



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 16, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on May 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

Fred Raish – At large member
Miley Sara Grandjean - District 1
Kenneth Coppedge – District 2
Alana Bradley - District 4

Members Absent:

Aracely Tellez – District 3
Laura Haas - District 6
VACANT - District 5

Others Present:

Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks and Recreation
Phillip Catanach, Recreation Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation
Amelia Corrales, Interim Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Coordinator, Parks & Recreation
Jake Gutierrez, Aquatic Center, Parks & Recreation
George Pearson
Gregory Shervanick

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of May 16, 2024, at in Room 2007B, City Hall, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at approximately 6:07 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.

1 **3. Approval of the Agenda:**

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3 Board Member Bradley moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
4 Meeting Agenda for May 16, 2024, seconded by Board Member Coppedge. Motion
5 passed.

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7 **4. Approval of the Minutes April 18, 2024:**

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9 Board Member Coppedge moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory
10 Board Meeting Minutes April 18, 2024, seconded by Board Member Bradley. Motion
11 passed.

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13 **5. Public Participation:**

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15 George Pearson, President of the Alameda Depot Neighborhood Association. They
16 are very interested in the gazebo project in Pioneer Women's Park. An e-mail was
17 sent to CLC staff before the neighborhood had their meeting first weekend of May
18 for project status. Not response was received until after the meeting. The response
19 did not include any specifics beyond construction should be starting within the next
20 month or two. The response was shared with the neighborhood and the
21 neighborhood felt the response was not helpful. He is requesting a more complete
22 response that includes the budget for the project, schedule for the project bidding,
23 and the estimated construction dates. At their meeting they had the state
24 representative and senator and their comments were to make sure the allocated
25 funds get spent so the state does not call back the funding. He is aware of the RTP
26 trail project along Las Cruces Lateral that was funded in 2020 and still has not been
27 built. He is also president of Velo Cruces, local bicycle/pedestrian advocacy group.
28 May is National Bike Month. This was celebrated via proclamation by City Council.
29 They have made progress in improving bicycle facilities in Las Cruces, in particular
30 the multiuse trails funded by the GO Bond. Have not celebrated those trails with
31 ribbon cutting or other City sponsored events. He encourages the City to highlight
32 the wonderful facilities to get people on their bikes to enjoy all benefits of being
33 outdoors. Velo Cruces is sponsoring a Meet and Greet tomorrow 5:00 p.m., back
34 patio area of Little Toad.

35
36 Greg Shervanick stated Young Park, although wonderful is being overused with the
37 multiple events every single weekend. With progression toward the East Mesa
38 Complex that critical thinking and the use of the road for some kind of event should
39 be done at that park to see if that park works for a major baseball game, soccer
40 game, or usage. With Young Park there is a particular time of the evening when it
41 is heavily used. And park rangers should police the park at that time. Thanks the
42 Park people who take care of Young Park.

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44 **6. Action Items:**

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46 None.

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2 **7. Discussion Items:**
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4 **7.1 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Update - Amelia Corrales, KLCB Program**
5 **Coordinator:**
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7 Amelia Corrales since February they did a March clean up dumpster day which
8 garnered a little over 6,000 lbs. of trash. Dumpster days are done once month,
9 three roll-offs in a variety of locations throughout the City and is free for
10 community members to dump household trash. Great American Clean Up on
11 April 27th, 561 volunteers for a total of 766 hours. Volunteers included 44
12 community groups, youth groups, Organ Mountain High School FFA, Mayor's
13 Top Teens, church group, and home school group. Walmart partnered and
14 provided free lunch. Eleven roll-offs throughout the City of Las Cruces. They
15 picked up over 4,920 lbs. of trash, and the roll-off gathered 6,900 lbs. of trash.
16 Also doing community education and engagement, including 16 outreach
17 events which include youth doing learning activities, Libby the dog, doing
18 reduce, reuse, recycle learning. Reached 463 youth in the community.
19 Community outreach did nine outreach events since February, Water Festival,
20 NMSU Learn a Palooza. This reached a total 4,605 individuals in the
21 community just since February. Graffiti eradication, since July 1, 2023 done
22 932 abatements. Community mural that got state recognition through New
23 Mexico Clean and Beautiful and Tourism Departments. Also national
24 recognition through Keep America Beautiful. There were nine youth groups
25 from the City such as Weed and Seed, Out of Schoolltime Programs, who
26 helped paint the mural. Also a homeschool group and community outreach
27 department through LCPD held outreach and got groups of people to come
28 and paint the mural as well. Total of 200 youth help paint the mural. Briana
29 Yazzi the artist outlined the entire mural and the students painted between the
30 lines. Hope to have it completely done by the end of this month. Video of the
31 outside mural that was done, but also mentioned the inside has been updated
32 too. Shared year-to-date data, volunteers are 1,693, total hours 2,816, litter
33 collected doing clean ups 11,560 lbs., trash collected from dumpsters 79,560
34 lbs., total community engagement 7,210 participants, 1,865 youth participates
35 in specific youth activities. FY24 grant \$37,620.76, requesting a little over
36 \$100,000 for FY25 although probably not as there were many other asks.
37

