



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

July 21, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on July 12, 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
- Sonya Delgado, Director, Parks and Recreation
- Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Tony Trevino, Public Works
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of July 21, 2022, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. Introduction:

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

2. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

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

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

11
12 **4.1.** Vice-Chair Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
13 Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2022, seconded by Board Member Schuller.

14
15 Roll Call Vote:

16 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

17 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

18 Chair McClure- Aye.

19 Motion carried unanimously.
20

21 **4.2.** Vice-Chair Engle stated there was a change on page 8, line 34 which reads
22 "Veterans Memorial Park and Public Park" and it should read "Veterans
23 Memorial and Public Park." Board Member Schuller moved to approve with
24 amended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of June
25 16, 2022, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

26
27 Roll Call Vote:

28 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

29 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

30 Chair McClure- Aye.

31 Motion carried unanimously.
32

33 **5. Public Participation:**

34
35 There was none.
36

37 **6. Old Business - Action:**

38
39 **6.1 Renaming Veterans Memorial Park – Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks &
40 Recreation:**

41
42 Sonya Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director stated she wanted to visit with
43 the Veterans Advisory Board, which their meeting is next week Tuesday. She
44 wanted to show the presentation she is going to give the Veterans Advisory
45 Board as she does have questions about what their intention is and explain
46 that to this Board. She has not been a part of the conversations and there

1 were a few meetings held. And she wants to get that information to pass it on
2 to this Board. She is asking for this to be tabled for next month's meeting
3 giving her time to visit with the Veterans Advisory Board next week.
4

5 There are different types of parks in Las Cruces. General use parks, pocket
6 parks, neighborhood parks, community and regional parks. Athletic ballfields,
7 courts, softball, baseball, etc. Specialty parks, skate park, horseshoe courts,
8 BMX tracks, RC airport. Anyone can visit the parks as they are open from
9 dawn to dusk, unless a speciality area. Anyone can permit a particular portion
10 of the park, and also permit the entire park, and there are fees with permitting
11 parks which do include insurance requirements as well, depending on the
12 activity. The Renaissance Fair was mentioned who petition and permit the
13 entire Young Park for three to four days. Parks and Rec helps with some setup
14 and tear down. The permitter provided insurance. The park is assessed prior
15 to after for damage.
16

17 Speciality parks with athletic fields, there are tournaments. They are only used
18 for tournament style play. In the baseball they can use the outfield for football,
19 flag football, smaller scale soccer tournaments, but it is for athletic play. Those
20 fields are not open for practices, nor for general use permits. It has to be
21 associated with some type of athletic play that can be played on that particular
22 field or court. There are specialty parks with limited access, which means it is
23 either restrictions, fenced or gated in, has specific hours of operation, has a
24 specific program. Those can also be rented if all requirements are met for that
25 particular area. They also have to have insurance, the activity that fits that
26 particular area. Usually with the speciality parks that have limited access,
27 there is a group that helps the City take care of the facility.
28

29 Example, RC Airport, there is an organization, a 501(c)(3), and they operate
30 that facility for the City, including opening and close. The City helps maintain
31 it. It is only used for RC Airport activities. They also have a board and keys
32 to the facility. That facility is only accessible if someone from that board is
33 there on site. Parks and Rec, and Utilities, as they do share that space to
34 make sure the hours are set. And there is an agreement in place to utilize that
35 space just for those types of activities. They have to provide insurance for
36 their group and for the activities that happen there. Last week at the RC Airport
37 there was a competition with the remote control airplanes that came in.
38 Everyone has to have insurance, the event itself has to have insurance for that
39 facility as well. Even though there is an agreement with Parks and Rec, they
40 have to make sure everyone is going to be safe, follow the rules. There are
41 specific guidelines that they are responsible for helping Parks and Rec be sure
42 are followed.
43

44 There are special use parks and facilities which accommodate unique
45 recreations activities. RC track, Butterfield shooting range, horseshoe courts,
46 and the skate park. At those locations, those are the only types of activities

1 that are going to happen there, i.e. no soccer or softball or picnics or family
2 reunion at these areas. These facilities are gated with specific open and close
3 times, and there are groups that work with the Parks and Rec with these
4 speciality parks.
5

6 She mentioned the last presentation there was the Community Development,
7 Larry Nichols, who is also the liaison for the Veterans Advisory Board, he used
8 the example of the Lush 'n Lean demonstration park which is on Picacho. The
9 Lush 'n Lean is considered a speciality park which can be rented. It is open
10 dawn to dusk. No softball will be played as it is not big enough. You can use
11 it anytime, no reservation, but reservations can be made. It is a speciality park,
12 but it is open and has full access. She would have liked to have explained
13 better how the speciality use parks work and there really are two different
14 types, and figure out which way the veterans were wanting to go because there
15 are some different things that happen for both. This is the main reason she is
16 meeting with them next week.
17

18 Public access on speciality parks, it is for a specific activity or sport. Public is
19 welcome anytime it is open. It also can be permitted. This includes the skate
20 park, the shooting range, tennis courts which have tournaments there and also
21 other groups come in to utilize, as well as the schools, and pickleball courts.
22

23 Veterans Memorial Park now is open to the public and it is dawn to dusk. It
24 does have green spaces, a gazebo, picnic areas. It is first come, first serve,
25 unless it is permitted. Permitted areas are available on a first come, first
26 service basis also. There are multiple access points, a trail, wetlands, and a
27 parking lot. Parks and Rec has been asked why they permit soccer teams and
28 baseball teams, and they do not. The parks are first come, first serve. There
29 is no permitting any practice teams on any of the parks. There are some
30 athletic fields that are permitted for practice and that is rotated. There is a
31 process to get one of the fields at the main administrative office, but anyone
32 can go to any park if there is an open space and they can play or they can
33 practice and do whatever, it's first come, first serve. They permit birthday
34 parties, family gatherings, etc.
35

36 The amenities at Veterans Memorial Park, there are over 20 monuments, a
37 playground, and open green space, picnic tables and grills, a gazebo that
38 includes the shade, electrical, lighting, and security cameras, walking path that
39 goes around the entire area, and then a trail that comes in through the bottom
40 end of the park, public restroom, and some parking.
41

42 The question that Sonya Delgado is going to ask the Veterans Advisory Board
43 to forward to this Board, Why change the name? What does that do? By
44 changing the name what does that get them, what is their end goal? What do
45 you want to accomplish? What will make this park different than all the others?
46 Are there any specific changes that they are looking for? We all need to be

1 on the same page. She will have to answer those questions upon moving
2 forward and she wants to be completely clear to avoid misspeaking for the
3 City, Veterans Advisory Board members, and the Parks and Rec Advisory
4 Board. She really wants to hear from the Veterans Advisory Board and feels
5 that is very important.
6

7 Chair McClure asked if there was a way to stipulate the type of permits for a
8 speciality park. Sonya Delgado stated they could do that, but that again is a
9 reason for asking what the Veterans Advisory Board is looking for. Vice-Chair
10 Engle stated the Parks and Rec Master Plan still includes the playground area
11 and that the Veterans Advisory Board said that was definitely going to be
12 removed. Questioned why there are conflicting information. Sonya Delgado
13 stated the master plan has been a few years, and talked about how the park
14 could grow and making sure there was a trail for people to get through. It went
15 back and forth on whether the playground should stay/removed/moved or
16 changed to something that would reflect the veterans. It is still being
17 discussed. When it voted on it was still in the master plan, however if the
18 Veterans Advisory Board would like to change that, the master plan can be
19 brought back to them and they can clarify anything that is on there. Moving
20 forward if there are other changes to be made, for example remove the grills,
21 we would bring that process back because in the master plan there are grills
22 in there. What ever happens in the future needs to be reflected in the master
23 plan, including possible graveyard/mausoleum. Chair McClure would also like
24 to get the LCPD and vandalism for the next meeting, like after the cameras
25 were placed and the effects of that. Sonya Delgado stated since the cameras
26 were placed there have been two reports, one for animal control, and the other
27 was for a welfare check on someone that was in the parking lot. It has been
28 requested to call non-emergency just to make sure they don't have anything,
29 but no response was received prior to this meeting.
30

31 Rod Gajewski, the Vice-Chair of the Veterans Advisory Board and adjutant for
32 the Purple Heart Group which is part of the board. He wanted to clarify that
33 they do not want to keep the people that live across the street out of the park.
34 They want the park designated as a special use park. It is educational. It is
35 for the people to understand the ultimate sacrifices and the general sacrifice
36 that have been made, representing 10% of the community. Cathy Mathews
37 appeared before the Veterans Advisory Board and the Board approved a
38 pathway for additional monuments that goes all the way to the lower grass
39 area. The vandalism has subsided, but there had been some significant
40 vandalism. He stated this is not a park to have practices and a general
41 playground. It is a memorial to the veterans of the community. He is looking
42 forward to Sonya attending the Veterans Advisory Board and her presentation.
43 He mentioned vandalism in all parks and the bathrooms at Young Park have
44 been redone numerous times. Some of the vandalism at Veterans Memorial
45 Park is little stuff, such as the half wall with benches that have holes in them.
46 The holes are for flag poles for special events. When they have the special

1 events they have to go with a spoon to get into the hole because kids come
2 into the park and fill them full of the rocks that are on the ground in that area.
3 Every month they have a different veteran group in the community that helps
4 the Park and Rec department do general clean up. They want to be
5 educational, but not as a playground. Within 30 feet of the playground is the
6 gold star mothers monument that honors the mothers and fathers who lost
7 loved ones. Maybe not get rid of the playground but certainly move it
8 someplace else. He mentioned there were no parties or quinceneras at Lush
9 'n Lean. People come into the park and have parties and tape things onto the
10 pergola and removing the tape removes the paint which then becomes a
11 constant maintenance issue. They do not want kids riding through the middle
12 of the park and through the monuments, or ATVs.

13
14 Board Member Schuller stated she understands what they wish to accomplish
15 and the follow-up question is "What are the steps to get that accomplished?
16 What do you guys expect or anticipate?" Is it fencing, what is the next step?
17 And where do funds come from and how quickly to get that accomplished.
18 These questions would need to be answered by the entire Veterans Advisory
19 Board.

20
21 Rod Gajewski stated seven years ago he worked for hospice and a publication
22 was done and Las Cruces and the El Paso area, more appropriate Las Cruces
23 is the most giving community in the United States. He mentioned veterans
24 groups to help and not costing the City money to fence it. Need to start
25 somewhere and designating Veterans a special use park. He invited the board
26 to go to the park during touch/flag football season, there are designated
27 parking spaces for disabled persons and you have designated parking space
28 for veterans. The people doing the practices park nose in and block all of the
29 designated parking spaces.

30
31 Chair McClure stated that if you do not want someone in a grass area are the
32 veterans proposing to change into a rock landscape, is it going to be an
33 extension of the memorial. Because if there is an open space, and with the
34 neighborhood there, it will be used. Rod Gajewski mentioned on the East
35 Mesa there is a park coming to accommodate things like that. He mentioned
36 a large park on Espina but does not see practices there, but people are at
37 Veterans Park all the time. He also mentioned a group got a permit three/four
38 years ago and they damaged the park. They were turned down then they and
39 City staff was overridden and they were allowed to have the event and they
40 damaged the park heavily. After three years they applied again to run a
41 triathlon or whatever through the park, they were denied, including the appeal
42 process, partly because of the damage they caused. He mentioned that
43 maybe the name change isn't appropriate, but maybe the special designation
44 is. They have done all the paperwork.

1 Sonya Delgado stated she will add a question, What are the next steps? and
2 enforcement, how to enforce? She understands and is glad to hear the
3 veterans. She is going to ask that the Veterans Advisory Board work closely
4 with the Parks & Rec, with her and Franco Granillo, and the team to try and
5 figure out how to put this together. There is an open space and how to enforce
6 that. She has talked to Larry Nichols and will bring those items up at the
7 Veterans Advisory Board she wants them to understand there is a budget. Her
8 department is operations, and her job is to maintain a lot of things, not just
9 parks. She has no extra money. When she does need extra money she has
10 to go to City Council and that is done every single year. An impression was
11 given that there is no money being spent at Veterans Park and that is not true.
12 Parks and Rec find that park near and dear and have worked really hard to
13 make sure that they take care of it. They will drop what they are doing to take
14 care issues with Veterans Park. Parks and Rec has had good relationships
15 with some members on the Veterans Advisory Board. She feels like those
16 conversations should have happened already, and she is going to ask to have
17 those conversations now to put a plan together that makes sense and how to
18 get from A to Z.

19
20 Chair McClure stated her has heard two different phrases, special use and
21 speciality park, and wonders about clarification. Sonya Delgado stated that
22 will be discussed more for clarity and it really depends on what they want to
23 accomplish, and the steps to get there.

24
25 Board Member Schuller moved to table the renaming of Veterans Memorial
26 Park to the August 18th meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,
27 seconded by Vice-Chair Engle.

28
29 Roll Call Vote:

30 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

31 Board Member Schuller - Aye.

32 Chair McClure- Aye.

33 Motion carried unanimously.

34 35 **7. Old Business - Discussion:**

36 37 **7.1 Gallagher Park Renovations Update – Catherine Mathews, Landscape 38 Architect, Parks & Recreation:**

39
40 Catherine Mathews wanted to share the improvements for the park and the
41 process with the neighbors and design layout. They are going to use the
42 \$150,000 project budget the best way possible to meet the needs of the
43 neighborhood. First public meeting was on April 28th, and second was May
44 26th. The neighbors have requested improvements, and among priorities are
45 to create a gathering space, keep the play equipment, and add shade. They
46 want something unique, not typical, not standard. They identified the needs

1 versus the things that are desired, and namely safety surfacing is needed,
2 upgraded site furnishings including doggy doo bag dispensers, and shade.
3 The desired features are stormwater harvesting, solar power for lighting, game
4 tables, bulletin boards, shade. They went to the full extreme with things that
5 were desired which also spurred a lot of good conversation. Cathy presented
6 a couple of options at the May 26th meeting which also spurred a lot of
7 discussed, including frank talk about the budget and the limitations of the
8 budget.
9

10 The neighborhood looked at the options, took a vote about priorities, and
11 moved on as it was not working. At that meeting the neighbors who are very
12 engaged and very active and very excited to have this opportunity to design
13 their own park. Took on the activity of conducting a charette basically, doing
14 some quick design as talking, throw out ideas and talk about them and work
15 them out and come to a conclusion, which was done on a whiteboard. This is
16 the way the community members wanted. She took those ideas and the
17 charette discussion and came up with the shown plan. Priorities were also
18 identified within the simplified plan about how to make the budget go as far as
19 it could within those priorities.
20

21 A graphic was shown of the entire request for the park. There are number of
22 existing trees and some play equipment. There is a concrete sidewalk from
23 the north to the south, connects the ADA accessible entry to the park to the
24 play equipment, past the existing picnic table. New proposed features in the
25 prioritized order, triangular shade sails creating more comfortable play
26 environment using the existing play equipment. Additional six foot benches
27 clustered in conversational groups in shaded areas and still have eyes on the
28 children, etc. There would be additional safety surfacing and extended open
29 play space without play equipment for more flexibility in use.
30

