



City of Las Cruces®

MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.via ZOOM WEBINAR.

The health, safety and well-being of our residents and businesses are a top priority for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Leadership. As such, and consistent with and in support of the direction from Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Department of Health Public Health Order, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held via Zoom webinar.

**To view meeting, register in advance for this
webinar:https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hs33Ar5OQeCnRKZCT-X4iA
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about
joining the webinar.**

**In an effort to seek public input, we ask that if you have comments/concerns/questions,
please e-mail parksandrecadmin@las-cruces.org 24 hours before the meeting.**

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest

At the opening of each meeting, the chairperson shall ask if any member on the Board or City staff has any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
- 4.1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Special Meeting Minutes 01/14/2021

Documents:

[PRAB MINUTES 01142021.PDF](#)

- 4.2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes 01/21/2021

Documents:

[PRAB MINUTES 01212021.PDF](#)

5. Public Participation
6. Action Items

6.1. N/A

7. Discussion Items

7.1. Parks & Recreation Go Bond Projects Update - Public Works

7.2. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Mural - Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator

7.3. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Update - James Woods, KLCB Program Coordinator

7.4. New Park Resolution - Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation

7.5. FY22 Budget Requests - Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation

8. Staff Member Comments

9. Board Member Comments

10. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 541-2550.

The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Posted: 02/11/2021

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

01-14-2021

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a special meeting on January 14, 2021 at 6:10 p.m. via zoom webinar.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

Cassie McClure – District 1
Stan Engle – District 4
Eric Montgomery – District 5
Megan Schuller – District 6
Jeff Thompson – District 2

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

Eli Guzman - At Large
Maryln Zahler – District 3

Others Present:

Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks & Recreation
Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation
Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
Ikani Taumoepeau, Assistant City Manager
Gregory Shervanick, Public

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of January 14, 2021 via Zoom webinar and was brought to order at 6:10 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. Ms. McClure welcomed Mr. Jeff Thompson as the newest Board Member and said introductions would be done at the regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on January 21, 2021.

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. Schuller moved to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Action Items

4.1 Location for AARP FitLot Park Amenities – Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect

Ms. Mathews informed the Board AARP is interested in making Las Cruces a location for a FitLot Outdoor Fitness Park. AARP initiated a program to put one of these fitness parks in each of the fifty states and three other locations. Las Cruces was chosen in New Mexico to be the site for the FitLot Outdoor Fitness Park. Ms. Mathews said Parks and Recreation staff have been working on determining some appropriate locations for the Fitness Park and is seeking the Board's recommended location to take forward to City Council for their approval on the agreement, location, and then construction and installation.

Ms. Mathews provided a Power Point Presentation on the AARP FitLot Outdoor Fitness Park, giving a description of the FitLot Fitness Park and park selection criteria (accessibility, restroom availability, close to transit (bus) stop, water fountain, parking lot, high visibility location, and existing park). The presentation provided a matrix created identifying parks meeting the criteria. Possible park locations meeting the criteria were Benavidez Community Center Park, Valley View Park, East Mesa Mini Park, Apodaca Park, La Buena Vida Park, Sunset Hills Park, and Hadley Avenue Recreation Complex. Ms. Mathews reviewed how each of these parks were identified based on the required criteria, mentioning similar amenities in or near these locations. Ms. Mathews said the staff preferred location is the Benavidez Community Center Park which meets all the criteria and mentioned a master plan process was completed for this park in the last eighteen months where neighbors showed interest in seeing development occur at Benavidez Park and the plan included outdoor fitness stations, so this project fits ideally in the approved master plan. Ms. Mathews said staff is seeking Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's recommendation of Benavidez Community Center Park as the FitLot location. She said a similar presentation was given to the Senior Advisory Board earlier in the day and they concurred and agreed on Benavidez Community Center Park as their recommended location.

Mr. Montgomery said he thinks his district would want him to advocate for East Mesa but thinks that staff's recommendation logically fits better and supports that option.

Mr. Engle concurred and said Ms. Mathews made a compelling argument for Benavidez and it happens to be in his district.

