

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

August 4, 2020

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a special meeting August 4, 2020, 5:32 p.m. via zoom.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

Cassie McClure
Megan Schuller
Eric Montgomery
Stan Engle
Robert Harrison

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

Maryln Zahler
Eli Guzman

Others Present:

Sonya Delgado, Parks and Recreation Director
Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager
Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator
Rudy Trevino, Parks Operations District Manager
Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architect, Public Works
Jennifer Morrow, Interim Engineer, Public Works
Ceci Vasconcellos, Community Engagement Office
Robert Williams, ASA Architects
Kelly Heyer, ASA Architects
Alex Garcia
Arturo Gonzales
Adrian Guzman, Host

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of August 4, 2020 via Zoom was brought to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair McClure 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**

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Engle. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

4 Public Participation

No public comment received by email. Chair McClure asked if anyone was monitored YouTube. Ms. Delgado said You Tube is not monitored during the meeting, but after the meeting.

5 Old Business

5.1 Burn Lake Dog Park Go Bond Project – Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architect, Public Works

Sreedevi Bhathala Mohanraj, Architect, Public Works introduced Ms. Kelly Heyer, Senior Architect of ASA Architects who will be presenting the Burn Lake Dog Park Go Bond Project for action.

Ms. Heyer provided a PowerPoint presentation for the City of Las Cruces Burn Lake Dog Park, which was a subset of the overall parks and sports fields improvements that was one of the Go Bond questions voted on in 2018 which resulted in two acres worth of dog parks. She said it was decided to have two one-acre dog parks.

An aerial of the existing Burn Lake park as it is today was provided showing existing soccer fields, restrooms, playground area, gravel parking area, and proposed location for the new one-acre size dog park which will include large and small dog park areas. Ms. Heyer reviewed the site plan along with amenities to be included, fencing, landscaping, paved parking and sidewalks. The presentation provided examples of play equipment that will be in the dog park as well as amenities.

Ms. Heyer reported the combined cost for the two dog parks is \$800,000 and with each dog park the same in size, cost will be split between the two parks. The design schedule is to finish design and construction document drawings for permits and once it is publicly advertised and a contractor has been selected, construction will begin. Once contractor is selected and on board, a construction phase schedule will be provided and will be able to determine how long the phase will be as well as the future opening of the park.

Ms. Heyer said this same presentation was presented to the public for input and most comments requested if parks could include nighttime lighting so parks could be used at night as well as some grass, with lawn irrigation. This information was discussed with the Parks and Recreation Department for feedback. Overall, comments were very well received, and everyone seemed to be excited about the dog parks.

Ms. Delgado said the Parks and Recreation Department haven't received any other comments and doesn't see anything in the ParksandRecadmin email.

Chair McClure asked what the considerations were for the nighttime and having some lawn in the dog park. Ms. Delgado responded currently all parks are dawn to dusk. She said there have been requests for lighting in the dog parks for the evenings but there have been some issues. Ms. Delgado said there could be some security lighting but not regular lighting, but this could be changed. She reiterated currently parks are dawn to dusk and staff doesn't have anyone that could patrol in case there were safety issues. She added this could be looked into if the Board would like. Chair McClure asked if that would eat into the cost and Ms. Delgado concurred.

Ms. Schuller recommended shying away from asphalt in parking area. She said if not putting up nighttime lighting, to make sure parking lot footings are not heat absorbent in the current proposal. Ms. Heyer said that is a great consideration and added the hardscape areas for parking, sidewalks and paved areas for shade structures and drinking fountain are concrete, so they are a lighter material and won't absorb the heat. She said in addition to that, there were comments about grassy lawn that would require additional irrigation and there is drip irrigation for the proposed planting, things that will have much better time with maintenance and longevity of the park. She said the ground surface would be crusher fine and isn't proposed to be grass lawn. Ms. Schuller expressed appreciation for Ms. Heyer's comments, but her concern is the parking lot area as pets are getting in and out.