38 **7.2 Sports Field Usage Subcommittee Update - Board Member Kenneth**
39 **Coppedge:**
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41 Board Member Coppedge spoke with Steven Bingham, and based on other
42 meetings Mr. Bingham has had with other community members, there is not a
43 formal update. He will work more with baseball and soccer community to
44 provide a presentation next month.
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46 **7.3 Aquatics - Jake Gutierrez, Recreation Administrator:**

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2 Jake Gutierrez stated they will have seven amenities offered on May 25, which
3 is Memorial Day Weekend and is their launch point for all things summer.
4 Pools include Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, Las Cruces Natatorium,
5 East Mesa Bataan Memorial and Laabs Pool, and also Downtown Plaza
6 Fountain, Splash pads at Metro Verde and Unidad, and one on the way. They
7 have noticed since March on a weekly average about 250 more in attendance
8 per week. Since 2020 there has been a health return to attendance in the
9 facilities. Anticipate more then in 2022 which was close to 100,000 visitors.
10 Staff includes 40 lifeguards for this summer. They work hard with the recruit
11 and retain, and City pays for the certifications. Lap swimming is very popular,
12 and the natatorium is 70/30, with 70 lap swim, but hope to move toward 50/50
13 by introducing more programming in that facility. There are lap swimming at
14 the Aquatic Center for the hours closed at the Natatorium. Still need staffing
15 to open for 12-13 hours each day. Natatorium is 6:00 am to 11:00 a.m. and
16 open again 4:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. Open swim at East Mesa, Laabs, Aquatic
17 Center, Natatorium. Swim lessons are beginning again. They have three
18 individuals teaching 65 swimmers mainly youth. In the fall plan on adult swim
19 lessons. Rentals for birthday party in the Aquatic Center. East Mesa and
20 Laabs are exclusive rentals, two sessions during the week 12:00 and 3:30
21 p.m.. Close public at 6:30, and at 7:00-8:30 offer exclusive rental for the pool
22 at \$200. Saturday evening rentals, which are fully booked until September.
23 Natatorium is not yet on a rent system, except for swim teams who use it
24 Monday through Friday, some Saturdays. Approximately \$25,000 is from
25 rentals. Free swim days which is Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor
26 Day. The hours facilities are open were shared with the board. The splash
27 pads are not open on weekends, they are presenting redoing the floor. These
28 will then be open on May 25th. It was mentioned the fountain needs to be
29 painted and it is very slippery. The fountain is not a splash pad, and it is difficult
30 policing how people are using that. The surface is different. Question asked
31 about Frenger, and it is currently being used by LCPD as a substation. The
32 master plan did discuss various ideas for the Frenger pool location/area.
33 When Googled, the Unidad Splash Pad is open 24 hours. Suggestion of fixing
34 Google and also the changing hours for the seasons. The only way to update
35 Google is contacting them and they have a regional person. All hours are on
36 the Las Cruces website and are accurate there. Attendance is great and will
37 increase after Memorial Day. Question on demographics of attendance.
38 Attendees include swimmers, fitness swimmers, gym users, just to take a
39 shower, come and sit at the facility, non-swimmers sitting on the deck.
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41 **7.4 East Mesa Sports Complex Concession / Brick and Mortar vs Food**
42 **Trucks - Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director:**
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44 Cathy Mathews stated that the master plan for that facility indicates both types
45 of facilities to provide food and snacks. Options are being considered.
46 Building a concession stand is being considered although not being done at

1 this time, but leaning towards making the facility amenable to food trucks.
2 There are issues to be considered, costs of offerings, kinds of offerings, kinds
3 of vendors get in and which do not get in. There is a nebulous problem for
4 designing a space for the food trucks, for which more information will be
5 forthcoming.

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7 **8. Staff Member Comments:**

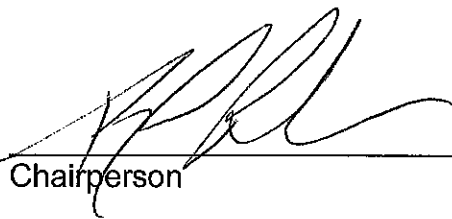
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9 None.

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11 **9. Board Member Comments:**

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13 None.

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15 **10. Adjournment:**

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17 Board Member Coppedge moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Bradley.
18 Motion passed.

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Chairperson