Ms. Schuller said she appreciated how Ms. Mathews explained how other parks had outdoor equipment available to them and so it looks like with this grant, that we're able to get another outdoor facility similar to where the existing ones are and not bombard or overwhelm a single park with that type of equipment and appreciated the presentation and making note of what is similar. Ms. Schuller moved to accept the proposal recommendation for the AARP equipment to be placed per the presentation of Cathy Mathews, at Benavidez Community Center Park, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Cassie McClure, District 1 - Aye
Stan Engle, District 4 - Aye
Megan Schuller, District 6 - Aye
Eric Montgomery, District 5 – Aye
Jeff Thompson, District 2 – Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Montgomery moved to adjourn, seconded by Stan Engle.

Cassie McClure, District 1 - Aye
Jeff Thompson, District 2 – Aye
Eric Montgomery, District 5 – Aye
Stan Engle, District 4 - Aye
Megan Schuller, District 6 – Aye

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

01/21/2021

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on January 21, 2021 at 6:02 p.m. via zoom webinar.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

Cassie McClure – District 1
Stan Engle – District 4
Eric Montgomery – District 5
Megan Schuller – District 6
Jeff Thompson – District 2

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

Eli Guzman n- At Large
Maryln Zahler – District 3

Others Present:

Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks & Recreation
Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation
Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation
Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
Ikani Taumoepeau, Assistant City Manager
Jennifer Morrow, Sr. Engineer, Public Works
Gregory Shervanick, Public
Robert Harrison, Former Board Member

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of January 21, 2021 via Zoom webinar and was brought to order at 6:02 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. Ms. McClure welcomed Mr. Jeff Thompson as the newest Board Member and said introductions would be done at the regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on January 21, 2021.

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. Engle moved to accept agenda as written, seconded by Ms. Schuller. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Schuller recommended correction to Section 4 – Approval of Minutes, to correct beginning of sentence that says “Mr. Schuller” to say Ms. Schuller.

Mr. Engle moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020 as amended, seconded by Ms. Schuller. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Participation

Mr. Gregory Shervanick said he feels that based on equity, the resolution brought forth by Councilor Sorg for the new park in District 5 is totally out of alignment with the philosophical idea that Elevate Las Cruces and the creations of projects in the City are a progressive item, not something that one can just grab based on particular type of resolution politics that doesn't actually follow what every other project has been brought before this Board, committee, and Parks and Recreations. He realizes that Sonya and her staff cannot defend themselves against the requests based on a resolution, so the Board are the last bastion between chaos. The Board previously had policies, ways of doing things. He said the soccer team couldn't even get a water fountain a couple of years ago and now out of the blue, Councilor Sorg decides, that, whether its legacy or these people who are very loud and vocal at this time, because Councilor Sorg could have come to this Board and Parks and Recreation and ask for something in that area. He said when he read the newspaper article, the people in this area lived out there for years, they knew where they were living and what they build on the properties. Mr. Shervanick said he feels it is totally out of character and the only people who can make or ask for an adjustment are the Board. Sonya and Parks and Recreation staff cannot do that under the conditions of the resolution proposed to City Council because if that door is opened, it is likely other City Councilors will be knocking on it asking for the same park within a year under a resolution. Mr. Shervanick expressed his thanks for being allowed to speak.

Chair McClure asked if the Board has any questions on this topic, should an item be requested to be placed on the next Agenda. Ms. Delgado said if Board has any questions of Mr. Shervanick, those questions could be asked now. Ms. McClure asked if an action item can be done as a Board if something like this comes up. Ms. Delgado said this is a good question, and because it is a resolution from City Council, she is not sure but will check and get back to the Board.

The Board did not have any questions for Mr. Shervanick.

There was no other public participation.

6. Action Items

There were no action items.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Board Member Introductions (Cassie McClure, Chair)

With the addition of new Board Member, Jeff Thompson, Chair McClure asked Board members to give a brief introduction of themselves. Chair McClure, Mr. Engle, Ms. Schuller, Mr. Montgomery, and Mr. Thompson each gave a short synopsis of themselves. Chair McClure gave a short synopsis of Mr. Guzman and Ms. Zahler who were not present.

