

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:

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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

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10 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent:

11 Eli Guzman - 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

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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 Schuller moved to approved minutes of March 18, 2021, seconded by Board  
63 Member 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**

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

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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 Parks & Recreation Projects – Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect**

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**

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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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

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Cassie McClure, Chair