

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

June 17, 2021

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on June 17, 2021, at 6:04 p.m. via zoom webinar.

2 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

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4 Cassie McClure – District 1

5 Stan Engle – District 4

6 Eric Montgomery – District 5

7 Megan Schuller – District 6

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9 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

10 Eli Guzman - At Large

11 Maryln Zahler – District 3

12 Jeff Thompson – District 2

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14 Others Present:

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16 Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, Parks & Recreation

17 Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation

18 Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, Parks & Recreation

19 Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation

20 Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation

21 Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator

22 David Sedillo, Public Works Director

23 Kevin Armstrong, Public

24 Gregory Shervanick, Public

25 George Pearson, Public

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27 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of June 17, 2021, via Zoom webinar and was brought  
28 to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized as having a legal quorum.

### 29 1. Introductions

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#### 31 1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

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33 Board members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

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#### 35 1.2 Parks and Recreation Staff

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37 Staff introduced themselves and stated their position.

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### 39 2. Conflict of Interest

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41 No Conflict of Interest.

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43 **3. Approval of Agenda**

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45 Board Member Engle moved to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Board Member  
46 Montgomery. There was no discussion.

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48 Roll Call:

49 Board Member Engle – Aye

50 Board Member Montgomery – Aye

51 Board Member Schuller – Aye

52 Motion carried unanimously.

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54 **4. Approval of Minutes**

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56 Board Member Schuller moved to approve minutes of May 20, 2021, seconded by Board  
57 Member Montgomery.

58 Board Member Engle – Aye

59 Board Member Montgomery – Aye

60 Board Member Schuller - Aye

61 Motion carried unanimously.

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63 **5. Public Participation**

64 Chair McClure informed the Board Mr. Shervanick would like to speak under Public Participation  
65 and after Agenda Item 6.1. Nevada Avenue Cool Corridor. She advised there is a three-minute  
66 time limit thereby allowing one and a half minutes for public comment and one and a half minutes  
67 for the Nevada Avenue Cool Corridor.

68 Mr. Shervanick expressed dissatisfaction with the article in the newspaper regarding Young Park  
69 Pond saying only 15,000 fish died. He said videos, photographs and people say that isn't true. Mr.  
70 Shervanick said the pond currently is not stagnant with fish in it, but the health of the pond is  
71 extremely poor. Mr. Shervanick said he spoke with the Game & Fish State Representative. He said  
72 there is a solution out there, a solar oxidation device that will take care of needs for a three-acre  
73 pond and sent an email to Chair McClure earlier this date.

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75 Ms. Hazel Nevarez read email received from George Pearson:

From: [George Pearson](#)  
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:44 AM  
To: [Sonya Delgado](#)  
Subject: Fwd: New Agenda 6/17/2021 for [www.las-cruces.org](http://www.las-cruces.org)

Hi Sonya,

Please accept the following as public comment (hopefully with a response) for the upcoming Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Would it be possible for staff to report the current status of the Pioneer Women's Park gazebo reroofing. Also, could a time line be provided for the future replacement of the gazebo using state funding that the city has accepted? Perhaps during the staff update portion of the meeting this would be appropriate. I'm asking for this report during the meeting so it can become part of the minutes which can then be shared with others in the neighborhood.

Thank you for this opportunity to make this request.

Regards,

George Pearson

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## 6. Discussion Items

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### 6.1 Nevada Avenue Cool Corridor – David Sedillo, Public Works Director

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David Sedillo, Public Works Director, presented a Power Point presentation on the Nevada Cool Corridor Project Closing.

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Board Member Montgomery asked, regarding the chicanes not having trees because of utility conflicts, were the trees purchased prior to that assessment, and if so, were the trees than located to other areas of the city. Mr. Sedillo responded the trees were purchased based on the need for the project and not prior to installation so there was no need for relocation. He said with the elimination of the trees, other ground vegetation was substituted.

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Board Member Engle asked if the utilities were not considered initially, since the purpose of the trees was to provide some shade to reduce the amount of heating of the asphalt? He said without the trees, the only good benefit is the extra water being able to seep in but missing the key component that makes it a cool corridor. Mr. Sedillo responded some trees were eliminated to utility conflicts, but some trees were installed. He said during the design process, there was conversation with Utilities, there was a specified distance to have to maintain the separation between the underground utility and the root ball of the tree. He said during construction, the gas line was not where the design showed it so because of that, the conflict areas were selected to not have trees installed and trees were installed in the chicanes where the separation was met.

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Board Member Engle asked, with the current severe drought, what it will cost to try and keep vegetation alive until it becomes established to survive another period with low rain activity. Mr. Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator, responded the Community Forestry staff uses a watering trailer that is used in areas without irrigation, and so are watering as needed. He said since are native plants, not much water is required but are keeping an eye on it to ensure survival.

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Mr. Shervanick said need to not call it Nevada Cool Corridor because it's not that. He said it increases the heat, precipitously for the concrete, releases CO2E and is being watered minimally three times a month. He asked what kind of a budget is going to be put out of the general fund to water the trees for the next thirty years. Mr. Shervanick said the park waters the trees too so it can't be called green infrastructure. Mr. Shervanick expressed to Mr. Sedillo that he doesn't agree that four plans the city put together for the Nevada Cool Corridor are acceptable and were even mentioned in the price range and said Mr. Sedillo didn't mention the City utility department had crews working on the weekend to establish guards around the utilities underneath that street. Mr. Shervanick said the new asphalt looks wonderful, but the contractor cut the asphalt as was told before the asphalt was laid down, then the asphalt was laid down and then recut the pavement to put the chicanes in. He said it should be called The Nevada Chicane Corridor, it is not a cool corridor, and he has the emails from David Maestas to David Sedillo in February 2020. Mr. Shervanick said he knows exactly what was signed on, what was signed off and has the blueprints.

Mr. Sedillo said the design cost was part of the presentation. He said Mr. Shervanick is correct, the asphalt was laid first. Mr. Sedillo said to his point, asphalt was laid in a manner that wouldn't have additional joints because if chicanes were installed first, it would have introduced additional joints into the pavement – so the pavement was laid down first, and then the chicanes came out and then basically cut only the footprint for the chicane out of the asphalt making the installation last longer and reduce the maintenance cost in the future.

**6.2 Dog Park Rules – Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator**

Mr. Franco Granillo presented a Power Point presentation on City of Las Cruces Dog Park Rules.

Board Member Schuller suggested for consideration if should designate female dogs in heat rather than just dogs in heat. Ms. Schuller asked, on owners being legally responsible for the behavior of their dog(s), if the verbiage has been run thru City Attorney to ensure information is disclosed appropriately.

Mr. Granillo agreed with Ms. Schuller to specify female dogs in heat. As for the verbiage, Mr. Granillo said he believes it was run thru legal but will follow-up and provide information by email or update at next meeting.

Ms. Nevarez noted Mr. Shervanick's hand was raised and wasn't sure if he didn't lower his hand.

Mr. Shervanick expressed a minute in a half was not enough time to respond. Mr. Shervanick said the contractors cut the asphalt for the chicanes on the original street before they laid the new asphalt. He thanked everyone for their time and said it's a fallacy, we all know it, and so does Mr. Sedillo, so it doesn't matter, does it?

**6.3 Young Park Pond – Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator**

150 Mr. Franco Granillo informed the Board back in May, the aerators had to be removed from the  
151 pond in Young Park because they were malfunctioning. Vendor found aerators to be irreparable,  
152 so a new system had to be ordered. Mr. Granillo said the new system will have a diffused air  
153 system, with the air compressors outside of the pond blowing air into the diffused aeration system  
154 that will bubble and move water from below. Mr. Granillo said there were several items that  
155 contributed to the oxygen issues but were able to get it under control because utilities lent some  
156 pumps to get water flowing again and oxygen levels back up. Mr. Granillo said since then, oxygen  
157 levels were being monitored with a meter provided by Utilities and have since purchased a meter  
158 and have been trained on its use by Utilities. Mr. Granillo said the oxygen level has been steady,  
159 at a level where game and fish wants it. He said one of the things that helped get aeration back  
160 online was there was still one aerator on the north side of the pond and the fountain was running.  
161 Mr. Granillo said meter readings are being taken in the morning and in the afternoon. He said if  
162 the numbers run low, will run the pumps loaned by Utilities. Mr. Granillo said staff is looking at  
163 buying their own pumps for standby in case there are any issues with the new aeration system  
164 though none are anticipated. He added staff is still monitoring for any fish issues and will contact  
165 Game & Fish if any come up. Mr. Granillo said they are still waiting for the new aerators.

166 **6.4 4<sup>th</sup> of July Update – Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator**

167 Mr. Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator, informed the Board the has partnered with  
168 New Mexico State University (NMSU) this year and have planned for a concert and fireworks  
169 display this year for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and will have an electric light parade on July 3:

- 170 • The parade on July 3 will start at 9:00 p.m. and will be down Solano Ave.
- 171 • The concert will be at the Pat and Lou Sisbarro Community Park July 4 with gates opening  
172 at 4:00 p.m.
- 173 • Concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. by Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats and 8:00 p.m. by Gin  
174 Blossoms.
- 175 • Fireworks display will start at 9:45 pm.

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177 **6.5 Red Line Parks and Recreation Department Fees & Charges/Facility Use Policy – Sonya Delgado,**  
178 **Director of Parks & Recreation**

179 Ms. Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks & Recreation, informed the Board the Fees and Charges red  
180 line was previously sent to them for their review and questions. She said the Fees and Charges  
181 will be brought back to the July meeting as part of a public meeting and then to the August  
182 meeting for action.

183 Board Member Schuller asked for clarification of what is considered as out of residence  
184 jurisdiction. Ms. Delgado said there is no non-residence fee, it is something that has been  
185 discussed but not in place yet. Ms. Schuller asked on page 12, under Sport Field request #5, there  
186 is a new paragraph that states: All organizations, Leagues and Field Users that do not reside within  
187 City limits will have to pay a Non-Resident Fee and will require a \$250.00 deposit. Ms. Delgado  
188 responded this is in relation to our leagues – our leagues are not currently charged for use of fields  
189 and there are lots of requests from outside Las Cruces to run leagues, tournaments, etc. and want

190 this fee in place because have had individuals and groups from outside of Las Cruces that have  
191 booked a field, tournament and then cancelled at last second which caused issues for local leagues  
192 and organizations who then can't have access to those fields. Ms. Delgado said the deposit fee  
193 will ensure the fields will be used. Ms. Schuller concurred.

194 Board Member Engle clarified that basically there is no non-resident fee, outside organizations  
195 would pay the resident fee on top of the nonrefundable deposit. Ms. Delgado responded yes.

## 196 **7. Action Items**

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### 198 **7.1 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Elections – Chair McClure**

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200 Chair McClure asked Board if want to have Board elections at this time. Board Member Schuller  
201 said it would be best to have a full quorum before doing Board elections.

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203 Chair McClure asked status of Board Member Guzman. Ms. Delgado said has not been able to  
204 reach Board Member Guzman and has sent an email to City Clerk. She said as soon as she receives  
205 a response, will communicate with the Chair. Chair McClure expressed she would like a full  
206 complement of voices.

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208 Board Member Engle moved to table Agenda Item 7.1 to the next Parks & Recreation Advisory  
209 Board Meeting occurring on July 15, 2021, seconded by Board Member Schuller.

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211 Roll Call:

212 Board Member Engle - Aye

213 Board Member Montgomery - Aye

214 Board Member Schuller - Aye

215 Motion carried unanimously.

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## 217 **8. Staff Member Comments**

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219 Mr. Catanach updated the Board on Recreation updates:

220 • June 19 - opening outdoor pools, splash pads and interactive fountain at Plaza de Las  
221 Cruces.

222 • Outdoor Youth Soccer starts this weekend.

223 • Started baseball this week for youth.

224 • Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center and Meerscheidt Recreation Center are acting as  
225 Cooling Stations for this hot weather.

226 • Have been putting out virtual concerts on Facebook, City's Page or the Parks and  
227 Recreation Page.

228 • Start live music in July.

229 • Just put out new app for park finder on Android and Apple called Las Cruces Parks & Rec  
230 Park Finder

231 Mr. Robert Nunez, Youth Services Administrator, reported Youth Services updates:

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- Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Team Up to Clean Up has recently been posted on Facebook and have finalized brochure.
  - Will be doing a news release for the Adopt a Spot Program
  - Libby the Dog, thru Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (acronym is Las Cruces is Beautiful Because of You), is utilized when go to the schools for presentations. Board Members will be provided the book.
  - Would like to bring back Beautification Committee/Carlos the Coyote
  - Summer Recreation program started June 1 thru July 2 – three locations, 35 participants per location – currently have 103 participants. Second session begins July 6.
  - A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven currently has 38 participants.
  - Frank O’Brien Community Center houses the teen connection with 48 participants – K thru 5 runs 8 am – 5 pm and teens runs 9 am – 5 pm.
  - Diversion Development program is working on end of year report. To date have seen 203 new clients go thru the Juvenile Citation Program. With Virtual programing over the last year, have seen opportunities to offer families and youth additional opportunities to be able to divert from the court system. Will be returning next month in person. 12 youth attended the first community in person community service – will be doing again this coming Saturday with eight youth. Working on FY22 contract. Of the 203 youth in the program, 75% have been local, 20% from the south, and 5% from the north. 203 youth is a bit low due to Covid-19.

252 Ms. Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect, responded on Mr. George Pearson’s email read earlier  
253 under public comment regarding Pioneer Women’s Park:

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- Do have some work occurring currently – contractor on board making stabilization efforts on the roof of the gazebo.
  - 80% complete of original scope.
  - Efforts will prevent further deterioration of the gazebo while do the planning efforts for renovation or replacement of the gazebo.
  - City is in receipt of \$200,000 State legislative capital grant for design and construction of improvements to the gazebo. Funding was accepted by City last Fall and have been incorporating this project into list of projects. Most recent assessment and evaluation for prioritization of projects leaves this project to be number three as soon as the prioritization is confirmed.
  - Next step is to issue request for proposal for design work of the renovation for the gazebo in accordance with the Master Plan completed a few years ago.
  - Contract for design work will have to go out for proposals. Request for proposals will occur late this summer.
  - Will take about six months for design and should there be any legislative funding available for construction, will expend it for construction.
  - Will seek additional funding to make the repairs and renovations.
  - Construction would take another six to nine months once design is completed.

272 Ms. Mathews informed the Board on some of the top ten projects:

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- Skate Park renovation – recently made efforts at rewriting request for proposal (RFP) at behest of the Selection Advisory Committee – they wanted to receive different proposals. Seeking a date to take this RFP back to the Selection Advisory Committee to get their final input and opinions regarding the revision. Once comments received and changes made, will then solicit RFP’s. Anticipating three to four weeks to receive proposals and then have the Selection Advisory Committee evaluate the proposals.
  - Apodaca Park Multiuse Trail Aquatic Playground project – had completed a cultural resource survey of Apodaca Park that was a requirement to receive federal funding grant, consultant did complete study, submitted to State Historic Preservation office for evaluation. The State Historic Preservation office rendered opinion that some of the facilities identified as historic value – and today has received a contradiction to this opinion so will not have to do any kind of mitigation efforts. We will be allowed to demolish the swimming pool, the bath house, and the pool house to make way for additional picnic facilities and a splash pad in the same area. Will be able to move forward with receiving the grant.
  - Have a P.O. in place to be able to purchase pumps under the Water Smart grant for Soldados field and Apodaca Park.
  - Lohman and Roadrunner Medians Project – have completed RFP draft and submitted to purchasing for final review so can get to the Selection and Advisory Committee so we can get some design work going.
  - AARP Fitlot outdoor fitness gym is completed, accepted by AARP, and many City punch list items have been addressed by the contractor. AARP released press release regarding installation and is available to public now. City staff has coordinated with AARP staff to discuss a ribbon cutting – anticipate a Fall ribbon cutting event.

297 Ms. Delgado, Director of Parks and Recreation, asked the Board to think about and consider when  
298 meet in July their temperature about meeting in person. She said we may need to find another  
299 location. She added we will follow the lead on City Council on how they are going to conduct a  
300 hybrid meeting or if they are not going to conduct a hybrid meeting.

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## 302 9. Board Member Comments

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304 Board Member Montgomery said he received an email invite on some outdoor recreation  
305 economy work being done by Visit Las Cruces and asked if Parks and Recreation was going to be  
306 at the table for any of those efforts. Ms. Delgado responded yes.

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308 Board Member Schuller thanked staff for their concern and attention to the water matters that  
309 are affecting all of us and appreciates the comments and concerns on that. She said Mr. Granillo’s  
310 group is handling this appropriately as we move through these hot summer months.

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312 Board Member Schuller said she is excited and happy to see people back in the parks and looks  
313 forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and events coming up in the summer.

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315 **10. Adjournment**

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317 Board Member Montgomery moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting,  
318 seconded by Board Member Schuller.

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Roll Call:

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Board Member Engle - Aye

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Board Member Montgomery - Aye

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Board Member Schuller – Aye

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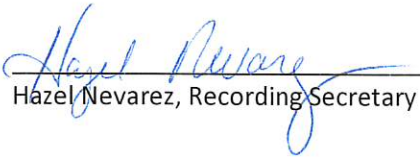
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Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

  
Cassie McClure (Jul 21, 2021 10:33 MDT)

Cassie McClure, Chair






# PRAB Minutes 06-17-2021 Approved

Final Audit Report

2021-07-21

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