7.2 AARP FitLot Park Amenities Update (Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect)

Ms. Mathews shared a presentation of the AARP Fitlot Outdoor Fitness Park. She informed the Board the AARP Outdoor Fitness Park was accepted and approved by City Council to be placed at Benavidez Community Center. The presentation provided pictures of the Fitlot Park amenities to include rubberized surfacing, fitness equipment, shade canopy, trash can, bench and bike rack. An aerial map of the approved location was shown of the Benavidez Park Conceptual Master Plan showing where the AARP Fitlot will be located.

Ms. Schuller asked what the timeframe is for completion of this fitness park. Ms. Mathews said AARP's timeframe starts February 3 with ordering of fitness equipment and anticipated completion by May 2021.

Mr. Engle asked if the installation of the Fitlot would interfere with any other updates to the Park under the Master Plan. Ms. Mathews said no interference is anticipated.

7.3 New District 5 Park (Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation & Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect)

Ms. Delgado informed the Board a resolution was passed by City Council to purchase land and build a park in District 5. Councilor Sorg did have an article in the newspaper talking about the general area. Ms. Delgado said staff has met with Land Management, looking for some parcels that could be used for a park. Two acres is standard per the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The land has to be accessible, have infrastructure, road, sidewalks. These options are being looked at currently and will then meet with Public Works to make sure the infrastructure is aligned. The next step will be to reach out to landowners to see if they are interested in selling their property and then negotiations will begin with Land Management. Obstacles are price per acres, with requests coming in significantly higher. She said the funding source being identified currently are some funds that came from the the Philippou developer settlement from back around 2009. She said a portion of those funds have to be used for infrastructure so Public Works has some of that

money earmarked, and whatever is left can be used for the park. Ms. Delgado said she will have an exact dollar amount as this moves forward. She said the park has to be built by January 2022. This topic will come back before the Board to review what the park will look like.

Mr. Engle said if he understood Mr. Shervanick's statement earlier, Mr. Shervanick is concerned that other City Councilors could get a resolution passed for their own districts to do the same exact thing, and if everybody started to do that, it would be a lot of money that is all of sudden is having to be spent. If so, should this go through the Board in the future? To that question, Chair McClure asked what could the Board expect in the future if City Council can just make that decision? Ms. Delgado said both are great questions. She said as far as a precedence, could other City Councilors do this, absolutely. City Councilors don't have to bring a resolution to the Board. They would just have to get with the Mayor to let him know what they are thinking and what they would like to bring forward. Ms. Delgado said it is possible there could be other resolutions.

Chair McClure asked if there wasn't the settlement money, where would random projects get earmarked from. Ms. Delgado said during the City Council meeting on the resolution, it wasn't known if the Philippou funds could be used and the vote was that if the Philippou funds weren't available to use, then park impact fees would be used. Park impact fees is the only other funding source that Parks and Recreation has that can be used for new levels of service. Ms. Delgado said she did mention at the City Council meeting, if in fact this were to happen, she would have to go back to City Council to ask them to prioritize all of the projects that are currently in the park impact fee list.

Chair McClure asked if this happens, this could hold up progress or development. Ms. Delgado said this is a delicate question but yes. This is why if park impact fees were used, she would have to go back to City Council for them to decide which projects would go where. Ms. Delgado said thankfully the Philippou account can be used for this particular project.

Ms. Schuller asked if the Philippou lawsuit was in District 5 because maybe there is a correlation there and hopefully with Ms. Delgado's comments about the park impact fees that maybe City Council with everybody's concern would head that off if it were in the same district. Ms. Delgado said to her knowledge, she believed all of Philippou's building happened in District 5 but is not for certain.

Mr. Engle said since Philippou money can be used, as Board members, they can say "ok" but should maybe speak to their assigned City Councilors to let them know this was discussed in this Board meeting and caution them against trying to do another resolution to make a new park if park impact fees have to be used which could upset the budget.

