



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

February 15, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on February 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

- Fred Raish – Chair, At Large
- Laura Haas – Vice Chair, District 6
- Kenneth Coppedge – District 2
- Stan Engle - District 4
- Aracely Tellez – District 3

Members Absent:

- VACANT - District 1
- VACANT - District 5

Others Present:

- Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks and Recreation
- Phillip Catanach, Recreation Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
- Amelia Corrales, Las Cruces Beautiful Coordinator, Parks & Recreation
- Briana Yazine, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful
- Sofia Hughes, Youth Services Case Manager

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of February 15, 2024, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair Raish and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. Introductions:

Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Attending staff introduced themselves.

2. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

1
2 Board Member Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
3 Meeting Agenda for February 15, 2024, seconded by Vice-Chair Haas. Motion
4 passed.
5

6 **4. Approval of the Minutes November 16, 2024:**
7

8 Board Member Engle moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
9 Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023, seconded by Board Member Coppedge.
10 Motion passed.
11

12 **5. Public Participation:**
13

14 None.
15

16 **6. Action Items: None.**
17

18 **7. Discussion Items:**
19

20 **7.1 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) Update - Amelia Corrales, KLCB**
21 **Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation:**
22

23 They participate and host clean up activities throughout the year. The past
24 quarter they did Team Up to Clean Up in October. Put roll-off containers and
25 volunteers do clean ups throughout the entire community. Partnered with
26 NMDOT, Southcentral Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA), Keep Doña Ana
27 County Beautiful, and the Town of Mesilla. There were 120 volunteers
28 dedicating 153 hours to remove 2,190 lbs. of trash total for just this October
29 clean up. The roll offs throughout the community, accept household materials
30 except tires, hazardous materials, refrigerant, picked up 38,400 lbs. of trash.
31 The county is able to put roll offs for tires, and they picked up 5,880 lbs. of just
32 tires. Also had Adopt-A-Spot clean ups, which are families, businesses, that
33 adopt a spot and required to clean up once a month. There are currently 15
34 sites adopted and 107 volunteers decided 106 hours and picked up 2,000 lbs.
35 of trash this fiscal year total (July 2023 through today).
36

37 Graffiti eradication are working closely with LCPD, Codes Enforcement to
38 create private property waiver. Businesses, private property, now able to
39 abate as long as the SOP is followed, get signatures on the waiver from the
40 property owner, and do best to paint match. This does follow an ordinance
41 within the Municipal Code. Work with community engagement as well for the
42 311 tasks that come in that the community can input pertaining to graffiti in the
43 community.
44

1 Community outreach this fiscal year they have completed 13 events. Different
2 presentations, craft presentations, worked with out of school time programs,
3 LCPS, done red ribbon events. Also use Libby the dog to help.
4

5 They did not receive their grant funds until October. Number of volunteers in
6 the second quarter 495, volunteer hours were 511. Litter collected from all
7 clean ups 4,416. They are looking at ways to be able to also accept tires.
8 Graffiti abatement was 239 locations. Community engagement eight last
9 quarter.
10

11 Upcoming events, restoration of the Outfall Channel trail tunnel mural (behind
12 Kohl's). And also redo the outside of the tunnel near Triviz. Earth day event
13 on April 19th at the Plaza de Las Cruces from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. to talk about
14 different sustainability, master gardeners. Included would be art recycle show
15 for people to make art out of 70% recycled materials. Also the Great American
16 Clean Up April 27th, that is national. Prior to COVID KLCB partnered with
17 Walmart and do clean up from 8:00 to 12:00 and volunteers would get to go to
18 Walmart and Walmart provided lunch for all volunteers from 12:00 to 2:00.
19 This partnership has been restarted. Hope to get 1,000 volunteers. This will
20 also be partnered with Keep Doña Ana Beautiful, NMDOT, SCSWA, and Town
21 of Mesilla.
22

23 The Outfall Channel was vandalized two weeks after completion on 2020.
24 Goal is to promote the idea of students doing it, not an outside artist. Other
25 murals as it is an individual artist, cannot be abated by Parks and Recreation,
26 only by the artist.
27

28 Keep America Beautiful conference was this past week in San Diego.
29 Eighteen affiliates from New Mexico attended. Some other affiliates are
30 nonprofits, versus Las Cruces which is City run. In 2026 wishing to have the
31 Greatest American Clean up.
32

