



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

March 30, 2026

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on March 30, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

Laura Haas - District 6
Alana Bradley - District 4
Stephanie Genelle Hofacket - District 5
Aracely Tellez – District 3

Members Absent:

Jeremy Williams – At large member
Charles Beard – District 2
Miley Sarah Grandjean - District 1

Others Present:

Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
Julee Muro de Gerome, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks & Recreation
Franco Granillo, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Parks Planning and Construction Administrator
Josh Clevenger, Deputy Director of Recreation, Parks & Recreation
Gilbert (Michael) Amerquita
Gregory Shervanick
Councilor Michael Harris
Councilor John P. Muñoz

1. Call to Order:

Chair Haas called to order at 6:04..

2. Introductions:

Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Attending staff introduced themselves. Councilor Harris, Mayor Pro-Tem Muñoz.

3. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

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2 **4. Approval of the Agenda:**
3

4 Board Member Alana Bradley moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory
5 Board Meeting Agenda for March 30, 2026, seconded by Board Member Aracely
6 Tellez. Motion passed unanimously.
7

8 **5. Approval of the Minutes December 11, 2025, February 19, , 2026:**
9

10 Page 3, line 12 and 14, "End Zone," should be just "N Zone." No adjournment time.
11

12 Board Member Aracely Tellez moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory
13 Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2025 with revisions, seconded by Board
14 Member Alana Bradley. Motion passed. Board Member Stephanie Hofacket was
15 not a member in December.
16

17 Page 1, line 22, Steven Bingham was not present.

18 Page 4, line 34, Kylie Jenkins is not a Board Member.

19 Page 5, Alan Bradley, should be Alana Bradley. Also no adjournment time.
20

21 Board Member Stephanie Hofacket moved to approve the Parks and Recreation
22 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 19, 2026 with revisions, seconded by
23 Board Member Alana Bradley. Motion passed unanimously.
24

25 **6. Public Participation:**
26

27 Gregory Shervanick stated there are two items based on current time of year need
28 to be addressed, heightened solutions. Young Park needs to be observed to avoid
29 another algae bloom. Young Park and Easter, LCPD and park rangers to be looked
30 at. Talked about confetti eggs and contamination into the Parks.
31

32 **7. Action Items:**
33

34 **7.1 Naming the New Trail - Naming Process Outline:**
35

36 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated city manager policy 3.3 outlines new names
37 or name changes for city facilities. A change would go to city manager and
38 then to City Council for final approval. Union multiuse path is in process with
39 the section named DA Move/Tortugas Trails, which were just the grant names.
40 The alignment follows Union, goes under the freeway, and goes onto the
41 campus. Phase 2 includes undergrounding of the lateral, fencing along the
42 farmland owned by NMSU. University Loop/RTP from University to Las
43 Cruces High School along the EBID lateral. A future phase plan, from Las
44 Cruces High School, again along the lateral up to South Main Street. Mesilla
45 Valley MPO map was shown. Staff recommends only one name, but if the
46 board wants two names there needs to be a distinctive stop and start location

(recommend Union Avenue). Possible names: Heritage Farm Trail, Las Cruces Lateral Trail South, Aggie Trail, South Main Street Loop Trail, Aggie/Bulldog Trail, Green Chile Trail.

The route through the university is used. The lateral is used all the time on bikes, and walking dogs. The Union Trail is used as it is already existing. The drain is also used, but will be more used with improvements.

Discussion on what names each Board Member had listed on their top four. Four listed for Heritage Farm Trail. Three listed for South Main Street Loop Trail. The word "loop" is positive for bicyclists. South Main Trail would simplify the name, and four listed. Final vote, one for Heritage Farm Trail. Three vote for South Mail Trail.

Board Member Aracely Tellez moved to name new trail, South Main Trail, seconded by Board Member Alana Bradley. Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Elections:

Aracely Tellez and Laura Haas are terming out as of the end of March.

Nomination of Alana Bradley for Chair by Board Member Stephanie Hofacket; seconded by Aracely Tellez. Alana Bradley cannot.

