

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
Stan Engle
Eric Montgomery
Megan Schuller
Jeff Thompson

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

Eli Guzman
Maryln Zahler

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 - I
Stan Engle, District 4 – I
Megan Schuller, District 6 - I
Eric Montgomery, District 5 – I
Jeff Thompson, District 2 – I

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment

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

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

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

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair