

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.

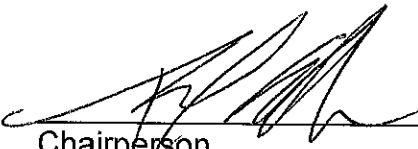
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38 **9. Board Member Comments:**

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:**

1 Board Member Tellez moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chair Haas. Motion
2 passed unanimously.
3

4
5
6
7 
8 Chairperson

1

Keep Las Cruces Beautiful

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

September 19, 2024

2

Keep Las Cruces Beautiful

Keep Las Cruces Beautiful Program was awarded a grant for FY25 through the State of New Mexico Tourism Department in the amount of \$35,759.50. These funds will support the following projects in the four categories, End Littering, Beautifying our Communities, Empowering Youth, and Increase Program Capacity.

3

FY24 Achievements

- 1,754 volunteers participated in the amount of 3,508 hours clean-ups throughout the community.
- Completed 34 youth presentations at LCPS and Community Youth Programs.
- Attended 22 community outreach events.
- Abated graffiti at 963 locations throughout the city.
- Worked with youth groups to complete a community mural.

4

Goal 1

End Littering \$12,495.80

- 1.1 - Prevent Litter
- 1.2 - Provide Access to Proper Waste Disposal
- 1.3 - Remove Litter

KLCB will achieve these objectives by continuing and recruiting through our Adopt-a-Spot program, our Neighborhood Dumpster Days, and having two community-wide clean-ups. During the Spring (Great American Clean Up) and in the Fall (Toss No Mas), as well as other opportunities through the year.

5

Goal 2

Beautify Communities \$4,585.00

- 2.1 - Improve Green Spaces
- 2.2 - Prevent Graffiti
- 2.3 - Eradicate Graffiti

KLCB achieves these objectives by working with youth programs and providing education through community gardens, creating and rehabilitating Murals in the city, and utilizing a graffiti abatement team.

7

Goal 4

Increase Program Capacity \$2,879.50

- 4.1 - Build coalitions through professional affiliations
- 4.2 - Increase knowledge through professional development

KLCB accomplishes these objectives by working closely with Dona Ana County, the Town of Mesilla, NMDOT, SCSWA, and being part of Keep America Beautiful. We are also funded to send the KLCB Coordinator to the National KAB conference every February.

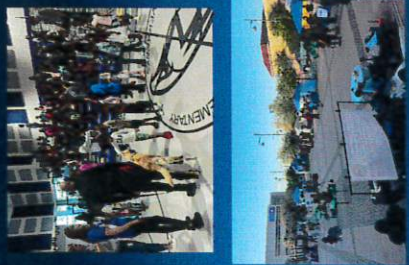
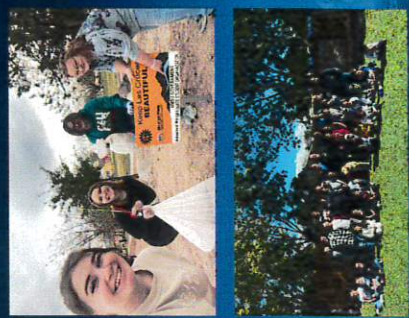
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Goal 3

Empower Youth \$15,800.00

- 3.1 - Provide service opportunities for youth groups
- 3.2 - Employ youth interns
- 3.3 - Provide youth leadership opportunities

KLCB achieves these objectives by providing stipends to youth groups within our community that complete designated clean-ups, working with NMSU to employ interns, and providing leadership skill opportunities.



Questions

Athletics Section Fall 2024

The City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Department designs programs to meet the needs of our community and each age group, giving every person the chance to grow physically and socially while developing skills appropriate for their age level.

We promote **FUN**damental sports at a **FUN**damental age!



Youth Programs - Fall 2024



Flag Football League:
3 Divisions (135 Participants)



Basketball League:
6 Divisions (430 Participants)



Cheer Program:
2 Divisions (30 Participants)

Adult Programs - Fall 2024



Sand Volleyball League:
4 Divisions (64 Teams, over 600 participants)



Adult Daily Sessions

- Pickleball: 12 sessions/week
Average 200 participations/week
- Basketball: 3 Sessions/week
Average 60 participations/week
- Volleyball: 4 Sessions/week
Average 60 participations/week



- Zumba Gold, Cornhole, Adaptive Sports, "Open Gym"
- Billiards, table tennis, Fooseball
- Racquetball & indoor/outdoor court rentals



Upcoming

Adult Pickleball Tournament
East Mesa Sports & Recreation Complex
September 14 & 15

Spooky Spikes Adult Indoor Volleyball Tournament
Registration October 15
Tournament Play on October 25 & 26

Adult Indoor Volleyball League
Registration November 12
League Play begins in December

Youth Indoor Soccer Registration
December 5 & 7



Athletics Section Fall 2024

Questions?



LAS CRUCES DOG PARK RULES UPDATE

City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
September 19, 2024

CURRENT DOG PARKS



Rinconada Dog Park



Hermosa Dog Park



Burn Lake Dog Park

CURRENT DOG PARK RULES

Welcome to the Las Cruces Dog Park

For your safety and the safety of your pet, please observe the following:

- Owners are responsible for their dogs and children.
- Children under 5 years old are not permitted in the park.
- Owners must pick up their dog's waste.
- Immediately isolate or remove any aggressive, dominating, or over-excited dog.
- No food or treats allowed in the park.

If any person or dog is bitten by a dog in the park, report it to Las Cruces Animal Control office at 575-528-4100 or Dispatch at 575-526-0795.

Dog owners are legally and financially responsible for their actions and for the actions of their dogs.

RECOMMENDED NEW DOG PARK SIGNS

Welcome to the Las Cruces/Burn Lake/Rinconada Dog Park

DOG PARK RULES

- Use park at your own risk
- Owners are legally responsible for the behavior of their dog(s) at all times
- Dogs must be leashed while entering and exiting the park
- Dog waste must be cleaned up by their owners IMMEDIATELY
- Owners must be in the dog park and supervising their dog with leash readily available.
- Dog handlers must be at least 15 years of age
- Bring children at your own risk. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
- Aggressive dog must be removed immediately
- Dog owners are legally and financially responsible for any injury caused by their dog(s). If your dog gets in a fight, exchange contact information with the other dog owner(s) and leave the dog park

PROHIBITED

- Human & Dog food/treats
- Sick Dogs
- Glass Containers
- Aggressive Dogs
- Dogs in Heat
- Puppies (under 4 months)

If any person is bitten by a dog in the park, immediately report it to Las Cruces Animal Control office at 575-528-4100 between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F or after hours to non-emergency dispatch at 575-526-0795.

5

INPUT PROCESS

- Several meetings with past Dog Park Coalition members
- Sent feedback to Legal and Codes for review through Community Constituent Liaison
- Legal approved new verbiage
- Shared Draft with Dog Park Coalition members
- Survey sent out September 2024 – 1 mile radius of each dog park
- Update once data is collected

QUESTIONS

6