31 Secondary priorities are a new picnic table. And a horseshoe pit and open
32 space with a shade element that would throw shadows over the horseshoe pit,
33 so when the shade was needed most it would be available, afternoon. The
34 horseshoe pit and shade structure are unlikely to fit within he budget at this
35 time so they were identified as secondary priority. Additionally a bicycle rack
36 was included at the northern end of the park. Her rough cost estimate is they
37 could do the triangular shade elements and some of the benches and likely
38 the additional safety surfacing/open play space within the budget. Maybe a
39 picnic shade structure and maybe a picnic table as well, but have to see. Parks
40 and Rec will do their very best to make it happen, maybe installing the benches
41 with inhouse labor rather than contractor, might get a few extra dollars from
42 that. Stretch the budget, get refresh in the park, new elements to continue the
43 neighborhood excitement and enthusiasm in the park.
44

45 The current rendition has not been presented to the neighborhood yet. Cathy
46 took the ideas from the charette and developed the rendition. Another public

1 hearing will be held as they are very engaged. City Council has already
2 approved the budget and it is on the CIP, so ready to go to construction as
3 soon as the process is finished Vice-Chair Engle asked about the bicycle
4 parking. Cathy Mathews stated it was not identified as one of the top priorities,
5 but if they can fit it in monetarily, they will. Chair McClure agreed to making
6 the bicycle rack a "mini priority."
7

8 **7.2 Parks & Recreation Project Update -Catherine Mathews, Landscape**
9 **Architect, Parks & Recreation:**

10
11 Cathy Mathews stated the skate park renovation is still in process. The
12 contract is a design build contract which is new to her. The contract is in review
13 with legal to confirm all details and being sure the consultant is able to voice
14 the concerns and we can address them or to explain ourselves. Hopefully
15 having a kickoff meeting on design August 5th.
16

17 Apodaca Park aquatic playground and multiuse path. They continue to wait to
18 receive the funding through state parks from national park service. She has
19 spoken with the representative at the state parks and it was noted that national
20 park service is completely and utterly overwhelmed. The application was
21 made in 2018, notified of award in 2019, and await. Cathy and the City grants
22 administer continue to pursue all avenue available to get the funding, including
23 speaking with senators and they will assist however they can in getting the
24 funding. Proposed dates for aspects of the project, hopefully the planning
25 doesn't take 18 months, shorten that. Again also hopefully design can shorten
26 down. Bidding likely will take four months. And then construction probably
27 about 12 months, maybe up to 18 months if they get the splash pad included
28 in the budget. Park impact fees continue to be designed for the match to the
29 grant. Looking at a total of \$1.5 million project.
30

31 Park security and lighting. The work has been completed last month at
32 Veterans Memorial Park installing additional lighting and additional security
33 cameras. The lighting was accepted from the contractor. There were some
34 punch list items that needed to be addressed and they were able to do those,
35 after receiving parts in after waiting eight weeks. Veterans Memorial Park
36 portion of this project is complete.
37

38 Board Member Schuller asked with the new lighting what happens with the
39 vandalism at Veterans Memorial Park, and the impact on what they are trying
40 to accomplish. Timing seem spot on. Cathy stated it is correct that the
41 intention of the lighting, and the veterans did seek the funding and the City
42 received because of the advocacy with the state legislators, is to improve the
43 safety and security of the park and that is the expectation. Also at Gomez
44 Park on Espina, additional lighting will be included along the pathway that runs
45 north/south on the west side of the park. Have solar powered bollard lighting.
46 The remaining budget which is about \$50,000 will be used to install those lights

1 at Gomez. They are in the planning process right now, and the proposed
2 schedule is to be completed by 2023 as June 30, 2023 is the expiration date
3 for the funding.
4

5 The Las Cruces Lateral Trail. They have a Recreation Trails Program (RTP)
6 grant that is through the DOT from the Federal Highway Administration.
7 Planning is complete, design will be complete in August 2022. Received an
8 extension on the grant because of some difficulties getting the certifications
9 from various entities that have to sign off on the project. Elephant Butte
10 Irrigation District, the board for that entity did approve the permit for length of
11 the trail, of the lateral from University to Boutz. Our construction budget is not
12 going to stretch to the full limits of our proposed project, so we have scaled
13 back, Phase 1 will be from University to Las Cruces High School along Las
14 Cruces Lateral. Currently funding is slightly less than the engineers estimate
15 for that portion of the project, so when they go out to bid they may need to
16 seek additional funding to complete Phase 1.
17

18 Smart controllers. We have a WaterSMART grant which again is a federal
19 grant through the Bureau of Reclamation. Working on completing that project
20 by September 2022. Working with El Paso Electric to upgrade some electrical
21 service to Soldados Field to put a booster pump in there to help the irrigation
22 system achieve greater efficiency and get better quality turn in that area with
23 better application of irrigation water.
24

25 Highland Park is still on the list. In the process of just working with the
26 consultant, getting another contract with the consultant to bring those plans up
27 to speed and get that under bid and get it into construction. Looking at
28 completion through winter 2024. Hopefully remain on target with that project.
29

30 Pioneer Women's Park gazebo. Recently Council was presented with the
31 design for the gazebo and approved that project. Parks and Rec highlighted
32 the public input process and a lot of good quality, sometimes contentious,
33 discussions were had. There is approximately \$140,000 to complete
34 construction. Working on how to phase the construction to utilize the budget
35 and while they are seeking additional budget. Among the proposals is to
36 relocate some of the electrical services and the irrigation system backflow
37 preventer to a better location so it does not interfere with the aesthetics of the
38 gazebo as much. It is anticipated this will happen probably sometime this
39 fiscal year.
40

41 Gomez Park and Frenger Park. Just recently took the master plans to Council
42 and they were approved. They are quite excellent as per Cathy, and the
43 consultant did a regally good job of listening to the public, hearing what they
44 had to say, asking the risk questions, and getting some quality feedback then
45 put into master plans about how to upgrade both those parks. Frenger Park
46 has the swimming pool. The services at the pool will be shifting over to the

1 aquatic center when that is open, which then opens the opportunity to use that
2 space as the master plan calls for a splash pad. There are no construction
3 dollars yet for those, but with the plan it opens up lots of opportunities for grants
4 and to seek other kinds of funding to make those plans into reality.
5

6 Branigan Master Plan was completed and approved. Parks and Rec is
7 working with the grants office to seek a grant potentially to be used or purchase
8 some of the properties adjacent to Branigan to bring the full master plan to
9 fruition. Hopefully receive construction funding or at least some funding to
10 purchase the land.
11

12 Trail and Park wayfinding. This is another RTP grant received through DOT.
13 The consultant who was selected just signed the contract today. The contract
14 will then go to legal for signature, purchasing for signature, and then it will be
15 done then move forward. It is an exciting project. New Mexico landscape
16 architect serves as the general consultant but they have brought in a nationally
17 recognized wayfinding signage team who have lots of expertise in graphics
18 and communicating an overall plan in very clear, concise, and exiting way. A
19 great and quality plan is anticipated to revamp the entire signage system for
20 the trails and for parks. Hopefully, this will be in conjunction with other
21 agencies, the county, BLM, etc. so the whole trail system can read as a trail
22 system.
23

24 Cathy shared the weekly tracking list for fully engaged projects are, which
25 includes the top 10 and the next 10 projects. This is what is going on, who is
26 under contract, what are the next steps to take as a team. Also internal
27 projects, parking lot projects, and on hold projects.
28

29 Vice-Chair Engle asked about the Las Cruces Lateral and whether it was rising
30 construction costs that shortened from Boutz. Cathy stated the construction
31 have escalated so dramatically is largely the issue, and also when they sought
32 the grant it was about four or five years ago, and costs have escalated a lot.
33 Also some items that came out in the design process, namely where the Las
34 Cruces Lateral hits Main Street, the right-of-way is too narrow to not pipe the
35 lateral, so they are going to have to pipe the lateral to have enough room for a
36 decent sized trail and maintenance road for EBID personnel. Retraining wall
37 etc. that were needed through the design process. It could be changed but
38 there is a lengthy process for approvals through DOT, so it would extend the
39 timeframe for the project. Cathy anticipates that this project will continue to
40 receive future RTP grants. The City is committed and DOT is committed to do
41 this project. She anticipates that the City will incrementally continue to RTP
42 funding until they complete the total scope.
43

44 Chair McClure asked about the disc golf and if closing off section of Veterans
45 Park affect the disc golf. Sonya Delgado stated they are talking about that
46 internally, it could be an issue, but depends on what they want to do. As of

1 right now they would be using the parking lot if they came through veterans
2 side walking all the way down to get to the disc golf, or on the other side and
3 then get to the park also but they're probably going to come through veterans.
4 That will need further discussion. It was mentioned there is no other parking
5 due to the steep embankment and the other side is all private property. Sonya
6 Delgado stated once there was a little bigger parking lot they should be okay,
7 just come in, but now that could be an issue. This issue will also be addressed
8 via the Veterans.
9

10 **8. New Business - Discussion:**

11 **8.1 GO Bond Update – David Sedillo, Director of Public Works:**

12 Tony Trevino, Deputy Director Public Works gave the update. First is the
13 Hadley Complex is complete. The improvements are nice and the lighting is
14 amazing for nighttime play. The project was the parks and sports courts. They
15 are awaiting on some erosion issues at Young Park with the main shade
16 structure they put some retaining walls and landscaping to address some of
17 the erosion that was occurring. This project is complete however there were
18 some ADA questions at the Apodaca pickleball court that are currently being
19 addressed. Unidad Park, it is about 69% complete. The shade structure
20 rehabs throughout the park are done. The restroom has been the hiccup right
21 now, getting the material in and they are about 65% with the steel. What is on
22 hold is some of the partitions for the restrooms and showers. The material
23 should be in by August. The splash pad plumbing is ongoing, and all the new
24 play equipment is installed.
25
26

27
28 The East Mesa Public Rec Complex, they are moving dirt and are on schedule.
29 All the baseball and softball fields are graded and now working on grading of
30 the pickleball courts and some utility installation from Sonoma Springs which
31 was a Public Works CIP project for the entrance road, and tying those two with
32 Camino Coyote. This slated to be scheduled hopefully by February 2023 with
33 some ARPA funding. All GO Bond funding will be spent by the deadline of
34 December 31, 2022. The remaining pieces will be some landscaping items
35 that are being difficult to acquire a contractor to nail down price due to
36 escalating costs, with that work starting toward winter so the contract is
37 hesitant to sign the contract for the current prices.
38

39 Dog parks, they are included within the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley
40 project. The Rinconada Park the up work is 95% done and surveying is almost
41 completed. The site concrete is done. The furnishing have been delivered.
42 Burn Lake Park, the landscape is complete and that is further ahead due to
43 parking and amenities already there. This counts as 79% complete as that is
44 included with the Animal Service Center. The estimated completion date of
45 the entire project is December 8, 2022.
46

1 Walking, jogging, and biking trails. The Mesilla Drain is complete. The Las
2 Cruces Drain trail, working on some ADA ramps and some crosswalks, hot
3 thermal plastic being put across the roads for pedestrian and bicycles. The
4 Armijo Drain Trail is doing the final punch list.
5

6 Board Member Schuller noticed underbudget on Apodaca, and asked what
7 then happens to the funds. Tony stated the three projects were put into one,
8 the Hadley, parks and sports courts, and the East Mesa Rec Complex, so the
9 amount spent today is \$1.8 million and budgeted \$1.82 million, and the
10 remaining will go toward the East Mesa Sports Complex. The money has to
11 stay within these three.
12

13 **8.2 Lift Up Las Cruces – Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation:**

