



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 19, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on September 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

### Members Present:

Fred Raish – At large member  
Laura Haas - District 6  
Charles Beard – District 2  
Kylie Aleja Jenkins - District 5  
Aracely Tellez – District 3

### Members Absent:

Miley Sarah Grandjean - District 1  
Alana Bradley - District 4

### 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  
Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation  
Catherine Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation  
Amelia Corrales, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Coordinator, Parks & Recreation  
Judy Barela, Recreation Administrator in Athletics, Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of September 19, 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 Vice-Chair Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
3 Meeting Agenda for September 19, 2024, seconded by Board Member Beard.  
4 Motion passed unanimously.  
5

6 **4. Approval of the Minutes August 15, 2024:**  
7

8 Vice-Chair Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
9 Meeting Minutes August 15, 2024, seconded by Board Member Beard. Motion  
10 passed unanimously.  
11

12 **5. Public Participation:**  
13

14 None.  
15

16 **6. Action Items:**  
17

18 None.  
19

20 **7. Discussion Items:**  
21

22 **7.1 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Update - Amelia Corrales, KLCB Program**  
23 **Coordinator:**  
24

25 Amelia Corrales reported Keep Las Cruces Beautiful was awarded a grant of  
26 \$35,759.50 for FY25 through the State of New Mexico Clean and Beautiful  
27 program tourism department. This will support End Littering, Beautifying Our  
28 Community, Empowering Youth, and Increased Program capacity. In FY24  
29 got over 1,700 volunteers to participate in over 3,500 hours of community  
30 service. Completed 34 youth presentations at LCPS and community youth  
31 programs. Attended 22 community outreach events. Abated graffiti at 963  
32 locations. Worked with youth groups within the community to complete a  
33 community mural. Awarded \$12,495.80 for End Littering, to prevent litter,  
34 provide access to proper waste disposal, and removal litter via neighborhood  
35 dumpster days held once a month, two community-wide clean-ups, spring is  
36 Great American Clean Up, and fall is Toss No Mas, and various other  
37 individual clean ups. Awarded \$,585.00 for Beautify Communities, improve  
38 green spaces, prevent graffiti, and eradicate graffiti via working with youth  
39 programs, and providing education throughout the community, community  
40 gardens, creating and rehabilitating murals in the City, and graffiti abatement  
41 team that goes out every day. Awarded \$15,800.00 for Empower Youth, to  
42 provide service opportunities for youth groups, employ youth interns, and  
43 provide youth leadership opportunities via providing stipends to youth groups  
44 to clean neighborhoods, work with NMSU to employ interns and provide  
45 leadership skills and opportunities. Awarded \$2,879.50 to Increase Program  
46 Capacity, build coalitions through professional affiliations and increase

1 knowledge through professional development via working closely with Doña  
2 Ana County and Town of Mesilla, NMDOT and South Central Solid Waste  
3 Authority. All part of Keep America Beautiful. Also have their Adopt a Spot.  
4 Their green dog LIBBY (Las Cruces is Beautiful Because of You) to educate  
5 students. Held first annual Earth Day Event this year and hope to continue.  
6

7 Leadership opportunities are mostly funded through the youth in partnership  
8 with NMSU, give opportunities to interns to come and lead the presentations  
9 with support from City staff. Youth groups consist of 24 and younger people.  
10

11 The tunnel mural is 98% complete. Not having any real graffiti. Still want to  
12 name it at the top and put a walk through New Mexico as that is the inside and  
13 the outside is all Las Cruces based.  
14

15 Private property is different and need permission first. Neighborhood walk can  
16 do their entire neighborhood.  
17

18 There is no coordination with correction facility, but NMDOT does work with  
19 them. They do work with the Youth Development and Diversion Program.  
20 They do work with Walmart for the Great American Clean Up.  
21

## 22 **7.2 Athletic Section Fall 2024 - Phil Catanach, Parks & Recreation Deputy** 23 **Director and Judy Barela, Recreation Administrator:** 24

25 Phil Catanach introduced Judy Barela and gave some her background and  
26 time with the City. Judy Barela reported they are housed at Meerscheidt  
27 Recreation Center/Hadley Complex. Provide athletic programs, recreational  
28 sports for all ages, all abilities. Now they have youth flag football and cheer  
29 program for the youth and this has been going on for four weeks and will  
30 complete next week. And then right into the youth basketball season which is  
31 one of the larger leagues with over 450 participants which is through the  
32 second week in December. Also have adult volleyball right now. They have  
33 16 games going on each night Monday through Friday. Also during the day  
34 between 8:00 and noon there are adult pickleball, basketball, volleyball,  
35 Zumba gold, cornhole, adaptive sport, open gym, billiards, table tennis,  
36 foosball, racquetball, and indoor/outdoor court rentals. Just finished adult  
37 pickleball tournament. Upcoming indoor volleyball, with spooky spikes, and  
38 adult indoor volleyball leagues, youth indoor soccer registration in December.  
39