Ms. Schuller moved to accept the proposal and pass on to City Council the Burn Lake Dog Park Go Bond Project, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. There was no discussion and motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Rinconada Dog Park Go Bond Project – Tony Trevino, Interim Deputy Director, Public Works

Ms. Heyer provided a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Las Cruces Rinconada Dog Park, and reiterated this is a subset of the overall parks and sports fields improvements that was one of the Go Bond questions voted on in 2018 which resulted in two acres worth of dog parks. As mentioned in the first presentation, she said it was decided to split the two acres into two one-acre parks. Ms. Heyer provided an aerial image of the Rinconada Dog Park location showing its location along Rinconada Blvd. And close to intersection of Rinconada Blvd. and Highway 70. She mentioned there are other facilities on this same site – the existing Animal Services Center as well as its new addition. Ms. Heyer said this dog park is approximately one acre in size and it is important to know this is a public dog park, is not connected to the Animal Services Center and no animal from this Animal Services Center will be using this dog park and no animals from the City or Public will be sharing that space with the Animal Services Center.

Ms. Heyer reviewed the site plan along with amenities to be included, fencing, landscaping, paved parking and sidewalks. The presentation provided examples of play equipment that will be in the dog park as well as amenities. She mentioned this dog park does have a dedicated restroom structure. She mentioned this park as well as the Burn Lake Dog Park are ADA accessible between the parking lot to the shade structures and restroom. The presentation provided examples of play equipment that will be in the dog park as well as amenities.

Ms. Heyer reported the combined cost for the two dog parks is \$800,000 and with each dog park the same in size, cost will be split between the two parks. The design schedule is to finish design and

construction document drawings for permits and once it is publicly advertised and a contractor has been selected, construction will begin. Once contractor is selected and on board, a construction phase schedule will be provided and will be able to determine how long the phase will be as well as the future opening of the park.

Ms. Schuller again emphasized a non-heat absorbing material in the parking lot for the cars.

Mr. Harrison asked with this closer to the street, if there was any room for lights in this dog park. Ms. Heyer said general side lighting has not been included in the proposal. There is occupancy sensor lighting in the restrooms and there are two unisex restrooms provided in the structure.

Mr. Harrison asked with parks are dawn to dusk, how do you patrol when people are coming into the parks after dark or are there seasonal hours on existing dog park. Ms. Delgado said there is no staff on board after hours so if there are issues, Codes is called. She said the current park is closed. She added there is minimal lighting but not enough like at the ball parks. She said this is something to look at in the future.

Mr. Harrison asked, with the park being so close to street on Rinconada, if there are any safety concerns from when the dogs get off the car and into the fenced area, or dogs getting out of the fenced area. Ms. Heyer responded that along Rinconada Blvd., there is a landscape buffer to reduce that adjacency referred to. She said the perimeter fencing for both dog parks are a substantial six-foot fence. The additional landscape buffer will help protect dogs from exiting from underneath the fence. She added there will be maintenance involved to make sure any issues are addressed. She said this is why there are exit and entry vestibules directly adjacent to the parking area and unfortunately there is no gate at the Rinconada entrance to gate in dogs from escaping from the car to the gateway vestibule. She said it is situated as close as it can possibly be to help limit that from happening. The entry vestibule is also meant to be that buffer between exiting the dog park and back to car. This space is used to leash the dog before exiting the park.

Ms. Schuller moved to accept the proposal for Rinconada Dog Park and move it forward to City Council to take into considerations brought up by the Board, seconded by Mr. Harrison. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair McClure thanked Ms. Heyer for her presentations.

6 Adjournment

Mr. Montgomery moved to adjourn.

Mr. Harrison asked if there was any other public comment from YouTube or if Administration could check if there were any other emails. Ms. Delgado advised Chair McClure that she is having some issues checking the ParksandRecadmin email from her remote site, as well as Hazel but can check and send any to the Board after the meeting. Chair McClure reached out to a Mr. Ryan Armendariz thru YouTube to see if he would respond (for the record). Chair McClure said that Gregory Shervanick said that there may be lights...I guess not true at baseball fields and Mesa park to come about night lighting and seasonal hours. Mr. Guzman added that there is about a minute delay between us and the

YouTube viewers. Mr. Harrison said his concern was just that all public input was brought forward. He said he knows it has already been voted on but is preliminary processes and there is still time to get comments to the appropriate people. Chair McClure reiterated (to YouTube), if Ryan can hear, send another email and Board will move forward with the motion. Chair McClure requested Ms. Delgado to forward email to Board when received.

Mr. Harrison moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Note – the ParksandRecadmin email was reviewed and the following was received and forwarded to the Board:

August 4, 2020 at 5:58 pm from Ryan Armendariz:

Hello, my name is Ryan Armendariz. Would the board consider hiring staff that would monitor security at all city parks?

August 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. from Ryan Armendariz:

Would the board also please consider lighting at parks and staying open after dusk

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair