

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

July 16, 2020

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on July 16, 2020 at 6:02 p.m. via zoom.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

Robert Harrison
Cassie McClure
Stan Engle
Eric Montgomery

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

Maryln Zahler
Eli Guzman
Megan Schuller

Others Present:

Sonya Delgado, Parks and Recreation Director
Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager
Cathy Mathew, Landscape Administrator
Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator
Tony Trevino, Interim Public Works Deputy Director
David Sedillo, Interim Public Works Director
Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator
Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator
Ceci Vasconcellos, Community Engagement Office
Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architect, Public Works
Jennifer Morrow, Interim Engineering & Architectural Section
James Woods, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of July 16, 2020 via Zoom was brought to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Harrison and recognized as having a legal quorum.

1 Introductions

1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

Board members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

1.2 Parks and Recreation Staff

Staff introduced themselves and stated their position.

2 Conflict of Interest

No Conflict of Interest.

3 Approval of Agenda

Ms. McClure moved to table item 8.2 FY21 Budget until the August 20, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Vote:

Eric - Aye

Cassie – Aye

Stan – Aye

Robert – Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4 Approval of Minutes

Ms. McClure moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Vote:

Cassie - Aye

Eric – Aye

Stan – Aye

Robert – Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

5 Public Participation

No public comment received by email.

6 Old Business

6.1 Board Elections (Action) – Dr. Robert Harrison, Board Chair

Mr. Montgomery moved to nominate Ms. McClure to be Board Chair, seconded by Mr. Engle.

Ms. McClure accepted nomination.

Vote:

Eric – Aye

Stan – Aye

Cassie – Aye

Robert – Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McClure moved to nominate Mr. Engle as Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. Mr.

Engle accepted nomination.

Vote:

Eric – Aye

Cassie – Aye

Robert – Aye
Stan – Aye
Motion carried unanimously.

7 Action Items

7.1 Go Bond Project/Unidad Park – Tony Trevino, Interim Deputy Director, Public Works

Mr. Tony Trevino provided a presentation via You Tube that had been previously presented to the public (second public meeting) for comments on the Unidad Park Playground Rehabilitation and Splash Pad Addition and informed the Board he hoped at the end of the presentation to gain their support to move on with the next phase of the project and get the frontal design and construction going. The presentation was by Dekker/Perich/Sabatini, narrated by Mimi Burns, Principal/Landscape Architect. The purpose of the presentation was to show how the project is progressing. The presentation covered 1) Introduction - background on the playground and project, 2) Information on the previous public meeting, 3) Design Presentation - current state of the rehabilitation plan, and 4) Next Steps for the project. Mentioned and pointed out during the presentation was:

- What would be preserved – turf, park signage, church steeples, twin towers, sun dial and tile walls, donor signs (to relocate), pergola, swings, trees, shade structures and wood fencing
- What would be removed (for conditions, safety concerns, ADA compliance concerns) – asphalt, deck, beehive and structure turf, trees, wood fencing, wood platforms, play structures, wood seating and curbs.
- Proposed improvements: - renovation of sun dial/new painted marking, renovation of twin Towers (sand + stain), rehabilitation of Church steeples, new play equipment (2-5 years old), new play equipment (5-12 years old), renovation of existing shade structures, renovation/preservation of decorative wood fence, improvements in the driveway and parking area; improved crosswalk and ramp connection to existing restroom, new sidewalk, new splash pad, addition of trees, new pump cabinet, new maintenance gate, rehabilitation of trellis (sand + stain + replace beams), reuse of existing picket fence around splash pad perimeter, overflow parking and entrance.
- Next steps – collect public comments on design, develop construction documents to present rehabilitation design to public and City Council, final public meeting, bidding and construction.

Chair McClure asked if the wooden boat was being removed. Response was yes.