40 All the indoor activities are at Meerscheidt. The softball and baseball fields,  
41 the leagues are required to have a field manager who patrols and calls PD as  
42 needed. Question about out of control parents. There are rec coordinators  
43 who are out there and in charge of the league for that evening. There is a zero  
44 tolerant policy. And all coaches are given information. If there are issues with  
45 spectators the team would have to leave, end the game. For pickleball it is a

1 dollar for seniors to play, majority are seniors, and the recent tournament was  
2 \$10 a person. Each session lasts for two hours.

3  
4 The City youth basketball are not the only league within the City. And in the  
5 spring there are well over 1,000 players.

### 6 7 **7.3 Dog Park Rules - Franco Granillo, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director:**

8  
9 Franco Granillo reported on the new dog park rule changes. The current dog  
10 park rules are guidelines, not really rules. They have met with dog park  
11 coalition members. These rules were presented to Donna Harvath, the current  
12 president of the Dog Park Coalition and she likes them. Codes and Legal from  
13 the City approve of the rules. Current dog parks are Rinconada, Hermosa,  
14 and Burn Lake. The current dog park rules were shown to the board. And  
15 then the new recommended dog park rules were shown. Use park at your own  
16 risk. Owners are legally responsible for the behavior of their dogs at all times.  
17 Dogs must be leashed while entering and exiting the park. Dog waste must  
18 be cleaned up by their owners immediately. Owners must be in the dog park  
19 and supervising their dog with leash readily available. Dog handlers must be  
20 at least 15 years of age. Bring children at your own risk. Children under 14  
21 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times. Aggressive dog  
22 must be removed immediately. Dog owners are legally and financially  
23 responsible for any injury caused by their dogs. If your dog gets in a fight,  
24 exchange contact information with the other dog owners and leave the dog  
25 park. Prohibited, human and dog food/treats, sick dogs, glass containers,  
26 aggressive dogs, dogs in heat, puppies under four months. A survey will be  
27 sent out Monday one-two mile radius of each dog park. Community will have  
28 two options for input, one the survey, and then again at a Parks Board meeting  
29 probably a month after receiving the data, possibly November.

30  
31 Question on how the rules will be enforced. Parks and Rec will create durable  
32 signage, and then it is up to codes and animal control to enforce. Dogs and  
33 cats are permitted in all parks, but not athletic fields. Dogs are always asked  
34 to be on a leash in the parks. There is signage in all the parks to this effect.

35  
36 Question, not on dog parks, but about the fabric shade structures in some of  
37 the parks and their length of life. The warranty is a year to five years depending  
38 on the vender. The full lifetime is between five to eight years. They are  
39 discussing moving to tin rather than a fabric.

40  
41 For community input they are looking more for buy-in. When drafting the new  
42 rules, what resources/models were viewed. This came up because a lot of  
43 dog attacks at Hermosa Park. The research came from the Dog Park  
44 Coalition, but was very restrictive. Looked at dog parks that are very  
45 successful in Colorado, in Arizona, and Central Park, New York. Members of  
46 the Dog Park Coalition, not just the president, were interested in rules that

1 animal control can refer to. Should the community be 70% or more against  
2 the rules, then Parks and Rec would return to the drawing board.  
3

4 **8. Staff Member Comments:**  
5

6 Robert Nunez stated they have their fall break the next two weeks. There are spaces  
7 available for up to 125 children at two locations, Kinder through 5th. And then teen  
8 program hosting a life skills program in partnership with Family Ties, a nonprofit  
9 organization that will be teaching the basics of photography, DJ'ing, as well as  
10 dance. Weed and Seed program is hosting fall break up to 60-65 kids for both  
11 programs. Case manager has a parent workshop for any parents that need support,  
12 information, locations for services. Averaging about eight parents/families per  
13 session which is every Wednesday. Youth Development and Diversion program  
14 recently hosted the statewide Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Board meeting  
15 which is 12 members selected by the governor. Local programs are still running.  
16 Seeing an increase in referrals, this is at nine weeks into the school semester. New  
17 Mexico Recreation and Parks Association state conference was recently and the  
18 Youth Development and Diversion program was put for an award this year and  
19 selected for Youth Program of the Year.  
20

