Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

April 15, 2021

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on April 15, 2021 at 6:05 p.m. via zoom webinar.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

Cassie McClure – District 1
Marilyn Zabler – District 3
Stan Engle – District 4
Eric Montgomery – District 5
Megan Schuller – District 6

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

Eli Guzman - At Large
Jeff Thompson – District 2

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
Gregory Shervanick, Public
Thomas Winter, Public

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of April 15, 2021 via Zoom webinar and was brought to order at 6:05 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.

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
4. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Schuller moved to retract previously approved Minutes for February 18, 2021 for corrections, seconded by Board Member Zahler. Ms. Nevarez stated corrections needed are under Item 1, Introductions, 1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members, to remove last sentence that says: 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. Ms. Nevarez stated under Item 4, Approval of Minutes, need to correct date to reflect January 21, 2021 on sentence: Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020 as amended, seconded by Ms. Schuller.

Motion to retract previously approved minutes for February 18, 2021 for corrections carried unanimously.

Board Member Schuller moved to approve the February 18, 2021 as amended, seconded by Board Member Zahler. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Montgomery moved to approved minutes of March 18, 2021, seconded by Board Member Engle. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Participation

Mr. Gregory Shervanick informed the Board it is not a sustainable deal to be filling Young Park pond twice a week with approximately 27,000 gallons and said something needs to be done as a solution for retaining the water.

Mr. Shervanick requested the Board look into finding, buying, and purchasing a motorized gate valve with the Water Smart grant and budget that has been approved by the Board which totals out to $340,000. He said the motorized gate valve is so that the problem with overflowing the Young Park pond, which has happened in the past, reduces problems with water running down Colorado, certain items being degraded, and the pond being filled greater than capacity, because some of the gates that are manual that are in the pond go back into the sewer system, so just putting water into the pond and running it down into the sewer. Mr. Shervanick said that if there is any problem, he has photographs and video each time it’s done this. He said the last time it did this was the worst, because it eroded a portion on Colorado which was dangerous to electricity as well as telecommunication.

Mr. Shervanick said the footprint of the community pavilion which is Go Bond money has been reduced from a 32-foot pad to a 20-foot pad. He said the only thing that needed to be done with that building prior to demolition was renovating the roof. He said it was a perfectly fine building made of red steel and it was torn down. Mr. Shervanick said he contacted Chair McClure, who asked Ms. Delgado, who contacted him, and then he spoke with David Viarreal at Public Works who was kind enough to send him a note saying they would be happy to listen to his ideas, which didn’t mean anything at all because after a time lag last month and communications about him
asking about the size of the footprint from David Viarreal, they have now begun to work on Go
Bond projects at Young Park which will also include at least two concrete pads for the new picnic
areas. Mr. Shervanick said he is sure Ms. Delgado will be happy to show the Board the blueprints
and hopes Ms. Mathews will talk about this at this meeting. Mr. Shervanick said it certainly was a
wasteful idea to tear something that was useful down and reduce the size, especially with the use
of the park and the growing city and need for large community park structures.

Ms. Delgado said Mr. Shervanick’s request was received and has asked Mr. Granillo to speak on
the issues with the water in the pond and Ms. Mathews to speak on the Water Smart grant, how
it works, and give some information on the Go Bond. Ms. Delgado said she didn’t have the details
Mr. Shervanick shared as it related to speaking to Mr. Viarreal and so will check on this. She said
she did not have blueprints with her and will have Public Works provide this information at the
next Board meeting.

Mr. Granillo expressed appreciation to Mr. Shervanick for letting staff know of any issues at Young
Park. Mr. Granillo said the pond issue at Young Park this time was staff error and has been taken
care of. He said what happened was the gentleman that usually fills the pond was off and those
that covered for him left the gate open. Mr. Granillo said measures have been put in place, so
this won’t happen again. He said in regard to the water itself, the pond was cleaned a couple of
years ago and two to three feet of compost, muck, and debris from the bottom of the bond. He
said there is not liner on the bottom, which acts as a seal. Mr. Granillo said a surfacing of rock and
dirt was placed in the bottom which has to seal like the old surfacing did. Mr. Granillo said water
is lost at times, and refilled. He said staff keeps track of it often to make sure waste is minimal.
Mr. Granillo said the motorized gate valve is a good idea, it is a big expense and wasn’t part of the
Water Smart Grant and will see if it can be added. Mr. Granillo said it is more of an agricultural
supply than a commercial. He said staff is looking into it and will give an update if one can be
found. Mr. Granillo said if anybody has any suggestions or feedback regarding a gate valve, he
would be more than happy to listen.

Ms. Mathews reported the current Water Smart grant is already allocated for making efficiency
improvements in irrigation systems on Hadley, including the last step which is to install two pumps
to improve the water pressure at Soldados and Apodaca Park. She said another grant has already
been applied for and submitted to make improvements in the irrigation system in various sundry
parks and it might be a difficult process to change the application to a different scope of work.
Ms. Mathews said there are other opportunities to get the Water Smart grant and maybe is a
source of funding for the motorized gate valve but would be in future years.

Ms. Mathews shared the construction documents on screen for the group picnic shelter at Young
Park and shared them on the screen. She said the proposal is to replace the existing picnic shelter
with the one displayed which is essentially the same size, 60 feet long by 20 feet wide, as the
current shelter. Ms. Mathews said this is a structure which fits within the budget and fits within
the size parameters of the concrete pad that exists. She said the demolition of the existing shelter
will not result in no picnic shelter; it will be replaced with this one which is a steel hip corrugated
roof. Ms. Mathews said the displayed documents are what she currently has and if not sufficient,
to let her know and she will see what she can do to get something different.
Ms. Delgado said if there are any questions or comment about anything presented, either by the Board or Mr. Shervanick, it can be shared now and if a presentation is needed, will have Go Bond come back in and speak on this project and address any specific questions.

Mr. Shervanick said approximately isn’t the same as what was there. He said he has photographs and dimensions of what was there and what we are getting back is a reduced product, hands down. Mr. Shervanick said because the old roof was a flat roof and with the new hipped roof and where the location is of the community picnic item, which is at the very top of the hill, when it does rain, water will come off the top of the roof and it will run down the hill to the pond, eroding the top of the hill. He said there is no way to control a heavy rain of water running off the corrugated roof at the angle which the blueprints say. He said he mentioned this to Mr. Viarreal/Public Works. Mr. Shervanick said they said it was fine, they would think about listening to the information concerning the engineering.

Ms. Delgado thanked Mr. Shervanick for the additional comments and said she would pass them on to Public Works and ask them to address them at the next Board meeting with the Go Bond Update.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Reopening Leagues & Associations – Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator

Mr. Granillo, Parks Administrator, provided a presentation to the Board titled RETURN TO PLAY, and explained its title, saying meetings were held with leagues and organizations to get the dialogue going on getting everybody back on the fields at a safe pace with COVID-19-safe planning. Mr. Granillo reviewed the communication process, meeting protocol, and items discussed with the leagues and organizations to initiate the re-opening process, request for them to provide a COVID-19-safe return plan, and next steps. Mr. Granillo reviewed organization response and organizations that still need to complete the process.

6.2 Parks & Recreation Projects – Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect

Ms. Mathews provided a presentation on P&R Capital Projects Nearing Completion, providing a description of them and their status. Reviewed were Rincon Hills Neighborhood Park, Red Hawk Villas Neighborhood Park, and AARP Fit Lot.

Chair McClure asked if the slides at Rincon Hills Neighborhood Park are blocked off. Ms. Mathews said there is a punch list item to make some repairs on the slides before the park can be accepted and she suggested to the developer to place barriers so patrons wouldn’t be able to get around them. Chair McClure suggested signage be placed explaining this.

Board Member Engle said Mr. Shervanick is asking the diameter of the cement slab of the AARP Fit Lot. Ms. Mathews said she believes it to be 60 feet diameter.

7. Staff Member Comments
Mr. Granillo said he has no comments.

Mr. Catanach informed the Board the Recreation Section has sent news releases and set dates for sports activities to begin beginning with outdoor 6 on 6 Sand Volleyball and a scaled down youth Basketball league. Mr. Catanach also mentioned there is a virtual marathon going on and there is also an outdoor walking group. He said the Recreation section is also working with the Therapeutic program participants and agencies to do some outdoor craft classes and a walking program. He added they are also doing videos and just did a 21 show virtual concert series which started posting this week, links being on City of Las Cruces and Parks and Recreation Facebook and there is also a webpage that is on the City of Las Cruces Vimeo. Mr. Catanach said they are hoping to do some live events from Memorial Day on. Mr. Catanach said the pools are gearing up for opening in the summer, with Lifeguard and Head Lifeguard openings. He said currently they have lap swim. Mr. Catanach reported meeting with New Mexico State University to start planning 4th of July event, looking at a firework display for sure and the possibility of doing a small concert and activities if conditions allow.

Mr. Catanach reported from the Youth Services section, in Diversion and Development, with formal referrals still below average with Covid-19, programming is being reformatted to reach out to teens, and not be just a diversion program.

Mr. Catanach reported the Great American Clean Up is April 17, with ten roll offs throughout the community and people will be able to pick up supplies at Young Park. He added Team Up to Clean Up will be back in May and June in various Council districts.

Mr. Catanach reported the Youth Services section is working on spending budget for Out of School Time, and are getting ready for the summer, saying they are back in the schools with a limited capacity. He reported Safe Haven has 30 youth signed up in the After School Program and the Teen Program has 22 participants. Mr. Catanach added dinners are still being served.

Mr. Catanach reported he had a note from Mr. Nunez to tell Board Member Zahler hello.

Ms. Mathews said Special Projects team continues to work on special projects including the skate park renovation, getting close on determining contractor for the design build, anticipating sometime in May. She reported the Apodaca Park Aquatic Playground - the ORLPP grant project is making a step closer, with the cultural resources study being completed, which is required to get the federal funded grant. She said results on this study should be received any day, which will lead to next steps of being offered grant, and acceptance of grant.

Ms. Delgado expressed thanks to the Parks and Recreation team who have been fantastic, trying to help the community with vaccine registrations, doing vaccine events, making sure people had food, getting food boxes, delivering meals, in anticipation of getting back to a different kind of normal. She said they have been working very hard putting together their programs so that we can start up safely and offer some activities. Ms. Delgado said she is extremely proud of everything they have done and accomplished, dealing with pressures of the community.
Ms. Delgado reported Mr. Catanach is working on an open streets initiative program that will bring activities to certain neighborhoods.

Ms. Delgado thanked Board members for hanging in there with Park and Recreation.

8. Board Member Comments

Board member Engle thanked staff for working through this difficult time. He thanked Board members who were able to make the league meeting. Mr. Engle added the open streets initiative sounds interesting.

Board member Montgomery said he is looking forward to a Turquoise county and beyond and looking forward to a return to normalcy and getting youth involved in out of the house activities.

Board Member Schuller thanked Board for everything and is excited to see everybody back in action and commends the Parks and Recreation group for working diligently and getting everything for league play and summer events.

Chair McClure expressed she thought the league meeting went well and is thankful everything is going back up again.

9. Adjournment

Board member Engle moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, seconded by Board Member Montgomery. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair
"PRAB Minutes 04-15-2021" History

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