



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

August 16, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on August 16, 2022, at 6:04 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

- Cassie McClure - District 1
- Kenneth Coppedge, District 2
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Eric Montgomery – District 5
- Megan Schuller - District 6

Members Absent:

- Vacant - District 3
- Vacant - At Large

Others Present:

- Rod Gajewski, Vice-Chair of Veterans Advisory Board
- Larry Nichols, Community Development
- Catherine Mathews, Land Scape Architect, Parks & Recreation
- Phillip Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- James Woods, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Program Coordinator, Parks & Recreation
- Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Sonya Delgado, Director, Parks and Recreation
- Greg Shervanick, Public
- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of August 16, 2022, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at 6:04 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:**

1 There was no conflict of interest.

2  
3 **3. Approval of the Agenda:**  
4

5 Vice-Chair Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
6 Meeting Agenda for August 16, 2022, seconded by Board Member Montgomery.

7  
8 Roll Call Vote:

9 Board Member Coppedge - Aye.

10 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

11 Board Member Montgomery – Aye

12 Board Member Schuller – Aye

13 Chair McClure – Aye

14 Motion carried unanimously.  
15

16 **4. Approval of Minutes**  
17

18 Board Member Schuller had corrections to Minutes of July 21, 2022: page 9, under  
19 7.2, line 21 and 22, reads: grants administer and should read: Grants  
20 Administrator; page 10, line 44, reads: risk questions and should read: right  
21 questions; page 13, under Staff Member Comments, line 36 reads: essentially and  
22 should read: essential. Board Member Schuller moved to correct the minutes, with  
23 no second. Board Member Engle had additional corrections: page 2, line 10  
24 reads: PRAB Minutes of April 6, 2022. He said two minutes were being approved  
25 and should just read: approval of PRAB minutes and 4.1 specify minutes of May  
26 26, 2022, and 4. 2 specify minutes of June 16, 2022.  
27

28 Board Member Schuller moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory  
29 Board Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2022, with corrections as presented, seconded  
30 by Board Member Montgomery.  
31

32 Roll Call Vote:

33 Board Member Coppedge - Aye.

34 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

35 Board Member Montgomery – Aye

36 Board Member Schuller – Aye

37 Chair McClure – Aye

38 Motion carried unanimously.  
39

40 **5. Public Participation:**  
41

42 No public participation.  
43  
44

45 **6. Old Business (Action):**  
46

1       **6.1 Renaming Veteran’s Memorial Park**  
2

3       Mr. Rod Gajewski, Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) Vice-Chair, respectfully  
4       requested tabling the renaming of Veteran’s Memorial Park one more time,  
5       because they are a sub-committee of three and the others were not able to be  
6       present, and they will be meeting August 29, 2022, with City Manager to clarify  
7       some issues. VAB Vice-Chair Gajewski said he wanted to clarify that they are not  
8       so much wanting to change the name of the park but change the usage of the  
9       park, and there were some questions on signage that needs to be addressed.

10  
11       Chair McClure asked what bullet points would be discussed with City Manager that  
12       might affect how the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board goes forward. VAB Vice-  
13       Chair Gajewski said they wanted to clarify a couple of issues. He said they had a  
14       meeting with the City Manager and discussed various uses of the park, there was  
15       questions on signage that needs to be addressed with him because it falls under  
16       his authority, and so they just want to clarify some things that were discussed.

17  
18       Board Member Schuller said the action item reads Renaming Veteran’s Memorial  
19       Park and thinks to proceed forward and essentially kill this action item, Board will  
20       need to vote on this action item at this meeting and bring it up as a new action  
21       item for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting in September. Ms.  
22       Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation, said this would be a good avenue, to  
23       table indefinitely is an option if name change isn’t being sought but rather usage of  
24       park. Board Member Schuller said if going after more than just a name change,  
25       that the agenda item be more inclusive than just the name that has been talked  
26       about up to this point. VAB Vice-Chair Gajewski said special usage designation of  
27       the park was discussed, and the name change was instituted to make the park a  
28       more of a memorial to the veterans as designated and part of discussion was that  
29       the park be a special use park so could limit the number of activities at the park.

30  
31       Larry Nichols, Community Development Director, said this initially was started as  
32       an endeavor and a means of trying to find a way to have a respectful use of  
33       Veteran’s Memorial Park because there were many incidents where memorials  
34       were being defaced, graffitied. He said the initial discussions were on how to go  
35       about doing this and thought a name change would be the way to go but it brought  
36       on more difficulties than it would solve, because it is a neighborhood park. He  
37       said after further discussion and evaluation on addressing the defacing and the not  
38       respectful use of the park was to ask for a special use designation which was in  
39       the park master plan, and this is what the Veteran’s Advisory Board would like to  
40       pursue at this time. Mr. Nichols said there are two avenues to pursue this under  
41       Robert’s Rules of Order, 1) to table indefinitely which kills the action or 2) to take a  
42       vote this evening to not approve name change but bring it back as new business  
43       after the meeting with City Manager.

1  
2 Board Member Montgomery said he would motion to table indefinitely the  
3 renaming of Veteran’s Memorial Park, seconded by Board Member Schuller.  
4

5 Board Member Montgomery said his concern with taking a vote on this item is that  
6 it sets a precedent should the Board see this in the future of renaming Veteran’s  
7 Memorial Park, that the Board has already made a decision on that factor. He said  
8 he feels that tabling indefinitely allows the Board to come back and revisit this  
9 without any previous precedent.  
10

11 Board Member Engle said tabling indefinitely is a good option as it sounds the  
12 Veteran’s Advisory Board wants to pursue the special use park which makes more  
13 sense for the memorial aspect of the property. He thinks coming back to this when  
14 the VAB has the new information is a viable course of action.  
15

16 Board Member Schuller said she thinks with the item on the agenda, Renaming of  
17 Veteran’s Memorial Park, if the Board lands on something at this meeting, it may  
18 not facilitate what the course of action may come with new business and so would  
19 have to go through that whole process of renaming. She said she likes the fact  
20 that coming back with more of an umbrella approach of how to address the park  
21 and what is being asked in its entirety and not just the name change. Board  
22 Member Schuller said the Board doesn’t want to prolong this but wants to make  
23 sure they have all the information on the large picture and grand scheme of things  
24 than just solely focusing on the name of the park as it stands today.  
25

26 Board Member Coppedge said he is less concerned about the name change,  
27 since it seems like goal is more on the usage of park and don’t have all the  
28 information to decide.  
29

30 Roll Call Vote on tabling indefinitely:

31 Board Member Coppedge - Aye.

32 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

33 Board Member Montgomery – Aye

34 Board Member Schuller – Aye

35 Chair McClure – Aye

36 Motion carried unanimously.  
37

38 **7. Discussion Items**

39  
40 **7.2 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) - James Woods, KLCB Program**  
41 **Coordinator**  
42

1 James Woods, KLCB Program Coordinator, reported end of year report was  
2 submitted in the previous month for the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful Grant  
3 and so wants to share numbers with the Board from a productive year, post-covid.

- 4 • Volunteer numbers went up – Toss No Mas, Great American Clean Up,  
5 Team Up to Clean Up – over 800 volunteers and collected over fifteen (15)  
6 tons of trash;
- 7 • Over 1,500 graffiti abatements for the fiscal year;
- 8 • Youth stipend fund raiser - 22 groups who were paid \$250 each to do clean  
9 ups at their school or community;
- 10 • Has NMSU interns who go out to Las Cruces Public Schools and City After  
11 School Programs and educate students on litter control, recycling, graffiti –  
12 they did presentations to over 800 students, some were Libby visits, and  
13 some were education visits with activities.
- 14 • KLCB was awarded Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) grant to restore some  
15 murals in the city and are in the process of hiring youth for this program.
- 16 • KLCB was awarded New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant for Fiscal Year  
17 2023. Mr. Woods informed the Board KLCB is totally run by grant funds  
18 from New Mexico Clean and Beautiful.

19  
20 Board Member Coppedge asked what the total amount of grants received was for  
21 the upcoming year and how funds would be used. Mr. Woods said the grant funds  
22 are used for supplies to address graffiti, education presentations, Libby books and  
23 other activity/promotion items for the children, things to beautify the community,  
24 and intern hires. He said the amount of the grant was \$29,000.

25  
26 Chair McClure asked for clarification, who is Libby? Mr. Woods said Libby is  
27 KLCB's mascot, young Labrador that assists in the presentations for the children.  
28 Chair McClure said she would like Libby to visit the Board.

29  
30 **8. Staff Member Comments:**

- 31  
32 Ms. Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, gave updates on projects:
- 33 • Water Smart grant project is coming to a close – will be finishing purchase  
34 of a booster pump for the irrigation system at Soldados field – important for  
35 water conservation and increasing level of service for residents who use the  
36 field.
  - 37 • August 17 – kick off with consultants on Trail Wayfinding project.  
38 Consultants will be developing a plan for a wayfinding system among trails,  
39 parks, and other kinds of facilities for Parks & Recreation. They will be  
40 working with a stakeholder advisory group to get lots of input from public  
41 and groups throughout the city who are interested in seeing this put in  
42 place.
  - 43 • Anticipate kickoff before next Board meeting with design build for skate park  
44 renovation.

- 1 • Submitted grant application for additional funding for Benavidez Community  
2 Center Park.
- 3 • Trail projects are moving forward. Las Cruces Lateral Trail project will be  
4 moving into construction in the coming months. Have just completed design  
5 and submitted design package to New Mexico Department of  
6 Transportation so they will be extending construction grant to us.

7  
8 Mr. Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, informed the Board

- 9 • RecTrac registration program is now on-line. It has been on-line for  
10 three registrations and has been working very well with most issues  
11 being user issues.
- 12 • Staff will be attending the National Recreation and Parks Association  
13 Conference in September.
- 14 • There have been emails regarding water fountain use and them being  
15 down. Mr. Granillo said staff has an inventory of water fountains and  
16 what situation they are in, whether they are working properly or are  
17 needing parts. The Facilities Department has this information and are  
18 helping to fix the water fountains as park staff are irrigation employees  
19 which don't deal with fresh leaking water and facilities has plumbers to  
20 deal with those issues.
- 21 • There has been a lot of damage at parks recently, mainly at Lion's Park  
22 - windows were broken there this past weekend and there are work  
23 orders for replacement. There has been lots of graffiti and a lot of  
24 loitering which causes other issues that people are concerned with.  
25 Overall, there is a lot of graffiti, lots of damage to amenities, to walls,  
26 and staff are doing their best to keep up with it.
- 27 • Community Forester is retiring in December. He is going a good job on  
28 stocking up nursery for planting season to ensure trees on hand to  
29 reach goal of planting 250 trees and have about 300 trees in nursery  
30 currently.
- 31 • Last fiscal year, money was requested for playground replacement,  
32 mainly repair throughout the city. Construction staff is now installing –  
33 slides, covers, swings. Mr. Granillo said one of the things staff is doing  
34 this year is improving surfacing, from wood chips to rubberized  
35 surfacing, which is safer, doesn't deteriorate, or blow away in the wind.
- 36 • Getting several complaints when the lightening meter goes off on  
37 Hadley strip because people have to clear the fields and return to their  
38 vehicles. Mr. Granillo advised the Board should they receive any  
39 complaints, to refer to him and he can send them policy and procedures  
40 staff has to follow.

41  
42 Chair McClure asked if the Board could get a report on progress status for the  
43 water fountains, what the schedule is like and how they are getting fixed so they  
44 can respond to any complaints they receive. Mr. Granillo said one of issues is  
45 waiting on parts, but he will work with Facilities to get the information for the  
46 Board.

1  
2 Chair McClure asked on the RecTrac registration if there was no problem with  
3 payment and if it all worked out for Treasury too. Mr. Granillo said Treasury was  
4 pleased and didn't see any issues with reconciliation.  
5

6 Chair McClure asked if there has been any more patrolling by the Las Cruces  
7 Police Department (LCPD) regarding the vandalism. Mr. Granillo said for the kind  
8 of vandalism getting at the parks, more patrolling is what would help as really don't  
9 have funds to hire a security officer. Mr. Granillo said he has requested city  
10 management to check with LCPD about getting more patrols. Chair McClure  
11 asked what Parks & Recreation staff procedure for contacting LCPD is. Mr.  
12 Granillo said for this kind of thing, he would ask Ms. Delgado to contact the Police  
13 Chief. Chair McClure asked if LCPD has a specific liaison for City Departments.  
14 Ms. Delgado said this is a good question and is something staff is addressing as  
15 part of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies  
16 (CAPRA) process. She said staff is creating this process and the Parks &  
17 Recreation Director or her Administrators would be the liaison to speak to LCPD.  
18 Ms. Delgado said in the meantime, she has sent forward an email to the Police  
19 Chief. Chair McClure requested an update to this at next meeting to see what  
20 LCPD proposes to do to help.  
21

22 Board Member Montgomery asked if staff knows what the cost difference has  
23 been because of repairs due to vandalism this year compared to past years. Ms.  
24 Delgado said she would need to check with Facilities to find out as they maintain  
25 building structures in parks, and she will bring information forward next month.  
26

27 Mr. Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, reported:

- 28 • There has been an increase in funding for the Youth Development and  
29 Diversion Juvenile Citation Program (JCP) from Children, Youth and  
30 Families Department (CYFD) – received \$339,000, an increase of  
31 approximately \$30,000. This is very positive for JCP, their contractors, as  
32 well as the community regarding the educational programming, mentorship,  
33 and all aspects offered for prevention and diversion programming. A new  
34 Supervisor/Continuum Coordinator has been hired. There has been about a  
35 20% increase in referrals with the school year starting earlier this year and  
36 an almost non-existent summer. Also, looking to hire last two staff members  
37 to be able to continue offering the same program in the southern area  
38 (Anthony, Sunland Park, Hatch). Hope to be able to offer services in the  
39 southern part of the county by October on Saturdays.
- 40 • Summer ended quickly for the Out of School Time programs - attendance  
41 was good. For the After School Programs, there are eight (8) locations, six  
42 (6) at school sites – four (4) at capacity to include three (3) in the schools  
43 and one (1) at the A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven (Weed & Seed  
44 Program). Looking to expand to two (2) more locations, one (1) for teen  
45 connection currently at Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center and trying  
46 to get over to the East Mesa which would cover Mesa, Camino, Organ

1 Mountain High School students. A survey was sent out at the end of the  
2 summer for all the participants, which reported programs were enjoyed,  
3 which were at no cost. Cost will be evaluated to see if fees will be adjusted  
4 for next school year. Will be bringing on board twelve (12) new staff  
5 members (teen members) in the next few weeks and will recruit  
6 continuously to make sure resources are available for all locations  
7 throughout the city where Out of School Time is offered.  
8

9 Board Member Engle asked status of Youth Board. Mr. Nunez reported  
10 Supervisor was just recently hired and have now met on getting the application  
11 back out to the students to get recruitment process in place so can get Youth  
12 Board in place by the first of the new year.  
13

14 Board Member Montgomery asked if the 20% increase in JCP referrals was  
15 county wide or just within the city. Mr. Nunez reported it is probably 50/50, maybe  
16 a bit higher with the county (53/47%) but that has been the statistics over the last  
17 seven years, with numbers a bit more from the county.  
18

19 Chair McClure asked Mr. Nunez to explain the Youth Board for new Board  
20 Member Coppedge. Mr. Nunez said staff tries to recruit two youth from each  
21 District and two At Large from the Mayor's office, and they are allowed to bring up  
22 any information they want to bring forward to the Parks & Recreation Advisory  
23 Board as well as Parks & Recreation Staff regarding programming and what there  
24 is to do in Las Cruces. Mr. Nunez said during COVID, there was a large increase  
25 in the need for mentorships and tutoring and this is still seen with the Teen  
26 Connection currently, so he would like to bring this to the Youth Board's attention,  
27 when they are brought on board. Mr. Nunez reported a \$10,000 grant received  
28 through the mayor's office and purchased sixteen (16) laptops and charging  
29 stations of which half will be placed at Safe Haven and half with the Teen  
30 Connection. Mr. Nunez said these laptops have the management system the  
31 public schools utilize, and the schools will help with maintenance of these laptops.  
32 The laptops will be available to students to do academics on location.  
33

34 Board Member Schuller asked status of the facility WIFI. Mr. Nunez said Lift  
35 Zones provided by Comcast are at six Parks & Recreation locations as well as at a  
36 Senior Center.  
37

- 38 Mr. Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator reported:
- 39 • Youth sports leagues just finished – Youth Outdoor Soccer, Lil Sluggers T-  
40 ball, and Coach Pitch Baseball.
  - 41 • Getting ready for Outdoor Volleyball - 48 teams, over 500 players.
  - 42 • Flag Football starts this evening (August 16) with 18 teams.
  - 43 • Meerscheidt Recreation Center parking lot is being paved and will be ready  
44 early October.
  - 45 • Basketball league starts early October – 48 teams.



- 1 • RecTrac program registration is now on-line and has made registration a lot  
2 smoother.
- 3 • All leagues have filled to capacity.
- 4 • On Recreation section side, an E-gaming room has started at the Frank  
5 O'Brien Papen Community Center and starts August 19. The WIFI  
6 available at Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center isn't good enough to  
7 do on-line E-gaming so the E-games will be on the six consoles provided.
- 8 • Card game called Magic; The Gathering will begin August 18.
- 9 • Music in the Park Series – covered fifteen (15) concerts so far with over  
10 13,000 in attendance and have three more concerts to go which will be at  
11 Apodaca Park as part of Lift Up Las Cruces. Concert attendance at Young  
12 Park averaged around 800 -1,000 and attendance at Apodaca Park is about  
13 250 – 300, probably because of smaller parking area.
- 14 • Last Music in the Plaza is Thursday, August 18 with a Jazz Trio, and a  
15 Swing Soloist.
- 16 • Movies in the Park have been at Apodaca Park this year and attendance  
17 numbers there are down compared to at Young Park, but the idea of having  
18 the movies at Apodaca Park is to add some life and energy to this area.
- 19 • Recreation has been part of Lift Up Las Cruces events and were there for  
20 the kickoff. They also participated at National Night Out.
- 21 • Employee Wellness is getting ready for an Employee Basketball  
22 Tournament the last week of August and early September and will follow  
23 with a Softball Tournament end of September, early October. A Kickball  
24 tournament recently ended, with the Fleet Department winning.
- 25 • Outdoor pools have been successful this year. Drop-ins have been down,  
26 but rentals have more than covered for that, with them sold out every  
27 weekend. Outdoor pools are open until September 5 with that day being  
28 free swim. The Regional Aquatic Center (RAC) numbers are back to pre-  
29 Covid numbers. Sessions have been sold out, even with back to school.
- 30 • Have started meeting on Christmas tree lighting.
- 31 • Have had debrief meetings for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Did have lightening presence for  
32 the concert but did have National Weather Service on hand present to help  
33 clear field with more than 3,000 in attendance. Getting ready for planning  
34 of next 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, parade, and concert.
- 35 • Finished this year with twenty-five (25) lifeguards for the two outdoor pools  
36 and RAC. At least thirty-two (32) lifeguards were needed and had to close  
37 one of the outdoor pools during the week. With the new 50-meter pool, will  
38 need a minimum of thirty-eight (38) lifeguards.

39  
40 Board Member Coppedge asked where Recreation will grow with all leagues full.  
41 Mr. Catanach said there is always room to grow, with staff always looking for stuff  
42 to do for teenagers. Coming down the line is the 50-meter community pool which  
43 will open some stuff up for the community in early July. A new splashpad is  
44 coming on-line in late October, early November. Mr. Catanach said staff is trying to  
45 hit some areas in non-traditional sports like Magic, The Gathering card game or E-  
46 gaming. He said there is always opportunities for growth but not the means to

1 grow and is open to suggestions. Mr. Catanach said Meerscheidt, whose 50<sup>th</sup>  
2 anniversary is this year, is the only Recreation Center in town.  
3

4 Ms. Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation, reiterated that Meerscheidt  
5 Recreation Center is the only recreation center the City of Las Cruces has. All the  
6 other facilities are either a school or a hand me down fire station which are called  
7 community facilities and weren't built as a recreation center. Ms. Delgado said  
8 another recreation center is needed and is trying to find funding for one. Ms.  
9 Delgado asked the Board if they know of anyone that can provide funding, to send  
10 them her way. Ms. Delgado said staff is hoping to get some grants for a recreation  
11 center and are starting to look to see where the city has some land. She said the  
12 athletic programs are busting at the seams and could take in more but then only  
13 one sport would be played and wouldn't have room for others. Ms. Delgado said  
14 the Recreation team does a good job of trying to offer different types of sports with  
15 a decent size league to play in. Ms. Delgado acknowledged the need for growth  
16 but need the facilities.  
17

18 Ms. Delgado said staff did cover the graffiti on the bathroom walls at Lion's Park.  
19 When graffiti can't be removed, staff has to paint with a color sufficient to cover.  
20 Ms. Delgado said the graffiti team tries to get graffiti addressed within 24-hours,  
21 48-hours at the latest.  
22

23 Ms. Delgado advised the Board she has been asked by the Assistant City  
24 Manager to stop permitting Veteran's Memorial Park as of August 12, 2022,  
25 except for outstanding permits, until staff knows what is going to happen with  
26 Veteran's Memorial Park. There is still discussion about people not necessarily  
27 paying respect due when visiting that facility so trying to get from A to Z on this will  
28 be a tough challenge.  
29

30 Ms. Delgado said with the 2018 Go Bond, should have two dog parks coming on-  
31 line the end of August, first part of September. Once on-line, will get them rolled  
32 into the park's maintenance plan. The Unidad Splash Pad will also be complete  
33 about the same time frame – once that happens will put together a ribbon  
34 ceremony for that facility and will be used for a couple of weeks and then close it  
35 down, which will give the Certified Pool Operators (CPO's) a chance to watch the  
36 system in action before opening it back up.  
37

38 Ms. Delgado said Lift Up Las Cruces is in District 1 of which Recreation has been  
39 a part of, and now staff has the task of looking at the entire area to see what can  
40 be done to beautify the area to take back to the City Manager.  
41

42 Board Member Montgomery asked if Lift Up Las Cruces area in District 1 does not  
43 include Apodaca Park. Ms. Delgado said it does not, it is right on the edge of  
44 Apodaca Park. She said there is a pending grant that will help with Apodaca Park.  
45 Board Member Montgomery said the reason he asked this is because it would  
46 seem logical for City Manger's request to include maintenance or improvements to

1 Apodaca Park relative to the neighborhood because it is adjacent to most likely  
2 servicing those neighborhoods even though it is not in the geographic boundary.  
3 Board Member Montgomery asked if that consideration is happening with that  
4 facility. Ms. Delgado said yes, it is and thinks that what they are thinking about is  
5 that the pending grant that will be received will have a huge impact on Apodaca  
6 Park, it will make a huge improvement on one portion of that. Staff is trying to go  
7 after some additional grants to help spruce some of that area and thinks that when  
8 Public Works starts working in that area and puts up any right of ways, puts in new  
9 trees, it all comes back to Parks.

10  
11 Board Member Montgomery said he wanted to clarify who conducts the cleanup  
12 for the graffiti, is it the youth who does this or staff. Mr. Nunez said Keep Las  
13 Cruces uses general fund dollars and employs two temp employees. JCP youth  
14 also assist as part of their community service.

15  
16 **9. Board Member Comments:**

17  
18 Board Member Montgomery apologized for his attendance over the past several  
19 months due to conflicts and is happy to be back and promises to keep a better  
20 track record.

21  
22 Board Member Montgomery said the Parks & Recreation is a critical department  
23 because he is starting to hear trends in the city on increase in crime, police  
24 deployment, graffiti, youth referrals, facilities maxed out – these are incredible  
25 numbers, and this will be his comments to his City Councilor.

26  
27 Board Member Engle welcomed Board Member Coppedge, who is a big advocate  
28 of the outdoors.

29  
30 Board Member Engle said he was asked by one of his former predecessors in his  
31 position, Frank Carril, to read some of his issues into the record. Board Member  
32 Engle said these issues were emailed by Frank Carril to the City Manager, the  
33 Mayor, and to Rudy Trevino. The issues are:

- 34 • Water fountains – Mr. Carril feels the citizens deserve working water  
35 fountains, which were off all summer and now going to be taken off-line  
36 soon as colder weather comes in.
- 37 • Mr. Carril was also discouraged by the 15 x 15 shade structures at Apodaca  
38 Park when there is still no good restrooms, water, or ADA compliance.
- 39 • Mr. Carril mentioned concrete cracks on the court and did not reference  
40 Apodaca Park but could possibly be at Apodaca Park, and the city does not  
41 do anything about this.
- 42 • Another comment made that Board Member Engle didn't understand –  
43 sides of fencing replaced but left the broken north side and it doesn't look  
44 good. Board member wasn't sure where this was.

45 Board Member Engle said he went back on Parks & Recreation Board minutes  
46 from May 26, and it seems to be a continuing issue for Mr. Carril because he did

1 bring up the restrooms north of Apodaca and mentioned the non-ADA compliance  
2 even stating an 8.1% gray which is out of ADA compliance but couldn't find this in  
3 the minutes. Board Member Engle said he could distill Mr. Carril's issue as mostly  
4 at Apodaca Park, but generally ADA compliance, working restrooms, and working  
5 water fountains. Board Member Engle expressed thanks to Park & Recreation staff  
6 because they have touched on these issues in previous comments. Board  
7 Member Engle said it may be a good idea for transparency to have a list of actual  
8 facilities that are not compliant or having issues, what their status is and be able to  
9 see progress as issues are taken care of. Chair McClure agreed.

10  
11 Ms. Delgado said Mr. Carril is referring to the fencing of the Apodaca Pickleball  
12 Courts. She said Mr. Carril did have the state come and do an ADA assessment  
13 and that report with recommendations was given to Public Works. Public Works is  
14 working with contractor to see if there is anything that had to be done to meet  
15 some of the requirements. Ms. Delgado said that currently, the facility meets the  
16 minimum ADA requirement. Ms. Delgado said when final report is received, she  
17 will share it with the Board. Ms. Delgado said the other issue, there is a working  
18 restroom at Apodaca Park, but you have to walk to it from the Pickleball Court, so  
19 staff opened the restroom at the baseball park, which is right across the street,  
20 and was opened for Pickleball players. Ms. Delgado said Mr. Carril said he was  
21 not happy with the shade structure that was put over the playground, but that was  
22 part of a grant that was received, and it so happened that it was working right  
23 along Go Bond. She understands that some didn't want that shade structure there  
24 but there are a lot of individuals who like the shade structure. With the new grant  
25 that will be received from the State, through the Federal Government to the City,  
26 regarding the swimming pool which will be replaced by a splash pad, this will  
27 address the north side of the fencing of the Apodaca Pickleball Court. It will  
28 address some of the issues that are back there and will also bring brand new  
29 bathrooms since plumbing is already there and is regulation with a splash pad -  
30 have to have restrooms in place and a shower. Ms. Delgado said staff was hoping  
31 this project would be running right alongside Go Bond, but it didn't happen. Ms.  
32 Delgado said she understands Mr. Carril's concerns and knows that Public Works  
33 is working hard to address recommendations.

34  
35 Ms. Delgado added that staff is working through the CAPRA process, and one of  
36 the things asked is when ADA inspections are done, and staff has reached out to  
37 the ADA coordinator, and they are looking to start those but does not know when.  
38 Ms. Delgado said they do have a check list. Ms. Delgado said the biggest thing to  
39 know is that when new construction happens on a facility, do have to upgrade  
40 ADA improvements. Ms. Delgado said ADA Coordinator will be working on these  
41 issues but don't have a timeline yet but will share with the Board as this begins to  
42 progress.

43  
44 Board Member Engle said it sounds like once this happens, the list he suggested  
45 will come about.

1 Board Member Schuller welcomed Board Member Coppedge.

2  
3 Board Member Schuller said she is tempted to reach out to Economic  
4 Development and start talking to them about what the impacts would be if a new  
5 recreation center is added, and if we have more programming because the offsets  
6 of vandalism, does that offset the Economic Development and the impact to Las  
7 Cruces. She said Economic Development is a good place to start to try to push it  
8 to multiple avenues and multiple sources and with City Councilors, for more  
9 backing.

10  
11 Board Member Schuller asked if it would be possible to put a map on the facilities  
12 page that designates ADA or restrooms, so when people say they are not ADA,  
13 the map is available online, which would field some of those questions. Ms.  
14 Delgado reported Parks and Recreation does have an app that has all park  
15 facilities and amenities, and how to get to them. She said currently staff is trying to  
16 figure out how to put an interactive map on Parks & Recreation's web pages, and  
17 web pages are currently being redone with deadline to go live in January 2023.  
18 Board Member Schuller also suggested doing something that would interact with  
19 the web page for those people that are not app savvy or are declining to use an  
20 app.

21  
22 Board Member Schuller said she will be out for the September 15, 2023, Parks &  
23 Recreation Advisory Board meeting but would like to hear all the correspondence  
24 that comes from the new business item on Veteran's Memorial Park.

25  
26 Chair McClure, said she went to Sunrise Terrace on a Sunday morning so her  
27 children could play and there were some disc golf players there which forewarned  
28 them children might get hit, apologetically. Chair McClure said she is not sure  
29 there should be playgrounds next to disc golf. Ms. Delgado said Sunrise Terrace is  
30 the only park that has disc golf baskets but will be moved once the nine-course  
31 hole opens which should happen this calendar year.

32  
33 Chair McClure asked status of the Las Cruces Public Schools agreement as she  
34 believes there was also a matter of water fountains. Ms. Delgado said she sent  
35 another email this same day to LCPS asking them when the agreement will be  
36 sent back and reiterated to them that have state legislature funds that can only be  
37 spent on High Noon 1 – 5 fields but cannot spend it until the agreement is signed  
38 because High Noon is not city property. Ms. Delgado said the fields do have  
39 access to water. They don't have a water fountain, but there is a water spicket on  
40 field one (1). Ms. Delgado said putting water fountains in the fields is one of the  
41 things staff wants to do with the funds and make fields 1 – 5 part of Parks system  
42 and break away from the public schools. Chair McClure asked if there is anything  
43 the Board can do to facilitate getting LCPS agreement signed, and if Ms. Delgado  
44 is cc'ing the Assistant City Manager (ACM). Ms. Delgado said she has contacted  
45 LCPS Administrator, the City's legal team, and ACM is aware. Ms. Delgado said  
46 may need a little push from the City Manager and the LCPS Superintendent. Chair

1 McClure asked how long it has been that LCPS has not signed. Ms. Delgado said  
2 she is thinking it has been about a year. Chair McClure asked if a letter from the  
3 Board would help. Chair McClure said she is also going to talk to her City  
4 Councilor.

5  
6 Chair McClure said she attended the VAB meeting and got a sense they weren't  
7 sure what they want to do, and at the end thought maybe they needed more  
8 signage. Chair McClure said it was eye opening for them to hear what the  
9 difference was between a special use park and a specialty park. She said it was a  
10 good idea tabling this item until the VAB gets more information. Chair McClure  
11 said she will share notes from the meeting with the rest of the Parks & Recreation  
12 Advisory Board members.

13  
14 Board Member Coppedge echoed Chair McClure's sentiments, and especially  
15 Board Member Montgomery's on trash and vandalism. Board Member Coppedge  
16 understood from Mr. Granillo that with all the lights on and things going on at  
17 Hadley Complex, there is no vandalism. Board Member Coppedge asked if there  
18 is a correlation between number of programs being offered in an area and the  
19 amount of vandalism. If we are spending so much money, time, and staffing on  
20 vandalism, should we change our way of thinking? He said if we don't want  
21 vandalism, can the clean-up crew be changed to offer a kick ball tournament once  
22 a week – is there another solution? Board Member Coppedge said this is just one  
23 thing he has noticed from his first Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, but  
24 he is encouraged by all the positive things that are happening in the city.

25  
26 Board Member Coppedge expressed thanks for having him as a Board Member  
27 and he looks forward to learning more.

28  
29 Board Member Coppedge noted he also has had the same interaction with the  
30 disc golf team at the park. He said they are mostly NMSU students who are part of  
31 the disc golf club and have also been working with NMSU golf course to build a full  
32 18-hole course, he doesn't know if that is a collaboration that NMSU and the city  
33 could combine resources on. Board Member Coppedge said he doesn't know the  
34 status of the new disc golf course that is being built but he thinks it is in everyone's  
35 best interest to not have a playground there. He said when he was at the park with  
36 his children, he didn't feel comfortable being there. Chair McClure concurred.

37  
38 **10. Adjournment:**

39  
40 Board Member Schuller moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Coppedge

41  
42 **Roll Call Vote:**

43 Board Member Coppedge - Aye.

44 Vice-Chair Engle - Aye.

45 Board Member Schuller – Aye

46 Board Member Montgomery – Aye

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Chair McClure - Aye  
Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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Chairperson

DRAFT