

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

April 15, 2021

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

2 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

3

4 Cassie McClure – District 1

5 Maryln Zahler – District 3

6 Stan Engle – District 4

7 Eric Montgomery – District 5

8 Megan Schuller – District 6

9

10 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

11 Eli Guzman n- At Large

12 Jeff Thompson – District 2

13

14 Others Present:

15

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 Gregory Shervanick, Public

22 Thomas Winter, Public

23

24 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of April 15, 2021 via Zoom webinar and was brought to
25 order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair McClure and recognized as having a legal quorum.

26 **1. Introductions**

27

28 1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

29

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

31

32 1.2 Parks and Recreation Staff

33

34 Staff introduced themselves and stated their position.

35

36 **2. Conflict of Interest**

37

38 No Conflict of Interest.

39

40 **3. Approval of Agenda**

41

42 Board Member Schuller moved to accept agenda as presented, seconded by Board Member
43 Montgomery. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
44

45 **4. Approval of Minutes**

46

47 Board Member Schuller moved to retract previously approved Minutes for February 18,
48 2021 for corrections, seconded by Board Member Zahler. Ms. Nevarez stated corrections
49 needed are under Item 1, Introductions, 1.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
50 Members, to remove last sentence that says: Ms. McClure welcomed Mr. Jeff Thompson as the
51 newest Board Member and said introductions would be done at the regular Parks and Recreation Advisory
52 Board meeting on January 21, 2021. Ms. Nevarez stated under Item 4, Approval of Minutes, need to
53 correct date to reflect January 21, 2021 on sentence: Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes
54 of November 19, 2020 as amended, seconded by Ms. Schuller.
55

56 Motion to retract previously approved minutes for February 18, 2021 for corrections carried
57 unanimously.
58

59 Board Member Schuller moved to approve the February 18, 2021 as amended, seconded by Board
60 Member Zahler. Motion carried unanimously.
61

62 Board Member moved to approved minutes of March 18, 2021, seconded by Board Member
63 Engle. Motion carried unanimously.
64

65 **5. Public Participation**

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

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

79 Mr. Shervanick said the footprint of the community pavilion which is Go Bond money has been
80 reduced from a 32-foot pad to a 20-foot pad. He said the only thing that needed to be done with
81 that building prior to demolition was renovating the roof. He said it was a perfectly fine building
82 made of red steel and it was torn down. Mr. Shervanick said he contacted Chair McClure, who
83 asked Ms. Delgado, who contacted him, and then he spoke with David Viarreal at Public Works
84 who was kind enough to send him a note saying they would be happy to listen to his ideas, which
85 didn't mean anything at all because after a time lag last month and communications about him

86 asking about the size of the footprint from David Viarreal, they have now begun to work on Go
87 Bond projects at Young Park which will also include at least two concrete pads for the new picnic
88 areas. Mr. Shervanick said he is sure Ms. Delgado will be happy to show the Board the blueprints
89 and hopes Ms. Mathews will talk about this at this meeting. Mr. Shervanick said it certainly was a
90 wasteful idea to tear something that was useful down and reduce the size, especially with the use
91 of the park and the growing city and need for large community park structures.

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

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

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

119 Ms. Mathews shared the construction documents on screen for the group picnic shelter at Young
120 Park and shared them on the screen. She said the proposal is to replace the existing picnic shelter
121 with the one displayed which is essentially the same size, 60 feet long by 20 feet wide, as the
122 current shelter. Ms. Mathews said this is a structure which fits within the budget and fits within
123 the size parameters of the concrete pad that exists. She said the demolition of the existing shelter
124 will not result in no picnic shelter; it will be replaced with this one which is a steel hip corrugated
125 roof. Ms. Mathews said the displayed documents are what she currently has and if not sufficient,
126 to let her know and she will see what she can do to get something different.

127

128 Ms. Delgado said if there are any questions or comment about anything presented, either by the
129 Board or Mr. Shervanick, it can be shared now and if a presentation is needed, will have Go Bond
130 come back in and speak on this project and address any specific questions.

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

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

143 **6. Discussion Items**

144

145 **6.1 Reopening Leagues & Associations – Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator**

146

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

154

155 **6.2 Water Circulation Systems – Phil Catanach, Recreation Services Administrator**

156

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

160

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

165

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

168

169 **7. Staff Member Comments**

170

171 Mr. Granillo said he has no comments.

172

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

186

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

190

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

194

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

199

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

201

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

208

209 Ms. Delgado expressed thanks to the Parks and Recreation team who have been fantastic, trying
210 to help the community with vaccine registrations, doing vaccine events, making sure people had
211 food, getting food boxes, delivering meals, in anticipation of getting back to a different kind of
212 normal. She said they have been working very hard putting together their programs so that we
213 can start up safely and offer some activities. Ms. Delgado said she is extremely proud of
214 everything they have done and accomplished, dealing with pressures of the community.

215 Ms. Delgado reported Mr. Catanach is working on an open streets initiative program that will
216 bring activities to certain neighborhoods.

217
218 Ms. Delgado thanked Board members for hanging in there with Park and Recreation.

219
220 **8. Board Member Comments**

221
222 Board member Engle thanked staff for working through this difficult time. He thanked Board
223 members who were able to make the league meeting. Mr. Engle added the open streets
224 initiative sounds interesting.

225
226 Board member Montgomery said he is looking forward to a Turquoise county and beyond and
227 looking forward to a return to normalcy and getting youth involved in out of the house activities.

228
229 Board Member Schuller thanked Board for everything and is excited to see everybody back in
230 action and commends the Parks and Recreation group for working diligently and getting
231 everything for league play and summer events.

232
233 Chair McClure expressed she thought the league meeting went well and is thankful everything is
234 going back up again.

235
236 **9. Adjournment**

237
238 Board member Engle moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting,
239 seconded by Board Member Montgomery. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at
240 7:09 p.m.

241
242
243 _____
Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Cassie McClure, Chair