



1  
2  
3 The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces Downtown**  
4 **Parking Committee** on July 15, 2021, at 4:00 pm at City Hall, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces,  
5 New Mexico, in the Las Cruces Conference Room 1158.

6  
7 **Members Present:**

- 8 Kasandra Gandara, District 1  
9 George Pearson, Member-at-Large  
10 Heather Pollard, Adjacent Neighborhood Representative  
11 Tiffany Thompson, Farmers Market Representative  
12

13 **Members Absent:**

- 14 Ceara Angel, Las Cruces Resident  
15 Michael White, Business Member  
16

17 **Staff Present:**

- 18 Francisco Pallares, Economic Development Deputy Director  
19 Griselda Martinez, Economic Development Director  
20 Cynthia Villanueva, Administrative Assistant  
21 Chris Faivre, Interim Destination Downtown Program Manager  
22 David Sedillo, Publics Work Director  
23 Robert Cabello, Deputy City Attorney  
24

25 **1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.  
26

27 **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

28 **2.1 May 20, 2021:** Motion by Board Member Pollard, seconded by Board  
29 Member Thompson. Motion passes.  
30

31 **3. Action Item: None at this time.**  
32

33 **4. Discussion Items:**  
34

35 **4.1 Membership Review:** Chair Gandara stated that she and Chris have met  
36 regularly once a month to go over downtown concerns. One part of the  
37 discussion was trouble recruiting Members and making quorum; there is  
38 one vacancy. She added that many people wish to have updates related  
39 to downtown and some discussions are outside of the purview of the  
40 Committee. Chair Gandara would like to open the discussion on how the  
41 Committee came to be, what their role is, and whether they need to meet  
42 as regularly as once a month.

43  
44 There was discussion on frustrations within the Committee; being chided  
45 for discussing other items downtown. There was suggestion of changing

1 the name of the Committee to include all downtown rather than just  
2 parking; downtown operations committee with an ability to form ad hoc  
3 committees for things such as parking. There was discussion on how they  
4 came about. Rob Caballo stated that it is possible that they could make  
5 an amendment through a work session to Council. He added that that  
6 they need to follow the Open Meetings Act and discuss what's been  
7 delegated, possibly less meetings. Expanding operations would be a  
8 policy issue but the interest downtown may or may not show up. There  
9 was more discussion on the start of the Committee and why things were  
10 done.

11  
12 Dr. Griselda Martinez suggested creating an advisory committee that  
13 advises the Council via staff rather operations. Staff has a monthly  
14 meeting with Chair Gandara with updates related to downtown. Dr.  
15 Martinez suggested sharing that with the downtown stakeholders and  
16 Council or providing a quarterly meeting. There was discussion on the  
17 new Rio Grande Theater manager. There was discussion on advisory  
18 committees and how big the Committee is. Advisory boards tend to  
19 discuss things related to policy and the upper manager brings an update  
20 on a regular basis.

21  
22 There was agreement to meet less frequently at this time. Dr. Martinez  
23 read the purpose of the Committee. There was agreement to grow the  
24 Committee to include things such as traffic safety and downtown  
25 operations in an advisory committee. Chair Gandara commented that  
26 they need to look at the other groups already out there to make sure they  
27 are not overlapping or infringing on other committees; they can be  
28 discussion items. There was suggestion to have DLCP at this meeting  
29 more often to keep everyone in the loop. There was discussion on various  
30 boards and who needs to be involved. Dr. Martinez read the Airport  
31 Advisory Board purpose as an example.

32  
33 Chair Gandara suggested broadening the scope of the Committee by  
34 mirroring the airport to the downtown and informing Council. There was  
35 discussion on dissolving this Committee to create the Advisory  
36 Committee; probably the simplest way but potentially have two groups.  
37 Mr. Caballo commented that once the projects with the parking garages  
38 gets closer to begin done attendance will most likely become higher.  
39 There was discussion on being an advisory committee and have the  
40 parking concerns be an agenda item.

41  
42 **4.2 Parking Enforcement Update:** Dr. Griselda Martinez stated that they  
43 have the greenlight from IT on meeting all the compliance elements and  
44 now are moving to the details of the contract. Staff is moving forward with  
45 the vendor with location considerations, number of meters, and pricing.  
46 There was discussion on the timeline. Once all the elements are  
47 confirmed the contract will go before Council for approval. There was  
48 discussion on locations for the meters. The selected vendor does one

1 meter for two spots.  
2

3 There was discussion on issues with the Farmer's Market; now that the  
4 bars have reopened there have been two to four vehicles parked  
5 overnight every Saturday. Codes is no longer starting at 6:00 a.m. which  
6 creates difficulty on some Saturday's towing them due to available  
7 officers. Board Member Thompson stated that after a discussion with  
8 Chris there were suggested places for additional signage but it didn't go  
9 anywhere. She suggested having additional education with Main Street  
10 businesses. There was discussion on where the cars tend to be parked,  
11 what could be done, and where the suggested signs could go; staff will  
12 look into the possible signs.  
13

14 This topic was also discussed two and a half years ago. Now with more  
15 bars downtown it has caused more issues with the parking; originally only  
16 Amador was planned. There was discussion on whether police aides can  
17 tow cars; they can. Board Member Thompson suggested beginning with  
18 signs in order to educate people. There was discussion on the parking  
19 garage updates. They are looking at new sites to consider in conjunction  
20 with sites considered for market rate housing to understand strategic  
21 placement. An update is coming to City Council in August. There is no  
22 funding for municipal court so they are considering the parking garage on  
23 its own.  
24  
25

26 **4.2 Bike Rack Update:** There was general discussion. David stated that  
27 they haven't been directly contacted as Facilities has been removed from  
28 Public Works and is now in the City Manager's Office, contact Eric Martin.  
29 Staff will invite him for a discussion item. Chair Gandara commented that  
30 she heard they had been ordered, there was delays, and they should be  
31 here by now; funding was from AARP.  
32

33 **5. Next Meeting Discussion Items:**

34 **5.1 August 19, 2021:**  
35

36 **6. Future Discussion:** Dr. Griselda Martinez will bring an update on the ability to  
37 expand into an advisory board at the next meeting. Chair Gandara asked for an  
38 update with the parking enforcement. Board Member Pollard commented that  
39 she's heard complaints in the neighborhood with noise. There have been  
40 conversations with the Amador and working on the noise ordinance. There was  
41 discussion on when noise levels are supposed to lower. There was discussion on  
42 the process to get approvals and communicate with the neighborhood for events.  
43

44 Board Member Thompson would like to have a future discussion of an update on  
45 parking lot seven and the bathroom structure; none of the businesses were  
46 informed before construction began. The bathroom will probably not be finished  
47 until September or October.  
48

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11

**7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:02 p.m.**



\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_