Mr. Montgomery asked if there were any concerns about the introduction of a splash pad and the ongoing maintenance specific to splash pads. Ms. Catherine Mathews responded that maintenance is a concern in all these projects and that the splash pad was identified in the Go Bond question. The Go Bond fund are specifically designated to include a splash pad and the original concept of Unidad included a water play feature back when it was first constructed, first designed, first conceived of. Ms. Mathews said yes there will be maintenance required, and yes,

the design team is working very closely with the aquatic's maintenance staff in Parks and Recreation to address those concerns as much as possible to make the design maintainable.

Chair McClure asked if the action sought is to take this to the next public comment version? Mr. Trevino said with the support from the Parks and Recreation Board, the action sought would be to move forward with the design of the project and then go to City Council for their approval on this concept.

Mr. Harrison said he heard from the presentation that there was no recirculating of water and asked how the water would be recycled? Mr. Trevino said it would be similar to how it is at Metro Verde Park, where it goes straight into sanitary sewer system and gets dumped into the sewer and then discharges into the treatment plant. He added that with funding the way it was, it is planned for the future, with all the plumbing infrastructure room, to convert this as soon as possible into a recirculating system.

Mr. Harrison added something to keep in mind, at the Ron Gall T-ball fields, there are a lot of families and youth that could run across the easement, and in the aspect of the surfacing between the parking lot to splash pad, to make sure there isn't 1) any dirt or other things that would clog the system and 2) what are thoughts on the dirt and water mix on the surfacing and surrounding surfacing. Mr. Trevino said they haven't gotten that far in design as far as mulching around the trees at this point and dirt and debris coming into the splash pad would be addressed in the next phase.

Chair McClure said question coming in from You Tube from Mr. Gregory Shervanick –Is the cost for power of the splash pad in the budget? Mr. Trevino response was yes.

Chair McClure asked how much it cost to run a splash pad. To clarify, Ms. Mathew said she doesn't have those costs off hand but can get those costs on a monthly or annual basis for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Harrison moved to approve the Go Bond Project/Unidad Park to forward to City Council, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. Harrison added comment that it would be nice to have something ADA or stroller friendly for use of the splash pad. Chair McClure concurred.

Vote:

- Mr. Harrison - Aye
- Mr. Montgomery – Aye
- Chair McClure – Aye
- Mr. Engle – Aye -

Motion carried unanimously.

8 Discussion Items

8.1 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Update – James Wood, KLCB Program

Mr. James Wood of Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Program informed the Board with COVID 19 in effect since mid-March, he wasn't able to complete a lot of his programming – major clean-ups, Adopt a Spot clean-ups, youth subcontract clean-ups, which resulted in graffiti picking up and trash build up in certain areas.

Mr. Woods added he is looking forward to fiscal year 2021. Grant funding in the amount of \$42,053.00 has been from New Mexico Clean and Beautiful, which Mr. Woods said is the largest award received since he has been the Keep Las Cruces Clean and Beautiful Coordinator. Of that funding, \$8,000 will go for cleanup supplies, \$2,500 for educational materials, \$4,500 for promotional materials, \$4,500 for recycle bins, \$3,000 for Adopt a Spot signage, \$5,500 for graffiti abatement, \$6,000 for youth group clean ups, \$5,400 set aside for work studies, \$650 for Keep America Beautiful membership dues, \$2,000 for the Keep America Beautiful Annual Conference.

Mr. Woods informed the Board he and Mr. Robert Nunez are looking into purchasing a new or used bus or van to help with graffiti abatement because the current vehicle is on its last leg.

Mr. Woods said he is looking forward to FY21 and hopefully COVID 19 will slow down and to KLCB can move forward in improving our community to looking better than last year.

Chair McClure congratulated Mr. Woods on his largest award.

Mr. Harrison asked where youth groups find out about applying to help out KLCB. Mr. Woods said information is on the website about youth applying for a stipend. Mr. Woods said KLCB does require those groups attend the major clean ups and stay consistent and stay in contact and volunteer in other clean up events. He added KLCB is limited to 20 groups.

8.2 Parks and Recreation FY21 Budget – Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks and Recreation

Item 8.2 was tabled under Item 3 - Approval of Agenda.

9 Staff Member Comments

Ms. Mathews informed the Board on work accomplished by the Special Projects team. Recently completed:

- Metro Verde Subdivision Linear Park, which runs along a stretch of Red Hawk Golf Road and includes a multiuse trail with exercise stations located along the length of the trail. It also includes a drinking fountain which is operational but shut down currently to help folks to comply with the COVID 19 safe practices and not to congregate. Ms. Mathews said the trail is well used already with folks walking or bike riding on the trail or in the vicinity.
- Also, in a part of the Metro Verde Subdivision, in Metro Park Village, there is a new park that the City has accepted called, for working purposes, the Tower Park. The park has an

intriguing playground on it and an expanse of turf grass so that the neighbors in the vicinity can have some active play space and some passive play space too with the trail.

- Regarding Chandler Tank, Ms. Mathews said her team has been working with a developer in the area to install irrigation and shade trees along the existing multi use path next to Chandler Tank. She said within the right of way of Sonoma Ranch Blvd. adjacent to Chandler Tank, an irrigation system has been installed with climate appropriate trees that will grow up and provide a shaded area for folks to use the multi-use path.

Mr. Nunez informed the Board that along with Mr. Woods KLCB updates, he is also including a YCC grant over the next six months regarding a community collaboration project. It will be for more than one mural project throughout the city. His team is working internally with the Public Arts Coordinator to identify some locations, then will hire six YCC crew members, 16 – 24 years of age, and over the next months be able to provide some beautification murals throughout our city. One area being looked at is the Kohls' underpass, which has been hit on a regular basis with graffiti. Other locations will be identified that may help assist to minimize the negative graffiti that is going around. Mr. Nunez added a beautiful mural will be something positive for people to appreciate and for individuals to not deface that area any longer. Mr. Nunez the position for the YCC crew members will be advertised soon as have until December 31 for project completion.

Mr. Nunez informed the Board the Juvenile Citation Program are in virtual classes since mid-April, 1st of May, and have been going well. The program finished this last fiscal year grant – they weren't able to expend all funds and so are already looking to move forward to Council FY21's grant from Children's Youth & Family Department, to get that agreement set up and identify partners in the community that will be able to assist with that program.

Mr. Nunez informed the Board the Out of School Time Programs have started up July 15, 2020. There is a total of five sites, about 70 youth, with a five to one ratio per Safe Practices and Governor's orders. The Teens at Meerscheidt is the largest site with 20 youth. They are doing art projects, playing pickle ball, social distancing, wearing their masks, washing their hands regularly, and they are enjoying themselves. Mr. Nunez said it is great to see the youth really embrace the new normal and follow directions, along with staff. The other locations – A. Fielder Memorial/Weed & Seed, East Mesa Recreation Center, Benavidez Community Center each have ten youth, and Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center has 15 youth. Staff, thinking outside the box, are positive on what's going on, utilizing technology. Youth are recreating, exercising. They are provided breakfast, lunch, some locations have dinner.

Mr. Nunez said with the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) doing remote learning to start the year affects our programming. He said he is reaching out to LCPS on possibility of getting access to the schools, and what we can do to help the families and youth. He has also met with his Out of School time team to throw some options together on what to do. Mr. Nunez said he is hoping to get something started for the fall but right now, the number one thing is to make sure everyone is safe, healthy and knowledgeable.

Chair McClure asked how much of a dent has personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitation affected the budget. Ms. Delgado said things are paid on the front end, but there is a federal grant coming out for Covid that lets us track expenses for reimbursement.

Mr. Catanach informed the Board the recreation section programming continues. Lap lanes are open at the Regional Aquatic Center and Frenger Pool. The walking channel and the upstairs fitness center is open at the Regional Aquatic Center. He added starting this week, participants will be required to wear a mask at the upstairs fitness center. Recreation staff continues to do virtual programming – educational and instructional videos – hiking and biking.

Mr. Catanach informed the Board 4th of July activities just finished – fireworks display and virtual parade which went very well.