14
15 Sonya Delgado stated this is a program initiated by the City Manager and he
16 has been in the paper earlier this week. The area they are in right now is
17 District 1 which includes Solano, Spruce, Madrid, and just past Ash. Apodaca
18 Park is the only facility in that area, so some events will be done there. Movies
19 in the Park are there, as well as Family Game Nights. Tonight they will be at
20 Apodaca Park. Also doing the first Lift Up Las Cruces event for the area and
21 that will be on July 30th 9:00 a.m. to noon, and that is from Wade to Calle Sosa
22 and then Ash and Mulberry, the housing development area. Agencies and
23 community organizations are going to be there to offer information, foodbank
24 will be there, police, and fire, Parks and Rec with activities, codes will have a
25 little rodeo. The day before codes and PD will do a cleanup. The City has
26 over \$200,000 that has been budgeted for this program and so other
27 infrastructure projects will be done as well. Public Works is also involved.
28 Reconstruction of Madrid is part of this as well. This is the start.
29

30 **9. Staff Member Comments:**

31
32 Franco Granillo stated they are just trying to keep up with everything. Keep on top
33 of the turf, weed abatement, and keeping the parks looking good.
34

35 Cathy Mathews wanted to recognize the two project specialist, Wilfred Martinez and
36 Sergio Esparza. Wilfred was essentially in completing the master plans and getting
37 them on time and managing that project to perfection. The success of those three
38 projects are largely due to him.
39

40 Sonya Delgado thanked the Board for the feedback, and welcomes any more. She
41 wants to be sure Parks and Rec are meeting the needs and expectations of the
42 Board. They are going through their CAPRA accreditation. They have individuals
43 coming from Los Alamos Fire Department who have done accreditation and travel
44 throughout the country to help others understand going through accreditation, not
45 only the initial but also what happens after long-term. They will be here next week.
46 Parks and Rec have the core CAPRA team and a supervisor team. There are 151

standards to meet. The end date for completion and reviewing is December 31, 2022. They will be shipping off all EOCs and standards and a video to the group by March 2023 and then they will return in June to do a formal review and inform of pass or fail. Sonya is confident in her team and this will make it on paper and official. City of Las Cruces Parks and Rec do help other agencies, Parks and Rec departments throughout the state, and also they have been contacted by individuals out of state. This will pay big dividends to everyone. She will need the Board's help to create the standard for on-barding Board Members. She needs feedback, what should that look like? What are the components that would be in there? Could probably do a work session to really further discussion and some frank conversations. This way new Board Members can expect a certain level of professionalism and service.

Chair McClure suggested September for a possible work session, at approximately an hour.

10. Board Member Comments:

Vice-Chair Engle mentioned the Board slept-walked through a vote. He made a mistake in reading the wrong minutes that needed to be amended, and then all voted for it. He thought he said agenda item 4.2 but was looking at document for May 26, he thought he was looking at the wrong one. Sonya Delgado stated they should be fine as the date was mentioned. Vice-Chair Engle believes he stated the wrong date, as he stated 4.2 and then stated meeting of May 26th. Board Member Schuller suggested waiting for these minutes and then correct the minutes to reflect the correct dates. Sonya Delgado was comfortable saying they are fine, even by accident. It will be checked by staff and can be brought back if needed.

Board Member Schuller mentioned she will be out of town on August 18th and the 25th. She proposed Wednesday, 17th if possible. Chair McClure has another board meeting. Board Member Schuller suggested Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of either the third or fourth week of August. Tuesday the 16th was mentioned which the Board could all do, although Becky Baum will be unable to attend/record, but will transcribe.

Board Member Schuller mentioned items from her recent trip. Grateful for the rain. A question regularly asked was how much rain do they get. And the answer was "enough." When we think of a park we want to have playground equipment and those types of items included. In Europe they are called gardens with multiple uses of it. Consider having a place, like a garden, with desert garden landscaping, a place with benches and just a gather and not conflicts between open space. Something that is low maintenance for facilities, et al.

11. Adjournment:

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

Roll Call Vote:

Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

Board Member Schuller - Aye.

Chair McClure- Aye.

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Chairperson

DRAFT