000; Out of School Time; and Youth
18 Development and Diversion \$395,000. The grand total of \$28,040,752 budget.
19

20 General fund only and by program: Personnel, operating, and capital. Special
21 Projects has \$407,000; Medians and ROW \$1.3 million; Health and Fitness
22 \$2.4 million; Employee Wellness \$126,000; Community Events \$604,000; Out
23 of School Time \$1.1 million. General fund total budget for FY23 is
24 \$18,165,000.
25

26 Every year there is an opportunity to request additional budget on top of the
27 status quo budget. A list of additional requested was shown. With the new
28 50-meter pool need four full time positions and operating budget; with East
29 Mesa Public Recreation Complex opening need eight full time positions and
30 operating budget; asking for one park operations district manager; also for two
31 park maintenance workers for the south, as well as two for the north; asked for
32 one project manager; and on Parks and Recreation Deputy Director. Of the
33 requests, the top five were approved, but the pool was \$749,000 and East
34 Mesa Complex was \$782,000 those were lowered to \$562,000 and \$524,000.
35 Total of additional requests are \$1.5 million.
36

37 One of the biggest expenses is temp agency. A breakdown of programs that
38 use temps and their contribution was shown. First is Out of School time they
39 receive \$7,000 which is used for monitor positions as needed. Construction
40 Maintenance received \$20,000 and this is for one temp that performs daily
41 duties listed. Community Forestry received \$35,000 for one full time temp to
42 help with tree planting and removal, as well as community garden
43 maintenance. Special Projects and Construction Maintenance, those
44 programs share a budget of \$62,000 for one temp to assist with CIP projects
45 and public input meetings. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful received \$71,000 for
46 two temps to assist with graffiti removal in the City. Medians and ROWs

1 received \$118,000, for three full time temps. Health and Fitness, \$148,000,
2 for a certified pool operator and to help for positions with the new pool. Parks
3 received \$459,000, that covers 14 temps for the listed duties and they work on
4 weekends. Sports Fields, received \$468,000, need 14 temps to prep sports
5 fields and to help with nonathletic fields, including dog park, Butterfield
6 shooting range, the archery range, and the wetlands. Total temp agency
7 budget is over \$1.3 million.
8

9 General revenue fund collected from programs, classes, leagues, all charged
10 activities. Pre-shutdown the City received \$829,000. During the shutdown it
11 dropped to about \$45,000. Now back up to \$450,000 in revenue. This is lower
12 than the past due to the after school program being free now. It was free
13 starting December 2021, before then it brought in \$225,000.
14

15 Parks budget compared to other departments. For FY23 the Police has almost
16 \$30 million, Fire \$21 million and Parks is second highest in the City at \$28
17 million.
18

19 CIP projects, a partial list was shown as it is a very long list. A few include,
20 skate park improvements, Chandler Tank Phase 1, BMX Track parking lot and
21 ADA improvements, Tortugas trail, Doña Ana Move trail, new skate park plan
22 and design, A. Fielder Memorial, Safe Haven renovations, Burn Lake shelters
23 and improvements, park and security lighting, Sonoma Ranch Mile 2,
24 Women's Veteran's Monument lighting repairs, and Abuelo Park playground
25 equipment installation. All the projects on the current slide have been
26 completed as of FY22. Other projects that are not on the CIP, Lions handball
27 wall painting, disc golf course design, Lions handball court surfacing repairs,
28 we planted 257 trees and removed 250 trees. Installing two more benches at
29 Paz Ballfield and Young Park. Poured a slab for Veteran's Monument and
30 awaiting the monument. Updated a media room for teen programming.
31 Painted the exterior and exterior of East Mesa Recreation Center.
32

33 FY22 community events. This is a partial list: Music in the Park; Movies in the
34 Park; Family Game Nights; assisted with National Night Out; Pumpkin
35 Palooza; the Candy Drop; Father/Daughter Dance; Mayor's Jazz Fest;
36 Mother's Day Concert; Tree Lighting; 4th of July; 4th of July Electric Light
37 Parade. Total community events that Parks and Rec held or assisted with in
38 FY22 was 72.
39

40 Reservations and registrations for FY22 was shown, including free programs
41 including gymnastics; land and water fitness classes; 23,000 went to the
42 weight room; adult sports 148 teams enrolled; recreational sports over 4,000;
43 open swim over 30,000; therapeutics over 10,000; park and trail reservations
44 725. A grand total of 119,334 reservations and registrations.
45

46 Full time positions. This year there were 122 full time positions. With the

1 newly approved 17 positions that were granted, they will start FY23 with a total
2 of 139 full time positions.

3
4 Lastly shows the cities that are similar in population and budget compared to
5 Las Cruces. This does not include population density. City of Las Cruces has
6 population around 102,000 and we have a budget of \$28 million. Yuma,
7 Arizona, population 97,000, budget \$19 million. Allen, Texas, population
8 106,000, budget \$16 million. Boulder, Colorado, population 108,000, budget
9 \$28 million. The City of Las Cruces has a budget 40% more than Yuma,
10 Arizona; a budget 69% more than Allen, Texas; and only a 1% difference
11 between us and Boulder, Colorado.

12
13 Vice-Chair Engle asked to return to budget request that was less than
14 requested and how is that going to affect. Joy Ann Lucero stated for the new
15 pool and for East Mesa Public Recreation Complex they requested a full year
16 budget, but since they are not going to be open until after December, these
17 numbers reflect half a year. The following fiscal year they will ask for enough
18 for a full year.

19
20 Board Member Schuller asked why the use of temps instead of hiring. Joy
21 Ann Lucero stated they have discussed that with administration for several
22 years. A full time park maintenance worker, including benefits, was less than
23 \$5,000 more than a temp, they would be a City employee, stay longer, receive
24 benefits. Now with the new administration, they are geared more toward temp
25 agencies. Robert Nunez stated they utilize the temp services for the transition
26 of hiring contractor part time staff. It can take 6-10 weeks to get people hired
27 so the temp service fills the gaps with vacancies. Franco Granillo stated they
28 had part time on the staff 8-9 years ago, by state law if they are only part time
29 they have to sit out for 90 days so they don't receive benefits. So losing those
30 staff members for 90 days then the whole process begins for hiring again. He
31 cannot have ballfields, trails, and areas go without maintenance for 90 days.
32 They are trained and have the same equipment and so they are one step
33 ahead for becoming hired.

34
35 Chair McClure stated we are comparing to other cities and it seems like
36 Boulder, Colorado there is a lot of focus on outdoor recreation too. Wish there
37 was more consideration on how does quality of life factor in, how is quality of
38 life here versus Allen, Texas. She suggested population is not necessarily the
39 end all.

40
41 **7.2 Gallagher Park Renovations Update – Catherine Mathews, Landscape**
42 **Architect, Parks & Recreation:**

43
44 MOVED TO PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF
45 JULY 21, 2022.

1 **7.3 Parks & Recreation Project Update – Catherine Mathews, Landscape**
2 **Architect, Parks & Recreation:**

3
4 MOVED TO PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF
5 JULY 21, 2022.
6

7 **8. Staff Member Comments:**
8

9 Robert Nunez update on out of school time programs. They are in full swing in the
10 summer. It is a very short summer, four weeks away from the school year returns.
11 A lot of field trips, swimming, outdoor activities. K-5 programs are very active. Teen
12 programs are doing a lot of partnerships with NMSU, Friends of the Organ
13 Mountains, some repelling last week. Positive of stories in regards to some of the
14 teenagers with difficulty with trust with adults. And it got them involved with the
15 contractor present as well as City staff. There was an increase from COVID year of
16 number of participants, but not where we should be at. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful,
17 final report is due July 5th. Also saw an increase from COVID year and slowly
18 climbing back to regular numbers. Team Up to Clean Up in District 5 this Saturday,
19 on Thurman and Sonoma Ranch. Also Holman Road and Bataan Memorial West.
20

21 Board Member Schuller asked about not charging for the out of school programs
22 and was that one time deal or permanent. Robert Nunez stated that was presented
23 to the City Council and they approved as transition through COVID and out of
24 COVID. Looking for at least one fiscal year of providing some services to the
25 families. Traditionally they were charging \$400 a semester for after school program
26 and \$200 a month for the summer programs. They are looking to do that beginning
27 of fall. Sometime in the fall they will present to Council for further direction.
28

29 Franco Granillo talked about RecTrac, program for registration. They are looking at
30 getting this online for July 9th event. The staff is looking at testing two different tasks
31 to get the registration online. If for some reason they are not able to get this online
32 via their guidelines or restrictions, it will give Phil time to alter his setup for
33 registration so nobody is standing around.
34

35 **9. Board Member Comments:**
36

37 Vice-Chair Engle stating that the budget it is nice to see Parks and Rec is just up
38 there. Nice to be able to spend that kind of money on our community. Greatly
39 appreciate that and all the hard work the department does.
40

41 Chair McClure stated it was interesting to see 72 events. She went to the Capital
42 Improvements Advisory Committee meeting earlier and she suggests an update on
43 Apodaca. Frank Carril spoke to them as well and had issues in terms of master plan
44 and whatnot. Get that story out there with use and trust as it is a great story.
45

46 **10. Adjournment:**

1
2 Board Member Schuller moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

3
4 Roll Call Vote:

5 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

6 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

7 Chair McClure- Aye.

8 Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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11
12
13
14 _____
Chairperson

DRAFT