21 Franco Granillo reported they are working on some tree care issues at Salopek  
22 Park. Also the mistletoe infestation will be treated in the fall/winter as the leaves  
23 have to be off. Staff are ready to plant new trees after the removal. He has not  
24 heard from Steve Armstrong about practice times/field space, etc. They are pushing  
25 when tournaments are reducing their field usage to let other know the fields are  
26 available for practice. No complaints so far. Gearing up for the Whole Enchilada  
27 tournament, softball, October 4-6. There was over a foot of sand on one of the trails  
28 at the Wetlands, which is in a flood retention area. This was recently cleaned up.  
29 Public Works will be contacted to see if the water can be caught somewhere instead  
30 of letting it erode the trail. Right-of-way, medians, and roadways are being kept  
31 clean.  
32

33 Phil Catanach reported they finished the Music in the Park series with 21 concerts  
34 and over 20,000 people. Last night finished Wellness Basketball Tournament for  
35 City employees. Las Cruces finance/LCPD bet Parks and Rec for the  
36 championship. There was a pickleball tournament this past weekend with 36 teams.  
37 Movies in the Park finishes up this Saturday, Little Mermaid at Young Park at dusk.  
38 Providing swim levels level 1-4 in October with registration this week, which will be  
39 every Thursday and Friday. Meerscheidt will have a modified schedule for  
40 September 23-October 4 to allow fall break kids to have some activities. Closing  
41 Meerscheidt October 5 for the Whole Enchilada Tournament. October 5th starts  
42 Pumpkin Palooza from 3:00 - 6:00, early Halloween event at Frank O'Brien Papen  
43 Center with hayrides, and activities. All of October at natatorium showing movies  
44 on Fridays. November doing a replaster project at regional aquatic center, so the  
45 activity pool and the warm water pool will be down for three to four weeks. This was

1 planned and the budget is here of \$120,000. After this completed then NMED will  
2 come in and inspect.  
3

4 Cathy Mathews reported they had the ribbon cutting last month at East Mesa Sports  
5 Complex. On October 10th doing ribbon cutting for the Skate Park Renovation.  
6 Having public input meeting coming up for aquatic playground at Apodaca Park.  
7 Villa Mora Dam Park design meeting coming up. Also later would be Benavidez  
8 Community Center park. In design right now are Pioneer Women's Park with  
9 walkways and pergolas. Lohman Avenue/Roadrunner Parkway medians finishing  
10 up design so into construction fairly soon. Some trails projects are in design. At the  
11 East Mesa Sports Complex have playground, adaptive playground, sports courts,  
12 and a new skate park too. Construction includes Kline Park improvements including  
13 shade canopy over playground, sidewalks, amphitheater improvements. Ongoing  
14 work is High Noon soccer field restroom improvements. Brand new construction is  
15 Highland Park on Emerald near Highland Elementary School which is north of US  
16 70. Bidding in process is Chandler Tank off of Sonoma Ranch Boulevard, more  
17 medians. Also on call landscape design services due to so many projects going.  
18 Las Cruces Lateral trail is in bidding process for construction. Valley View  
19 playground in process of finalizing the contrast to get replacement playground. For  
20 the Lateral Trails, one side is getting improvements and allow it to be legally  
21 accessible by the public. It will be EBID property but leased by the City and the City  
22 will be monitoring and policing once the improvements are complete.  
23

24 Question about reclamation water. The Utilities Department reclamation plant is off  
25 of Lohman and east of Sonoma Ranch. This reclamation water goes to the golf  
26 course and Centennial High school. Parks also having access are Veterans Park,  
27 and Sage Crest Park, and the Wetlands. East Mesa Sports Complex is set up for  
28 reclamation water but right now not enough reclamation water.  
29

30 Question about refilling Burn Lake. Simple answer is yes, but it is difficult. The  
31 groundwater used to fill it but it has shrunk to below the level to fill it. In spring  
32 looking for delivery of water from the Rio Grande. They are supposed to get 1,000  
33 acre feet of water per year which is 325,850,000 gallons.  
34

35 Steve Bingham stated the awards are not easy to get. Invite to be handed out for  
36 the skate park opening.  
37

38 **9. Board Member Comments:**  
39

40 Vice-Chair Haas thanked for the PowerPoints. Passed along a satisfied customer  
41 comment about the work out activity items next to the fire station off Porter.  
42

43 Chair Raish thanked everyone for the East Mesa Sports Complex grand opening.  
44

45 **10. Adjournment:**  
46

1 Board Member Tellez moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chair Haas. Motion  
2 passed unanimously.  
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6  
7

8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

DRAFT