Mr. Catanach informed the Board the Virtual Music in the Park has moved forward, with seven videos out so far and the next one coming out July 19, 2020. The videos are getting a lot of hits so there is very good reception. There are still 20 of 34 left to video. Mr. Catanach said staff is excited and he is very proud of his staff for all the stuff they have done during this period.

Mr. Granillo informed the Board he last updated them his staff was beginning to catch up from being off due to COVID. He said staff has done a really good job on catching up with their routine maintenance and all their park areas. The parks and medians are looking good thru the Clean Sweep Program and have caught up to the three-week cycle. Ballfields are still closed, and that staff is working on trails and doing a good job keeping them up for the public to use. Trails, Gomez Park, Frenger Park, La Llorona Park, and Twin Parks are open. The construction crew is helping Ms. Mathews and her special projects team to finish some internal projects.

Mr. Granillo informed the Board the trees on Hadley Street are suffering. He said a lot of people thought it was herbicide damage or something else, but it is due to a mite. He added it is city wide and happening in El Paso and Albuquerque. Staff is working with their Community Foresters to see what their plan of attack is, but for now will try to treat it with a spray recommended by Jeff Anderson. If it doesn't work, will remove the trees later in the year and replace them immediately.

Ms. Vasconcellos said she has no comments.

Ms. Nevarez reminded Board members to notify her in advance of Board meetings if they will be in attendance so she knows if a quorum will be present.

Ms. Delgado informed the Board the LCPS agreement is in hand and staff will meet with them July 17, 2020. From there the agreement will have to go to their Board and to the State, and it will also go to City Council.

Ms. Delgado informed the Board the Full Court Fiesta agreement has been finalized and this project at Klein Park with the basketball court will be launched in about two to three weeks.

Ms. Delgado informed the Board the next agreement coming up for review is the Pal Boxing agreement. Their lease is up, and they have already had two or three different one-year renewals as part of the whole lease when they first attained it, so it now has to be reopened to see if anyone else is interested. Staff will be working with Purchasing to get a request for proposal out soon.

Ms. Delgado said she wanted to say Thank You to the entire Parks and Recreation team. They've been doing an outstanding job trying to figure out how to continue to offer services and programs and keep everyone safe, not just team members but also our community members who come

and participate in our programs. She said they have done a phenomenal job and are still coming up with some new ideas.

Ms. Jennifer Morrow had no comments.

10 Board Member Comments

Mr. Montgomery expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr. Harrison for his leadership this past year and the year before, and for his patience with him as a new member on the Board. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Engle for the continuation as Vice Chair and appreciates Chair McClure for stepping into the position as Chair. Mr. Montgomery also expressed thanks to staff for all that they have been doing.

Mr. Harrison congratulated Chair McClure on her post as Chair and said her connections, her visions that she sees around with different people is wonderful for the Board, and Mr. Engle as well.

Mr. Harrison clarified with Sonya when she talked about the LCPS agreement, that it was about the soccer fields. Ms. Delgado concurred.

Mr. Harrison asked, with the ballfields not being utilized, if staff has been furloughed, let go, or transferred to a different area. Ms. Delgado responded the entire Parks and Recreation team is intact, no one is on furlough, the City of Las Cruces doesn't have anyone on furlough. She added that staff that normally takes care of the ballfields are helping with the trails which have a lot of use.

Mr. Harrison express Kudos to Mr. Nunez for the great job he has done with the Out of School Time program.

Mr. Engle congratulated Chair McClure for being voted to Chair.

Mr. Engle said with the trails getting more use, it would be good to touch on at the next meeting the enforcement of mask rules and social distancing.

Chair McClure said it warms her heart to see people on the Triviz Trail and making use of it. She said she had never seen it so packed before.

Chair McClure congratulated staff for doing things like finally showing her where Slot Canyon is as she finally saw Shaunna Foster's video – thank you. She said she will also try other videos with her children – how to do soccer drills - this is fantastic use to do things online if can't do them in person.

11 Adjournment

Mr. Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.
Vote:

Mr. Montgomery – Aye

Mr. Harrison – Aye

Mr. Engle – Aye

Chair McClure - Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair

DRAFT