33 KLCB has two City staff members and four NMSU interns.
34

35 **7.2 Community Outreach Subcommittee Update - Vice-Chair Haas:**

36
37 The subcommittee is on hold until the Board is full.
38

39 **7.3 Sports Field Usage Subcommittee Update - Board Member Coppedge:**

40
41 They have formed a draft of suggestions. They have met with Franco and
42 Rene yesterday. There are some hardlines with safety issues mentioned and
43 liability. Had some good discussions. All want maximum usage of the sports
44 fields.
45

1 **7.4 Regional Aquatic Center Update - Phil Catanach, Deputy Director of**
2 **Parks and Recreation:**
3

4 The activity pool at the regional aquatic center has been in need of repair for
5 over four months. This is the zero entry for the youth, water slide, two lanes,
6 and a curved channel and can walk for exercise. This pool went down in early
7 October 8th when a heat exchange coil within the main boiler stopped working,
8 which heats the water temperature to 81 degrees. Work order was put in on
9 that day and the part was ordered within two to four weeks for the whole
10 process. This part is not mass produced or ready to ship. Each heat exchange
11 coil is custom made individually by the manufacturer. Staff was given seven
12 to 11 week window for the part. On January 5th, the manufacturer stated the
13 coil should be completed and shipped between January 18-22. This was then
14 pushed to week of February 5th. The part was finally received yesterday in
15 the afternoon. It is a 500-700 lbs. part. It will need to be installed and time to
16 verify it works correctly. Hoping to have the pool open by last week of
17 February, latest March 4th. The natatorium has been open for exercise and
18 fitness swim, lap swim, and open swim. Warm water pool has also been open.
19

20 Board Member Engle attended the latest City Council meeting and there was
21 a member of the public who complained loudly about the disrepair of the
22 aquatic center. There were some issues sinks, showers, but many of them
23 minor and are addressed as promptly as possible. There are 39 valves and
24 none had significant leaks. Facilities Department fixes the toilets, sinks,
25 showers, and Parks and Recreation puts in the work orders.
26

27 Questions on how to stop this from happening again in 10-12 years. But does
28 not make sense to purchase a part to sit on the shelf. Staff will look and assess
29 other systems within the aquatic center to see if there are other systems at
30 risk. Continue to do annual inspections, but there are things that are
31 unexpected, and other things that cannot be inspected as are built within other
32 parts/pieces.
33

34 **7.5 Naming of Parks - Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks and**
35 **Recreation:**
36

37 A copy of City Manager policy 3.3 was given to the Board which talks about
38 naming City of Las Cruces facilities, which includes parks and playgrounds. It
39 was last revised about 11 years ago. Name suggestions go to City Manager,
40 City Manager submitted to Council, Council discusses and approves or rejects.
41 On the guidelines for submittal, for Parks, the Parks and Recreation Advisory
42 Board hears suggested names, determines if the request should go forward to
43 City Council, makes recommendations to City Council. Names can be
44 submitted by members of the public, people who are interested in
45 recommending a person's names, City employees. The process is outlined in
46 the policy.

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2 In the GIS system mostly named for location, subdivision, roads etc, easy for
3 staff to remember. Proposal to work with GIS and identify how many parks do
4 not have official names, and then work to acquire/apply names. Over the next
5 several months groupings of parks that needs names will be brought to this
6 Board. This will also tie into the wayfinding. Any facility's name can be
7 changed through the process. There are approximately 20-30 park facilities in
8 need of names. Most of the parks are in District 5. The vast majority of the
9 parks are new parks in need of names, many located in Metro Verde area.
10 They do not anticipate naming parks after people, but public are certainly
11 welcome to make suggestions.

12
13 Suggestion of using the outreach subcommittee, neighborhood associations,
14 homeowners associations for suggestions. Staff would prefer a short time
15 period for naming, if possible.

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17 **8. Staff Member Comments:**

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19 Hazel Nevarez stated she has District maps and does not know who did not get one.

20
21 Franco Granillo stated updates coming for springtime. Staff is working on repairs in
22 parks, fencing, construction area. Rebuilding the berms at the shooting range, due
23 to wind. Also fixing barbed wire at the shooting range as cattle is coming into the
24 shooting area. Parks is getting applications for herbicide-preemergent ready which
25 were inspected NMDA and passed perfectly - including tanks, backpacks, storage,
26 disposable. Ball fields and trail areas are also being worked on. Looking at areas
27 to plant this spring and summer. Community forester is working on getting the tree
28 steward program ramped up. Leagues have asked for more blackout dates, and
29 Parks has opened up an addition four weeks (20 more days) of play throughout the
30 summer.

31
32 Robert Nunez stated they have dumpster days, February 24th will have three
33 locations throughout the City. Recently updated Keep Las Cruces Beautiful City
34 logo. Out of school times are getting ready for spring break March 4 -15, offering
35 programming for youth from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. all 10 days. Weed N Seed
36 program at A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven will have a family night February 29th
37 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and provide educational information to parents and games for the
38 entire family. Youth Development and Diversion program, still in application process
39 for FY25. Should get notification end of March/early April for the funding for Youth
40 Development and Diversion program.

41
42 Phil Catanach states they just held the Father/Daughter Dance and sold out with 30
43 couples within the first two days of registration. Hoping to put on a Mother/Son
44 dance before Mother's Day. Just had registration for Youth Basketball League, right
45 now at 52 teams, over 550 players registered. Youth Cheer registration is on
46 February 22nd. Swing into Spring Volleyball tournament/sand volleyball,

1 registration on the 20th, last time sold out within 30 minutes online. Hired new
2 marketing coordinator to help with all the special events. Up coming is Mother's
3 Dan concert, Mayor's Jazz Fest, Music in the Park, Movies in the Park, Fourth of
4 July Celebration and electric light parade. Today had first meeting with partners at
5 New Mexico State. Parade will be on the Apodaca route but fireworks and consent
6 will be at NMSU at Sisbarro Park. Will let the Board know when the activity pool
7 opens.
8

9 Cathy Mathews stated next week, Wednesday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m. public
10 engagement meeting for the new skate park. This will show the designers concept
11 for people to give feedback. Also have recently hired a new project manager,
12 Christina Abeyta-Corella.
13

14 Steve Bingham stated today had first day of the budget retreat. Heard from
15 Councilors and Mayor of their priorities, with some in Parks and Rec. They are
16 presenting tomorrow their budget proposals and the key aspects. Parks does have
17 some big asks financially, which are in capital (CIP), legacy parks that are older
18 parks that are in need of renovation. Bring additional resources for Park staff to
19 have construction level employees to do more work regularly for enhancements.
20 Also KLCB asking to double the temporary staff to do more and lower the time graffiti
21 exists, to get within 24 hours for removal. E-sports was mentioned and that NMSU
22 is involved. About 75-80% of funds ask to parks, maintenance improvements, and
23 KLCB. Materials and supplies for that last few years has spent every dollar.
24 Commended Amelia and her group.
25

26 **9. Board Member Comments:**
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28 Vice-Chair Haas commended Amelia. Offered the Board's help if needed.
29

30 Board Member Coppedge sent an e-mail to Cathy Mathews about a trail grant from
31 State of New Mexico. Cathy stated they did submit in the fall for the Trails Plus
32 grant to support the DA Move Trail and Tortugas Trails, but have not heard back
33 yet. Steve Bingham stated there is still \$7 million unappropriated. They are
34 anticipating to receive it. Mentioned the hiking club asking for Shaunnna Foster to
35 return.
36

37 Board Member Engle was approached by a member in his District, Mr. Carroll, with
38 the issues with Apodaca Park and the lack of ADA compliance and the water
39 fountain issue. Possibly have a discussion item on a Board agenda to go through
40 Mr. Carroll's issues one-by-one to put it to rest. An e-mail with the issues will be e-
41 mailed to staff. Appreciated Amelia's presentation. And asked to see Libby if
42 possible. Thanks to the Parks staff.
43

44 Chair Raish asked if there was a date on the disk golf. Cathy stated not at this time.
45 Disks have been ordered with Ziggy on them to give away. Prepared for opening,
46 but still need the map for the course, which is being done locally.

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10. Adjournment:

Board Member Engle moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Coppedge.
Motion passed.



Chairperson