Board Member Aracely Tellez to defer the elections to the next meeting, seconded by Board Member Stephanie Hofacket. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Larua Haas nominated Alana Bradley to chair the next meeting, seconded by Aracely Tellez. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion Items:

8.1 FY27 Budget Summary:

Steve Bingham stated board members were sent budget presentations. The budget development for the city starts in August/September where departments start talking about their priorities for the following year. The budget year is from July 1st through June 30th. The department budget proposals are due beginning of December. Budget retreat is usually January. Work sessions and public hearings are in March and April. Adoption occurs in May. There is a final work session and public hearing on April 13, 2026, and then the adoption is on May 18, 2026. The themes for the budget were, use engagement, affordable housing, traffic safety, pedestrian safety, infrastructure improvements, municipality court, animal welfare, LCPS partnership, utility preparedness, communications, mental health.

1
2 Also talked about the GRT that was passed in the election previously with
3 about \$11-12 million coming in. This GRT increase was for public safety,
4 streets, parks, and critical infrastructure. The city did community input
5 sessions in each district. The library received the number one vote, rec center
6 number two, utilities number three, also included legacy park improvements,
7 WIA building, trail replacement and renovations, restrooms in parks, east side
8 senior center.

9
10 The Mayor specifically requested \$25 million for two indoor gymnasiums/rec
11 center type facilities, upgrade to one of the baseball fields, Maag or Paz, youth
12 center dedicated facility focusing on afterschool, weekend programing to
13 support underserved and at-risk youth. Councilor Bencomo also brought up
14 recreation facilities and part improvements. Councilor Corran highlighted the
15 proposed recreation center, legacy part improvements, trail
16 replacement/renovations, and mentioned pedestrian safety and traffic
17 calming. Teen projects, youth engagement. Parks Department has been
18 awarded from the state a growth fund, \$180,000 for teens programming.

19
20 Councilor Harris discussed park maintenance - strongly prioritizing ongoing
21 maintenance and upkeep of existing public assets and parks over new
22 additions. Pedestrian infrastructure - support agile funding for pedestrian
23 infrastructure, expanding trail systems. Balance programming, emphasizing
24 the need for departments to balance activities and program offerings for both
25 families and single residents.

26
27 Councilor McClure discussed youth diversion expansion, specifically \$100,000
28 more she would like to see go there. Expand mentorship pathways for at risk
29 youth. Evidence based gun violence prevention programming. She also
30 discussed youth advisory council. A number of the councilors have spoken up
31 about a youth advisory council. Also talked about legacy parks as a primary
32 opportunity for quick build investments. The two legacy park projects, Young
33 and Apodaca, are the two most intensive planning ones, and the most
34 expensive to start. General park funding broadly advocated for dedicating
35 increased financial resources parks alongside the library. Bike infrastructure,
36 high visibility crosswalks with art and libraries.

37
38 Councilor Muñoz talked about youth engagement, focus on deepening
39 relationships with local youth agencies, mentorship, and afterschool push to
40 boost the Parks and Recreation department mentoring and afterschool
41 programs. Establish a youth council for civil engagement. Pop up bike lights.

42
43 In a recent work session the different departments highlighted some of the
44 things in their budget proposal. They are reclassing one of the full time
45 maintenance positions into a maintenance supervisor. Many other cities have
46 this type of position and the person usually has some plumbing background.

1 This will help resolve and prevent some of the aquatics issues they have had.
2 This is in the budget. The Fourth of July celebration is a highlight, \$235,000,
3 besides wages, is being spent on that. The county has offered \$50,000 this
4 year to partner with the city in the Fourth of July celebration that is done with
5 NMSU. Also highlight the afterschool programs - afterschool, teen sites, weed
6 and seed, youth development diversion. There are \$2.9 million are budgeted
7 for those types of programs, and also bring in about \$168,000 in revenue.
8

9 The Mayor and council talk about their priorities. The city manager works with
10 Finance to fine tune and get as many as the priorities into the budget. Chair
11 Laura Haas stated that the Parks and Rec Department has discussed their
12 priorities and some pressing issues that are not represented in the budget.
13 What are the strategies to fill in the gaps. Steve Bingham stated he is always
14 looking for grants. They got \$3 million for Apodaca. As the director, he states
15 they need to fix their infrastructure. Focus on legacy parks and investing in
16 those. Also have a significant challenge with 42 playgrounds that are 20 years
17 or older. They got funding for five of those two years ago, but nothing last
18 year. This coming year is still unknown on funding. They created a
19 construction team in house and did get \$400,000 in materials. Councilor
20 Corran did show improvements at Four Hills Park in her presentation. Their
21 strategy is to look for every outside penny they can get. Older parks serve the
22 community as more than just a neighborhood park. Steve used the term
23 legacy. Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated there is also the Capital
24 Improvements Plan (CIP).
25

26 **9. Councilor Comments:**

27
28 Councilor Muñoz thanked the board and staff. With his experience he stated there
29 is really strong leadership and experience and a strong team here in Las Cruces.
30 He feels that Parks and Rec affects all aspects and is the heart of the organization,
31 as they impact everybody. He has started a business here and in Albuquerque. Las
32 Cruces is their home. His priorities, he would like to parks for all, more access to
33 fields and courts.
34

35 Councilor Harris has lived here his whole life. All parks should have accessibility,
36 and should be accessible to get to. Parking lots at parks are a concern of his. Fewer
37 destination parks and more neighborhood parks. Agreed with in house maintenance
38 personnel. Not naming things after people. Value in delaying some projects until
39 do a better construction project.
40

41 **10. Staff Member Comments:**

42
43 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated there are some ribbon cuttings, skate park at East
44 Mesa and the playground at East Mesa. La Llorona had some vandalism and so
45 got pushed back a bit. Chandler Park is coming to a close, as well as a few others.
46 Apodaca Park and Bike Park will be next year.

1
2 Franco Granillo stated they finished up tree inventory on parks and city office
3 building sites, over 10,000 trees. Working on the ponds to have treatments done.
4 Arbor and Earth Day events are set, six community organizations working with them.
5 El Paso Electric is going to plant 40 trees. Over the last 10 months working on turf
6 program. Soil is rich with nutrients but need to put different product down, gypsum
7 to get the alkaline higher. Valley View is a runoff area and they are having issues
8 still.

9
10 Robert Nunez stated their community recreation they are doing weekly hikes every
11 Friday. Mobile recreation unit (MRU) is actively working. Special events, getting
12 entertainment, electric light parade. Visit Las Cruces is doing something for the
13 250th America celebration. Youth development and diversion program is under
14 Children Youth and Families department, special programs, leading the way with
15 activities, education, and classes. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, Earth Day is this
16 weekend and partnered with Farmers Market. There are 18 vendors educating in
17 regards to Earth Day. Great American Clean Up on the 18th of April, which is
18 community wide clean up. Out of School Time Program recently had spring break
19 camp and had over 100 kids K-5, about 45 teenagers participated. Getting ready to
20 advertise for the summer recreation program, teen connection program.

21
22 Josh Clevenger stated they are finishing up Meerscheidt construction/remodel.
23 During the day it is closed, but open at night. Finishing the dugout renovation, done
24 Maag and two of the four dugouts at Ron Galla, and next week putting in benches
25 for those dugouts. Each of the pools and splash pads have to be health and safety
26 inspected. The downtown fountain has already been done and is turned on. Laabs
27 pool passed inspection today. Metro Verde and Unidad in two weeks. And two
28 weeks after that do the East Mesa. Little sluggers registration open today. Adult
29 volleyball tonight started. Youth volleyball registration will begin in April. Spring
30 basketball is kicking off this Saturday. Spring break logged 855 visits to the
31 natatorium, 1,057 participants in the fitness swim programs and aquatic center. Also
32 953 people did fitness classes. One day at the rack was 213 people.

33
34 Steve Bingham appreciates the work being done. Appreciates Laura Haas and
35 Aracely Tellez. Drinking fountains is a major concern. There are 31 drinking
36 fountains and \$450,000 to do all the replacements and repairs. There is a resident
37 complaining loudly about the one at Apodaca, but it had been previously explained
38 that with the remodel being done that to do it now would waste \$10,000 rather than
39 finished with the remodel. Apodaca Park renovation is a bit over \$7 million. Picked
40 up \$1 million for East Mesa, \$900,000 for remodel of WIA building. Had a
41 restructure of their department and things are going well. Recognized Julee.

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43 **11. Board Member Comments:**

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45 Board Member Aracely Tellez thanked everyone. She was happy to see the
46 progression and its impacts.

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2 Board Member Alana Bradley appreciates staff, and being updated.
3

4 Board Member Stephanie Genelle Hofacket appreciates staff and the presentations.
5

6 Chair Laura Haas thanked for all the hard work, and help to understand the issues
7 and priorities. This Parks Department works hard, dedicated, smart, and a lot of
8 heart.
9

10 **12. Next Meeting Date:**
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12 Return to third Thursday, which would be April 16, 2026.
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14 **13. Adjournment (7:31):**
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16 Board Member Alana Bradley moved to adjourn, seconded by Aracely Tellez.
17 Motion passed unanimously.
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21 
22 _____
23 Chairperson