Chair McClure said this could be a step one but wonders if there is a way to express the Board's sentiments of issues that could be faced down the road. Step one being to talk to their assigned City Councilor and discuss at next Board meeting and maybe write a letter at that time.

Mr. Montgomery said as a representative of District 5, he has spoken to Councilor Sorg regarding this park facility, and specifically this set of neighborhoods, and the lack of facilities. He said as long as he's known Councilor Sorg, it has been a priority of his to identify this area as a park and has been pretty vocal on it during City Council. Mr. Montgomery said, from a policy and procedure side, he can understand the concern of this not coming through a more traditional channel. He said at the same time, if the pool of funding is not something the Board traditionally deals with, he is not sure this is within the Board's scope or bounds and is a question for the legal department. He said he has to question or wonder if this is just part of the politics afforded to City Councilors. Mr. Montgomery said, bringing up the skate park as being a point of discussion, he has heard Councilor Sorg talk about the lack of parks in District 5 for many years prior to that. Talking about money and allocations from park impact fees or lobbying for capital outlay dollars for the skate park, from his perspective on writing a letter, in his discussions with his City Councilor, he is not sure this particular situation warrants that.

Ms. Schuller said based on Mr. Montgomery's comments, she thinks this is something to stay on top of but not be as aggressive at the current moment. She said the Board realize the Philippou funds are there, if it's been something long term in the discussion of the City Councilor, City Council has had some thought about it and moving forward with their plan. Ms. Schuller said the Board needs to keep this out of the forefront with their City Council and maybe at a later date and time, have a more aggressive approach with a letter from the Board helping to provide additional in site base on District 5 comments with Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. Engle said he was happy to hear Mr. Montgomery's thoughts, acknowledged Mr. Shervanick's concern.

Mr. Thompson said he is concerned, if the Philippou funds were taken out of the equation, about how being able to pass a resolution through the City Council would proceed to put a project ahead of other ones that are in the que. He said in his humble opinion, the Board would be amiss not to have some kind of a statement that does address this, not as a reaction, but to be proactive to this situation. He said he could see where this could possibly lead to some other situations, if it has to go into the park impact fees, he could see a precedent could be set with this project that the Board might not want to endeavor in, in the future.

Mr. Montgomery said maybe it would be worthwhile to understand the cost impact and have a presentation along those lines, to Sonya's comments, even if there is outside funding that comes in, as parks are developed, the ongoing maintenance – is there some type of way to ensure the City has the follow-up funding to maintain these projects. Chair McClure asked if this presentation would be for City Council. Mr. Montgomery said it would be for the Board to make the request to bring the attention to that decision making and start from there – the other route would be if a letter is drafted, understanding the downstream considerations to the additional expenses, and ensuring City Council allocates funding to the Parks Department for maintenance of the new facilities, which may require a resolution from the Board. Mr. Montgomery said he would like to hear from staff what would be the best route.

Ms. Delgado said she doesn't know because she doesn't know what will happen next. To the question regarding maintenance dollars, the department doesn't get maintenance dollars, is asked for during the budget process, and if not received, figure out how to deal with it. She said Parks and Recreation is growing fast, and staff is working on other things to bring forward to possibly create other funding sources for Parks and Recreation because its time. This is something that will be brought before the Board a few months down the road for their help.

Mr. Montgomery said he understands park impact fees doesn't allow for a holding or an accounting to where 25% could be reserved from what's raised into an interest-bearing account that could then provide reoccurring funding for maintenance of the projects and asked if this was correct. Ms. Delgado concurred. She said park impact fees received from that home, has to be spent in seven years. If not spent in that time, it has to be given back to the owner. Chair McClure asked why, and Ms. Delgado said it is City Ordinance.

Chair McClure said she would like to put this as a discussion item for the next Board meeting and encouraged the Board to reach out to their Councilors and talk to them about maintenance, and precedence.

