



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

April 20, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on April 20, 2023, at 6:05 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

- Cassie McClure - District 1
- Kenneth Coppedge – District 2
- Aracely Tellez – District 3
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Laura Haas - District 6
- Fred Raish – At large member

Members Absent:

- Eric Montgomery - District 5

Others Present:

- Robert Nunez, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation
- Phillip Catanach, Recreation Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
- Claudia Chavez, Interim Deputy Director Youth Services, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
- Greg Shervanick, Public
- Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC
- Cathy Gonzales, Parks & Recreation Parks & Recreation Staff Member
- Terik Montgomery, Parks & Recreation Staff Member
- Jasmyn Rios, Parks & Recreation Staff Member
- Yvonne Rios, Parks & Recreation Staff Member
- Karla Munoz, Parks & Recreation Staff Member
- Kathy Hollett, Public
- Karina Herrera, Parks & Recreation Staff Member
- Amanda Curry, Public

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of April 20, 2023, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. Introduction:

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

3
4 **2. Conflict of Interest:**

5
6 There was no conflict of interest.

7
8 **3. Approval of the Agenda:**

9
10 Board Member Raish moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
11 Meeting Agenda for April 20, 2023, seconded by Vice-Chair Engle. Motion carried
12 unanimously.

13
14 **4. Approval of Minutes - February 16, 2023:**

15
16 Board Member Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
17 Meeting Minutes February 16, 2023, seconded by Board Member Tellez. Motion
18 carried unanimously.

19
20 **5. Approval of Minutes - March 16, 2023:**

21
22 Vice-Chair Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
23 Meeting Minutes March 16, 2023 as amended by Hazel, where date of approved
24 minutes on page 2, line 12 was changed from Minutes November 17, 2022 to Work
25 Session minutes January 19, 2023, seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion
26 carried unanimously.

27
28 **6. Public Participation:**

29
30 There was none.

31
32 **7. Action Items:**

33
34 **7.1 Parks & Recreation 2023-2024 Fees and Charges/Facility Use Policy -**
35 **Robert Nunez:**

36
37 This policy did not go before City Council immediately after being presented to
38 this Board at the end of last year. It has now been updated and will hopefully
39 be on the Council agenda sometime next month. There was no change to the
40 introduction. This is the Board's recommended policy to determine user fees,
41 different types of cost recovery, and various internal policies and City policies
42 regarding scholarships, fee waivers, payment plans, programming, and
43 permitting.

44
45 The categories of cost recovery are: Minimum Cost Recovery which is
46 normally 0-20% of direct program cost such as out-of-school programs,

1 therapeutic programs, special events, and aquatics; Partial Cost Recovery
2 include youth classes and athletics; Full Cost Recovery include any adult
3 programming. The policy includes definitions of Direct Cost, a list Parks and
4 Rec's facilities, and programming/hours of operation. There are guidelines for
5 sponsorship of groups and Department guidelines for the distribution of City
6 stipends to local recreational youth leagues or organizations/associations.
7 This funding is to help lower the cost of participation for youth members.
8 Currently \$10,000 is budgeted for this and only one club has recently applied
9 for aid. The established clubs have become self-sustaining recently, as they
10 have not applied for aid in some time. The policy includes a refund policy,
11 returned check policy, payment plan guidelines, and the youth scholarship
12 program. The scholarship program runs from July 1 through June 30 and uses
13 funds received from unsolicited private donations. A household can receive
14 up to \$240; individuals can receive up to \$120. Sponsored youth are required
15 to pay 50% of the program fees. Scholarships cannot be used to pay for
16 fitness classes, rentals, equipment fees, special events, pass cards, and daily
17 entry to the pool facility. Families who desire scholarships must fill out an
18 application and provide proof of income and residence. Parks and Rec follows
19 State guidelines for income analysis. The policy includes a transfer policy, age
20 categories, seniors, recreation facility age limits, family definitions,
21 organization aquatic fee, restorative pool, weight room program, free swim
22 dates, school district year-end parties, and facility use rental guidelines for all
23 the recreational centers.

24
25 One new item there is "rentals cannot be used to conduct private business for
26 personal gain unless approved by Parks and Recreation Director." There are
27 contracts to conduct City programming, permitting procedures, which includes
28 the new permit rule "to request for the use of water-holding structures like but
29 not limited to Las Cruces Dam and Tee time will need prior approval by the
30 Public Works Department before park facility application can be approved."
31 Those two locations are under the authority of Public Works and the Army
32 Corps of Engineers. Also updates was the request for use of parks: Request
33 for use of the following parks but not limited to Apodaca Park, Desert Trails
34 Park, Johnson Park, Klein Park, Women's Pioneer Park, Veterans Memorial
35 Park, and Young Park will require a deposit/fee of \$250. This payment is
36 nonrefundable and will be applied to your overall rental fee." The policy also
37 lays out nondiscrimination compliance, insurance; the City of Las Cruces
38 requires anyone renting the park and using jumping balloons to carry
39 additional liability insurance with the City listed as additional insured. There
40 are guidelines for sports field requests: If you are not established or in good
41 standing, a 50% payment will be due up front once a permit has been
42 approved. This payment is nonrefundable and will be applied to your overall
43 rental. The remaining balance must be paid within one week after the event.
44 All tournaments require a \$250 deposit upon approval of permitting. All
45 organizations, leagues, and field users including point-of-contact and league
46 office that do not reside within City limits will have to pay a non-resident fee

1 and will require a \$250 deposit upon approval of permit. This payment is
2 nonrefundable and will be applied to your overall rental fee. A Post Office box
3 will not be allowed as proof of local residence. All organizations will be
4 responsible for collection of event camping fees at tournaments.
5

6 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board authority over leagues and
7 organizations that utilize City fields and/or facilities: The purpose of this is to
8 provide guidance to local recreational youth, adult leagues, or organizations
9 that utilize City fields and/or facilities, to provide an independent, non-biased
10 committee that has the authority to review league/organization procedures, act
11 as an appellant body for players, coaches, parents, spectators, suspensions,
12 review financial records and recommend or require changes to league
13 organizational operations. This is per Resolution 12-072. There have been
14 coaches and parents come in, as all leagues are required to have standard
15 operating procedures regarding behavior and actions of fans, league officers,
16 parents, teams, everyone who is in attendance, and there have been
17 suspensions coming all the way up to the Board. Complaints start at the level
18 of the section that they are under, then the level of the Director, and if it is
19 unable to be resolved it is brought before the Parks and Rec Advisory Board
20 to be heard. Parks and Rec Advisory Board has the final say in these
21 situations. Board Member Coppedge asked about renting soccer fields and
22 that information is further down in the policy.
23

24 There are requirements listed for fishing, swimming, carnivals and
25 amusements, roller skating/rollerblading/skateboarding, golfing, mobile
26 concessions/vending, special use permits, inflatable/portable play equipment,
27 vehicles driving in City parks, the wellness program, the community gardening
28 program including that all participants must be registered annually and all
29 current gardeners can register for one plot from January 3rd through January
30 31st and new gardeners can register for available plots from February 1st
31 through 28th and beginning March 1st registered gardeners can request a
32 second plot if available. There was a high demand for plots last year so Parks
33 and Rec wants to try to provide enough. Parks and Rec has added the
34 Memorial Tree and Bench Program for people to purchase a new tree for \$500
35 each, and a park bench with a plaque for \$2,200 up to \$2,500 or without a
36 plaque starting at \$1,800 dedicated to the person or group of their choice. A
37 Walk of Honor brick paver would be \$35. The list includes park hours and
38 rules for park use. Pet owners' responsibilities are listed and the locations of
39 the dog parks. The rules are listed for merchandising, advertising, and signs
40 with exceptions, and City fee policies as established by City Council.
41

42 A fitness punch card with 30 visits should be increased to \$60, the gymnastics
43 program is being discontinued due to lack of instructors and will hopefully be
44 reinstated later if an instructor can be found, open pickleball sessions is \$2 per
45 session, pickleball net rental for on-site use only is \$10 per net, the Water
46 Cycle Class is \$5 per class, the Water Fitness punch card is increased to \$60,

1 the Aquatic Weight Room is also increased to \$60 for 30 visits. The After
2 School Program fee schedule was \$400 per semester; during the pandemic
3 those fees were removed. Now that the pandemic is officially listed as over,
4 the fees will be \$100 per semester. Summer Recreation Program fees will be
5 requested to be set at \$40 and the Spring Camp and Fall Camp at \$20 per
6 session. Pre- and post-program fees will be eliminated, the Life Center Angel
7 Care building has been sold to a private business and so is no longer part of
8 the Therapeutic Recreational Program, for youth sports leagues and cheer
9 with jersey is \$50, without jersey is \$40, coach rental card is \$5 per player, and
10 with the pilot programming process the Department will be able to improve
11 their research and innovation for new programming.
12

13 The fees will be set at the time of implementation with City Council's approval.
14 Special events fees remain the same. For the swimming program the fees
15 have been adjusted. First aid will be \$55, CPR will be \$75, recertification will
16 be \$50, lifeguard skills recertification will be \$90, home swimming pool/spa
17 water safety will be \$30, open water safety will be \$30, home swimming water
18 safety/open water will be \$50. Daily fees remain the same for the swimming
19 pools. There will no longer be punch cards at Frenger, East Mesa, and Laabs.
20 Rentals have been scratched. Natatorium meet and practice fees for nonprofit,
21 commercial, and non-residential have been thoroughly researched and are:
22 Nonprofit \$11, commercial \$50 per 25-yard lane for practice, and non-
23 residential is \$17. A 50-meter lane is \$13 for nonprofit, \$50 for commercial,
24 and \$26 for non-residential. Swim meets: Nonprofit \$175 per hour without
25 scoreboard, \$700 for commercial, and \$220 for non-residential. Starting
26 system per meet: Nonprofit \$25, commercial \$100, and non-residential \$30.
27 Dolphin timers, each per meet: Nonprofit \$15, commercial \$60, and non-
28 residential \$20. Operation fee for timing system will be \$30 per operator
29 across the board. Swim meet spectator fee will be \$3 across the board. Touch
30 pads: Nonprofit \$15, commercial \$60, and \$20 for non-residential. Swim
31 meets timing system will be \$500 across the board. School swim teams per
32 lane is \$11 across the board.
33

34 There is also a breakdown of staff fees for required personnel such as
35 lifeguards. Aquatic special events will be \$5 per participant. Punch cards and
36 private lessons are not offered. Swim lessons, not including books, for
37 lifeguarding and water safety instructor, minimum age of 16, are \$200. The
38 new system will have a debit card for daily use, as the punch cards did not
39 work as well as hoped. The debit cards can be used for everything, where the
40 punch cards were specific to each facility. The City will need to hire more
41 lifeguards to be able to keep the facilities open for the hours desired. Fitness
42 room rent is \$20 per hour, party area/party room is \$100 per three hours. East
43 Mesa Multipurpose Room team rental is \$10 per hour. The gymnastics rental
44 package has been scratched. Meerscheidt Recreation Facility, entire building
45 indoors is \$100 per hour. The Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center dining
46 room is \$30 per hour and the auditorium is \$40 per hour. The Meerscheidt

1 Recreation Center team practice rental card allows use of the Multipurpose
2 Room and either gymnasium is six sessions for \$50 or eight sessions for \$70.
3 Fundraising rentals will need to be coordinated and approved with additional
4 electric panels through the City's Facilities Section and a separate fee will be
5 assessed. Merchandise has been raised to \$15, \$20, and \$25. Pickleballs
6 are \$1 each. The Ziggy plush is \$10. Park permit fees for organized groups
7 to use facilities: Trails are \$2 per participant, parking lot fee is \$100 per half
8 lot for four hours or the entire lot for \$200, sports leagues per field/court game
9 fees have been adjusted also, and priority and lower rent is given to local
10 leagues.

11
12 Pedestrian barricades, temporary fence, or goal transportation for soccer
13 goals are \$250 per setup for residents and \$500 for non-residents. Practice
14 field hourly fees are being adjusted for residents and non-residents and will be
15 for a maximum of two hours per day and two days per week. Pickleball and
16 handball court fees and tournament fees have been adjusted for residents and
17 non-residents. Facility change fees for setup and tear-down are \$1,000 each
18 time if Parks and Rec is requested to take care of that. Sports groups, camping
19 fees, RV trailers, tents have a resident and non-resident fee. BMX fees,
20 horseshoes, and skate part rentals have been adjusted for residents and non-
21 residents. There is an added vendor fee of \$60 quarterly and \$150 for a
22 concession space and parking spot on the Downtown area. The mobile
23 concession and vending fees are \$150 per quarter. These price increases are
24 not based on a percentage but rather staff salaries and research and
25 comparison with other cities' facilities to keep prices competitive and still
26 recover costs.

27
28 As a municipality, Las Cruces is required to set some type of fee on most of
29 the programs. Through policy and with the help of City Council, the youth
30 programs are subsidized and supported to keep prices down while the cost
31 recovery is achieved through the adult programming. The process for renting
32 facilities is posted on the Parks and Rec website and can be included in this
33 Policy. Restrooms are open while the parks are open and the Parks and Rec
34 crews keep them up. The Young Park south restroom is kept locked except
35 for huge events because renters who rent the southwest corner of the park
36 complain when people not in their own party use that restroom, so it is easier
37 to just keep that restroom locked. Restrooms are repaired as soon as possible
38 when they break because the port-a-potty vendor is under contract and using
39 that service would go over contract just to replace a broken restroom
40 temporarily. Staff can look into adding restroom use into the Policy. Posted
41 park hours used to be 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. but there were many issues
42 happening after dark, so park hours were changed to 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in
43 the summer and 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the winter. Now, park hours are
44 simply sunrise to sunset and the Department is working on updating the
45 signage and website. This allows Codes and Police to send away people who
46 may be causing problems outside of posted hours.

1
2 Board Member Coppedge moved to table this item until the meeting of May
3 18, 2023, seconded by Board Member Raish.
4

5 This Policy is already in the queue for City Council in May. Staff could easily
6 add the language requested and send out the updated document by e-mail for
7 review so that it can still go to City Council in May. The motion to table died.
8

9 Board Member Coppedge moved to approve the Parks & Recreation 2023-
10 2024 Fees And Charges/Facility Use with language added regarding bathroom
11 use and field rental process, seconded by Board Member Haas. Motion
12 carried unanimously by acclamation.
13

14 **8. Discussion Items:**

15
16 **8.1 Organ Mountains Pickleball Club - Jeff Anderson:**
17

18 Jeff Anderson is the new President of the Organ Mountains Pickleball Club.
19 The club has been around for about three years and has roughly 250 members
20 and about 500 people on the e-mail list. They use City facilities all the time
21 and are very pleased to work with Parks and Rec. The club is a nonprofit
22 group and offers free youth lessons, broken into age groups of 3rd and 4th
23 grade, 5th and 6th grade, and 7th and 8th grade. They also offer free
24 beginning adult lessons. The club works with the Parkinson's Support Group
25 of Southern New Mexico and the patients get great benefits from the exercise.
26 There was a very successful tournament at Apodaca Park this year. The club
27 raised \$3,000 for Soles4Souls to provide shoes for local children and \$3,000
28 for La Casa to help victims of domestic violence. Tournaments at Apodaca
29 Park on Fridays and Saturdays are very well-attended. The club sponsored
30 the Aaron Gifford Annual Pickleball Tournament at Lions Park three weeks
31 ago and it was very successful. Ms. Hunter runs that tournament and she
32 reported that it earned \$30,000 for City of Hope to help get veterans off the
33 street and for Mission 22 which is a veterans' mental health organization.
34 There are beautiful new courts being built on the East Mesa and the club is
35 eagerly awaiting their opening. The club has a website and Mr. Anderson
36 invites everyone to visit Organ Mountains Pickleball there.
37

38 **8.2 Farmers Market Update - Cassie McClure:**
39

40 Board Member McClure attended the Farmers Market last month to chat with
41 attendees. She was very impressed with the sign for her booth. There were
42 many people asking questions in Spanish and she suggests that the
43 subcommittee should discuss how to market services in Spanish. Board
44 Member Engle also attended and there were many comments to him about
45 trails, wayfinding, and bicycle path infrastructure. Board Member Haas was
46 impressed with the amount of literature that was provided for her to pass out at

1 the Farmers Market. She requested more literature on the Senior and Youth
2 Programs to give out. She received many compliments on the programming
3 available in Las Cruces. Board Member Raish agreed that there were many
4 people interested in Senior Programs. People are also excited about the new
5 aquatic center. Board Member Engle also received questions about the new
6 dog park opening. Board Member McClure suggested having other days at
7 the Farmers Market for outreach in the future.
8

9 **8.3 Hike Program Update - Phil Catanach:**

10
11 Phil Catanach met with Mr. Patrick Nolan of Friends of the Organ Mountains
12 Desert Peaks to discuss setting up a hiking program and what Parks and Rec
13 can and can't do to help. They decided to set this up for August of this year as
14 they do not do hiking in the hottest part of the summer. Docent hikes are
15 available in May and June that are open to the public. Mr. Catanach said that
16 Parks and Rec does not have the staff with the safety knowledge to be able to
17 do a high-level program and so he is looking into ways to partner or contract
18 with Mr. Nolan's group. Mr. Catanach is also setting up a list of low-level hikes
19 that will be made available to the public starting in May. These are geared
20 towards beginners, as the staff that will be in attendance to provide CPR and
21 first aid services are also beginner hikers. These will be free of charge and
22 there will not be transport provided for participants. Mr. Catanach will
23 reevaluate a possible hiking program in August. He will keep Marvin and Linda
24 updated with community-wide hiking activities and docent hikes via e-mail.
25 Friends of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks are all volunteer so they will not
26 have the personnel available to help create a high-level hiking program. Other
27 cities in New Mexico such as Farmington are hiring outdoor recreation
28 programmers. There is a New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Conference in the
29 fall. All the hikes that are currently planned around Las Cruces are easy and
30 short. The specific distances and list of supplies to bring will come out with the
31 weekly list of hikes.
32

33 **8.4 GO Bond Updates - Robert Nunez:**

34
35 The 2018 Bond, multiuse paths at the sports fields and courts, has been
36 completed. The East Mesa Sports Complex is 94% complete. City Council
37 recently approved \$2 million of SSGRT funds for Parks and Rec/Public Works
38 to complete Phase I which includes erosion control, landscaping, and
39 playground and shade structures. The pickleball courts are basically finished
40 but cannot be opened because they are in a construction area. Parks and
41 Public Works will be doing an initial walk-through there. The sod was delayed
42 in shipping but field completion dates have been identified. The meeting to
43 discuss priorities for the \$2 million will be next week. The 2022 Bond was
44 recently approved with \$5 million earmarked for the East Mesa Sports
45 Complex. Public Works will do the lighting in all the fields and some funds will
46 be left for Parks and Rec to perhaps begin work on a skate park, trails, and

1 further lighting. Parks and Rec also received \$2 million for park improvements
2 and plans to immediately work on La Llorona Park restrooms and other
3 improvements and trail maintenance. Three other parks are also on the list for
4 these funds and Parks and Rec will see how much they can do with it. There
5 are three years allowed to spend all these funds.
6

7 **8.5 City Parks & Sports Fields Update - Franco Granillo:**

8
9 League practices are at a minimum but soccer practice can be done in
10 baseball outfields as well. The funding has been identified to remove the poles
11 at Harty so the field can be used for daytime play. The side fields are still lit
12 for night play. The Springfest was last week and went very well. Staff worked
13 very hard on litter control, restroom cleaning, keeping people out of the pond,
14 and occasionally assisting vendors. It was well-attended and everyone
15 seemed happy with it. The Mira! Las Cruces event is coming up on April 29,
16 2023. Staff is working hard on that. The plaza is already decorated, similar to
17 Christmas, and staff will continue adding to it as the event comes closer. Great
18 American Cleanup is this weekend and staff is assisting KLCB to get that done,
19 providing roll-offs in various places and helping out. Orlando Flores, the
20 Community Forester, started in mid-March with tree plantings. He placed 38
21 in Frenger Park and is looking at other places to plant before the planting
22 season ends. Summertime is too hot for planting. He will attend the Earth
23 Day event and provide outreach and swag for proper tree care. There will also
24 be an Arbor Day event with planting of two trees in each Council District.
25 Maintenance in all areas is very busy, with warmer temperatures causing the
26 plants to grow quickly and require more cutting. Irrigation costs and times will
27 increase as the season gets warmer. Public Works has filled the holes in the
28 road out at the shooting range. Long-term fixing is being planned and will be
29 submitted to Bureau of Land Management for a case file update and approval.
30 The City is looking to acquire the road and entryway to facilitate upkeep, as
31 right now no one is actually responsible for it. The clubs at Butterfield Shooting
32 Range are aware of this and understand that it will take a while.
33

34 **8.6 Parks & Recreation Projects Update - Catherine Mathews:**

35
36 Butterfield Shooting Range ADA improvements are complete. Gomez Park
37 lighting is complete as of earlier this month. The neighbors had requested the
38 lighting and two public meetings were held in 2019 regarding safety concerns
39 in the neighborhood and park after dark. Ms. Mathews is generally reluctant
40 to add lighting to parks due to the posted hours of operation; however, in many
41 locations around town the communities have requested lights. The second
42 public input meeting for the Skate Park Renovation Project was April 6, 2023
43 and was well-attended. There was lively discussion and many opinions
44 expressed to the consultants. There were three different options presented
45 and participants were very excited. The consultants will take all the data from
46 the meetings and create a single plan to be presented at the May meeting with

1 visuals. The New Skate Park Project has received proposals. Purchasing
2 Department is currently doing the reference checks which are anticipated to
3 be completed in May and the Selection Advisory Committee will rate the
4 proposals and make the selection.
5

6 Two projects went before Council on Monday, including the Disk Golf Course
7 and the Safe Haven Playground. Both were approved, the budget adjustments
8 were approved, and the CIP adjustment was approved for the Disk Golf
9 Course and the Safe Haven Playground. Both projects are now on the CIP
10 and Parks and Rec is allowed to work on them. The name issue did not come
11 up at that meeting. The Purchase Order Requisition has been released, it will
12 go through its process of contracting, and construction can begin. Safe Haven
13 Playground will undergo a design process because there is a plan and
14 requests for what should occur, and now there is a budget and a final project
15 can be created out of it. Gallagher Park Improvements Project had a \$150,000
16 budget approved by Council and Parks and Rec has started using that budget.
17 Based on input from the neighbors, Parks and Rec is purchasing bicycle racks,
18 Adirondack chairs, a replacement slide and safety swing, and safety surfacing.
19 There were supply chain issues with everything. It has been difficult to get all
20 the equipment. Ms. Mathews already has a quote from the manufacturer for
21 the equipment for the playground equipment. She just needs a quote from the
22 certified playground installer for equipment installation. She expects the
23 equipment to take eight to 12 weeks to arrive.
24

25 The trail system between University and Boutz/Missouri project is ongoing.
26 Ms. Mathews needs to get an RFP for design before proceeding. Katherine
27 Harrison-Rogers is now the new planner in NMSU's Architects Office. She is
28 very proactive and is aware of that project and can help smooth the process
29 to speed it up. At the public input meeting for the skate park, the consultant
30 presented the three options and then allowed the members of the public to talk
31 about it. There was a microphone and individuals spoke. At the end the
32 consultant allowed people to come up to the screen and point and talk about
33 the most popular options. Most attendees seemed to be satisfied.
34

35 **9. Staff Member Comments:**
36

37 Claudia Chavez of Youth Services mentioned the Great American Cleanup. The
38 roll-offs will be at Apodaca Park, Young Park, Tony Gomez Park, and on the corner
39 of Thurmond and Sonoma. There will be a lot of community engagement. District
40 Cleanups are scheduled: May 20th is District 6, June 10th is District 5, July 15th is
41 District 4, August 19th is District 3, September 16th is District 2, October 14th is the
42 big event for Toss No Mas, and November 18th is District 1. There has been great
43 input and Amelia has been doing a great job with the 311 calls from the community.
44 Youth Service Week had an overwhelming response. Parks and Rec is providing
45 a \$250 stipend for groups to get out and work on their chosen area and there is
46 now a wait list for that program. Parks and Rec is working with Dona Ana County

1 to get interns for summer programs to help them develop skills and get experience
2 to hopefully graduate and become part of the Parks and Rec team. The summer
3 lottery has three school sites this year. It will be a six-week program with 180 spots.
4 They will be released on May 10th. Ms. Chavez is excited that the youth programs
5 are in high demand.

6
7 Phil Catanach presented his updates for April 2023: Youth Basketball, Youth
8 Cheer, and Adult Sand Volleyball are all in week four. Youth Cheer is cheering at
9 Youth Basketball games on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Youth Basketball and
10 Adult Sand Volleyball have over 500 participants. Little Sluggers Baseball starts
11 May 15th. Outdoor Youth Soccer in-person registration is Saturday, online began
12 today, and that league starts on May 15th as well. There will be a short Adult
13 Basketball League in May and registration will be May 1st online. Youth Volleyball
14 in-person for the summer will be on May 30th. Parks and Rec will be working on
15 the Mira! Las Cruces event on April 29th. Plaza de Las Cruces Interactive Fountain,
16 Metro Verde Unidad Splash Pad will be officially open Memorial Day through Labor
17 Day, but since the weather has been nice they were opened early on Fridays,
18 Saturdays, and Sundays only. The fountains are not open during the weekdays
19 because school is not out yet. The outdoor pools, Laabs and East Mesa, are getting
20 ready for inspection and opening on Memorial Day Weekend. Contractors at the
21 new Community Natatorium are working on punch list items, applying nonslip
22 surfacing to the deck, and landscaping to try to open on Memorial Day Weekend.
23 If anything happens it could be pushed back but right now the plan is for Memorial
24 Day Weekend. The Regional Aquatic Center has increased attendance in all areas
25 in the past three months. In Recreation Programming, Keep Pedaling is ongoing.
26 They have done four rides so far and the next one is set for next Wednesday. The
27 next Saturday ride will be Saturday, May 13th. Other ongoing programs include
28 Magic the Gathering, Thursday night therapeutic Boot Scootin' Boogie exercise
29 class, bingo, billiards, arts and crafts, karaoke, volleyball, kickball in the park, and
30 a monthly dance. Parks and Rec is also preparing for summer events and the
31 Mobile Recreation Unit is filling up with requests. The schedule is set for Movies in
32 the Park and there will be a news release in the next couple of weeks. Music in the
33 Park and the Mayor's Jazz Fest is set, 17 concerts with 33 groups beginning May
34 28th and continuing through August. The call for floats for the Electric Light Parade
35 will go out next week and the theme will be announced. The Fourth of July Concert
36 and Fireworks will be partnering with NMSU again. The lineups will be announced
37 in the next couple of weeks. Employee wellness programs are continuing with great
38 participation for City employees to participate in recreational activities outside of
39 work. There will be many news releases, social media posts, and radio and print
40 advertising in the next few weeks as this is the planning time for the busiest season.
41 Year-round school does not affect the year-round weekend and evening activities.
42 The bigger community events happen during the school holidays so it does not do
43 anything to that. Parks and Rec has adjusted programming schedules to
44 accommodate those children.
45

1 Franco Granillo commented that Robert Nunez and everyone have been very
2 helpful with unrealistic expectations from the public and thanks them for all the daily
3 assistance they provide, and hopes he is as helpful to them as they are to him.
4 Board Member Engle spoke to his Council representative regarding how much
5 maintenance is required to keep up the new equipment being installed. Mr. Granillo
6 concurred and mentioned that replacing a vandalized slide will cost \$14,000 which
7 has to be taken from something else to do it.
8

9 Robert Nunez mentioned that FY 24 budget is going to a work session next week
10 and Parks and Rec staff will be attending to answer questions regarding the ask for
11 FY 24 and hoping the request is approved. Board Members and Parks and Rec
12 team were thanked for all their hard work. The CAPRA accreditation application
13 has been submitted as of almost two weeks ago. The core team will be available
14 to answer questions. The review team for Las Cruces consists of a person from
15 Washington State, one from Texas, and one from Florida working on Las Cruces'
16 application over the next ten weeks. If all goes well, the review team will be here in
17 mid-June for a site visit. They may also wish to talk to Board Members.
18

19 **10. Board Member Comments:**
20

21 Board Member Engle also thanks Parks and Rec staff for their hard work. His son
22 is enjoying the splash pad Downtown occasionally and riding the free
23 RoadRUNNER Transit to parks on the weekends. Board Member Engle's son is
24 signed up for Little Sluggers and staff was able to help him get the applications done
25 on RecTrack. He was very thankful for the help. Board Member Engle also thanks
26 the Board for their hard work.
27

28 Board Member Raish thanks staff for all their hard work.
29

30 Chair McClure thanks staff for their hard work.
31

32 **11. Adjournment:**
33

34 Vice-Chair Engle moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Haas.
35
36
37
38
39



40 _____
Chairperson