Ms. Delgado informed the Board Go Bond is coming up soon and would like to see if can put together a Go Bond question that would have perpetual maintenance fund earmarked for Parks and Recreation, that could either take care of Go Bond projects coming up next or just all Parks and Recreation in general. This would be just for maintenance. She said this is an idea she is going to share with her supervisor and is sharing it with the Board.

Mr. Thompson asked Ms. Delgado, with the impact fees (\$2,600 per new resident), why was no percentage of that per Mr. Montgomery's notion earlier, ever earmarked towards maintenance of a new project. Ms. Delgado said the way she understands park impact fees to work, the way the language is written in the ordinance and as its used, even in the state Of New Mexico, it has to be used for new levels of service and cannot be used for maintenance at all or replacement, it has to be brand new. She said the other item on there is the money has to be spent in seven years or what hasn't been spent, has to be given back to the homeowner. Mr. Thompson asked Ms. Delgado if she believes this is a statewide issue and not just a local. Ms. Delgado said yes but is not certain and doesn't know if Ms. Cathy Mathews has addition information.

Ms. Mathews said it's her understanding that park impact fees are regulated by State law through the Legislature. She said it is her understanding that park impact fees can only be used for new levels of service, not maintenance, and only for capital improvements.

Mr. Engle said he agrees Board members should discuss this with their City Councilors.

7.4 Comcast Lift Zones (Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator)

Mr. Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, informed the Board Comcast Cable Company has reached out to the City with an opportunity for Wi-Fi Lift Zones which would allow for students

to be able to participate in distance learning, remote work, and after school care programs. Mr. Nunez said seven Parks and Recreation facilities and four Senior Program facilities were identified. Staff is working with the City's I.T. Department, Legal, and Comcast to see if this can be accomplished in the near future. He said the contract would be for three calendar years. Mr. Nunez said this is a positive opportunity for youth and Seniors to come to our sites and have Wi-Fi capability to get work done or for entertainment purposes.

Mr. Montgomery asked if as part of this arrangement if Comcast would have to pull permits to upgrade wiring within the facilities to be able to do this. Mr. Nunez said infrastructure would be evaluated by Comcast and if need be on their end, would get the added resource needed for those locations. Mr. Montgomery said this type of infrastructure is critical right now, remote learning is tremendously difficult, he has a big heart for the youth trying to get this done – trying to get access to Wi-Fi from outside of the schools. Mr. Montgomery said this is an absolute need for the community and he would hate for there to be instruments that would interfere with it and wouldn't want to see a project like this get tied up. He asked if there is a way to waive permits given the focus on relieving issues, societal issues for the pandemic.

Ms. Delgado said the Community Development Department does have a City of Las Cruces Permit which encompasses all facilities, so if issues are encountered, they should be resolved relatively quickly. Ms. Delgado added that as weather warms up, it has been mentioned to Comcast to get Wi-Fi at some of the parks and they are willing to think about it.

Mr. Engle agreed with Mr. Montgomery that this is critical infrastructure and would want this to happen. He said his biggest concern is that the City pays for upgrading Comcast's infrastructure and after a few years the program is no longer needed, or the City lets it lapse. Mr. Nunez said the state representative said that anything that needs to be upgraded would be done through Comcast, and after the three years is up, then it would be between the City of Las Cruces and Comcast to decide on what to do to continue the services.

Mr. Engle asked if after the three years, would another internet provider be able to use the infrastructure installed by Comcast, should the City decide not to continue with Comcast. Mr. Nunez said this would be a question that needs to be asked to Comcast.

Chair McClure asked what this would look like if individuals would have to be in a specific location. Mr. Nunez said the strength allows square footage of Wi-Fi; it would cover entire area of the building. Mr. Nunez said something could be set up for a designated Wi-Fi area for the public.

7.5 Project Updates (Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect)

Ms. Catherine provided the Board brief updates on projects broken down by categories:

- Top Ten
 - Skate Park Renovation – has state legislative funding to complete.

- ORLPP Grant/Apodaca Park Aquatic Playground – in process of receiving Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP) grant. Project is underway and a cultural resources study is currently being conducted in order to receive federal funding.
- Parks Security and Lighting at Veterans Memorial Park is underway. Electrical upgrades have been accomplished and getting ready to start on lighting portion – adding pathway lightings at Veterans Memorial Park and also Gomez Park with state legislative funding.
- RTP (Recreation Trails Program) Grant/Las Cruces Lateral Trail – grant received through the Department of Transportation. In the process of negotiating a contract with a firm to get this project under way.
- Smart Controllers– This project used what is called a water smart grant through a federal funding source. This project will be finished by installing booster pumps for irrigation system at Soldados and Apodaca Park.
- Women Veterans Monument – midway through completing lighting system upgrade and replacement, making some electrical upgrades to facility, and ensuring lights are appropriate.
- City Bond Median Landscapes Phase 1 – project is funded by City Bond. Two medians within each Council district are being landscaped, including irrigation. Working with Public Works to construct.
- Highland Park – project will be using Park Impact Fees and HHGRT (Hold Harmless Gross Receipts Tax) funds. Design is complete and preparing to go out to bid for construction. Located near Highland Elementary School, north of US 70 at Emerald Street. Will be a ten-acre park on property that is leased from the Bureau of Land Management.
- Lohman and Runner Medians – Received \$50,000 from state legislature to complete this project. This will accomplish design of all the un-landscaped medians on Lohman and Roadrunner. Have completed a topographic survey of those medians and getting ready to right RFP for design.
- AARP FitLot Outdoor Fitness NEW Project – moved up from On Deck list to Top Ten list due to the expedited schedule.
- Next Ten
 - City Bond Median Landscape Phase 2 – will be starting design.
 - Metro Verde Subdivision
 - Ninja Park
 - Red Hawk Golf Road Landscape
 - Red Hawk Villas Park
 - I10-I25 Interchange improvements – working with DOT.
 - Chandler Tank improvements – storm water retention pond located on Sonoma Ranch Blvd. where will be building out a neighborhood park using funding from Public Works.
 - Las Cruces Soccer Field improvements – have received capital outlay funding from state legislature to make improvements at High Noon soccer fields.

- Gomez Park – will be conducting public process to develop a master plan that will include lighting and allow for future improvements.
- Dona Ana Move Trail – being funded by state legislative grants and private grant from Paso del Norte Foundation.
- Tortugas Trail - being funded by state legislative grants and private grant from Paso del Norte Foundation.
- On Deck/Upcoming, supported (managed by other Departments for which support is offered) – Several projects on Deck to be reviewed later. Supported projects are mostly Go Bond Projects and managed by Public Works – Park staff are involved in reviewing plans, providing specifications on particular items.
- Parking Lot Items (projects coming up requiring attention that need to be placed on other lists)
- Internal (Special projects team works closely with Parks team to accomplish).

Ms. Mathews added these projects provide a lot of new and renovated landscapes, parks, and other kinds of facilities for our residents.

8. Staff Member Comments

Ms. Delgado informed the Board staff has started on the budget process. City Council will begin their strategic planning process January 22, 2021.

Mr. Nunez informed the Board the Development Diversion Program is still virtual. Attendance is going well; staff is doing amazing job with classes on-line. Will be meeting with the public schools to discuss youth that have fallen off the map and are not involved with the offered virtual learning.

Mr. Nunez informed the Board the Keep Las Cruces Program (KLCB) recently completed mural project by the Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Program for the mural project. Mr. Nunez said he will have Mr. James Woods, KLCB Coordinator, make a presentation at the next Board meeting on this mural project. Mr. Nunez informed the Board the mural was tagged and has since been cleaned up by some Youth Board members who volunteered along with the Facilitator.

Mr. Nunez informed the Board the Out of School Time Program started back up on January 19, 2021. The After School Program tutoring sessions are at about 50% capacity. The A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven Program is just about at 100% capacity, which is five per session, four sessions throughout the day. Teen Connection at about 90% capacity, with 40 teens. Mr. Nunez did say some families are hesitant to get into the programs as they are face to face. Masks, distancing, washing of hands is followed.

Mr. Catanach informed the Board Meerscheidt Recreation Center is getting a new wood floor in their league gym. The old floor is over 20 years old. Cost of the floor was \$128,000 - \$78,000 to cover cost is coming from state legislature and \$50,000 from a special fund – funds received from the sale of City of Las Cruces license plates.

Mr. Catanach informed the Board Frenger Pool is opened for lap swim, with temperatures a little low, lingering at about 78 degrees. The Regional Aquatic Center (RAC) filtration systems went down and being worked on to get the lap swim and channel walk back up. The fitness area at RAC is open and being used quite steadily. Recreation staff are putting up videos on Facebook on skills development in different sports, crocheting, healthy meals. Mr. Catanach said staff are looking at ways to start up recreational programming - small fitness classes, events, music events, recreational offering – carefully, cautiously, smartly, and safely.

Mr. Granillo informed the Board staff are working on a debrief of lessons learned from COVID-19 this past year and will come up with a document and template on what to do/prioritize if faced with a situation like this again. Mr. Granillo said athletic fields are closed but are being prepared for when they do open. Ballfield staff are continuing to work on trails. Construction staff are working with other Department staff to address washouts along Triviz trail and relandscaping. Parks Maintenance staff is working with Community Forestry installing irrigation and planting of trees (with about 159 trees planted). Staff is also working with Ms. Mathews and her staff on special projects. Mr. Granillo said Mr. Catanach has some of his staff working with Park staff identifying damaged/vandalized/met life span amenities in parks so they can be replaced in the fall.

Ms. Mathews informed the Board her staff are working remotely, coming into the office when they can, and staying busy.

Ms. Delgado expressed thanks to Mr. Robert Harrison for being a Board Member, for being so involved with the Parks and Recreation Department and appreciates his passion for Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Harrison expressed that Parks and Recreation staff are an awesome group of individuals, with Ms. Delgado being the hardest worker and amazing. He expressed to the Board they are awesome and welcomed Mr. Jeff Thompson as the new Board member.

Mr. Shervanick expressed his gratitude to Mr. Harrison for taking the time to listen to his comments as the other Board members have. Mr. Harrison added that he appreciates Mr. Shervanick's input.

Mr. Ikani Taumoepeau, Assistant City Manager, offered his thanks to Mr. Robert Harrison for his work on the Board, and thanked the Board and staff. He said he is excited to be here and can't wait to take the tour of Parks and Recreation. Kudos to everybody.

9. Board Member Comments

Mr. Montgomery wished everyone a Happy New Year and many great successes for Parks and Recreation in this new year.

Ms. Schuller welcomed Mr. Jeff Thompson to the Board and asked he reach out to the rest of the Board should he need anything. She expressed to Happy 2021 to the Parks and Recreation staff, make everyday better than it was yesterday. She is excited to hear about the Comcast Wi-Fi, what a great platform for everybody in the community. Ms. Schuller expressed her thanks to Mr. Robert Harrison,

wishing him the best of luck, hoping he stay in touch. She thanked him for being a great Chairman and for being an example for the rest of the Board to follow.

Mr. Engle echoed Happy 2021, hopefully this year is better than last year with hope on the horizon with the vaccine. Mr. Engle thanked staff on tonight's presentations and their hard work, welcomed Mr. Thompson to the Board, expressed thanks to the Board, and expressed to Mr. Harrison he hopes to see him around as a concerned citizen. Mr. Engle thanked Mr. Shervanick and all concerned citizens for bringing things to the Board's attention, saying democracy works when the Board listens to community members, taking action based on their input.

Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for the warm welcome, saying he is excited to be a part of the Board moving forward, and echoes everyone's wish and hope that 2021 is much better than 2020.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Montgomery moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Schuller.

Cassie McClure, District 1 - Aye
Jeff Thompson, District 2 – Aye
Eric Montgomery, District 5 – Aye
Stan Engle, District 4 - Aye
Megan Schuller, District 6 – Aye

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair