

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 3, 2019

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a special meeting on December 3, 2019 at Parks and Recreation Administrative Office Conference Room, 1501 E. Hadley, Las Cruces, NM.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cassie McClure
Stan Engle
Robert Harrison
Megan Schuller

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eli Guzman
Eric Montgomery
Maryln Zahler

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gregory Shervanick, Resident
Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect
Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator
Sonya Delgado, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ceci Vasconcellos, CLC Community Engagement
Hazel Nevarez, Parks & Rec Adm Office Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Harrison and recognized as having a legal quorum.

1. Introductions

Board members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Staff introduced themselves and stated their position. Public present introduced themselves.

2. Conflict of Interest

No Conflict of Interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Schuller moved to approve agenda, seconded by Ms. McClure. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. McClure moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2019, seconded by Ms. Schuller. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Gregory Shervanick wished everyone a Happy Holiday and past Holiday. He congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department, for those who don't know, for passing Resolution twenty zero seven zero, which is the use of park impact fees for the development at the Sierra Del Norte and Mesa Verde subdivision for four parks (inaudible) Capital Improvement Panel. He said he would be happy to share a copy of the document for anybody who doesn't know about this. He said he hopes the parks themselves will represent something to the City rather than the subdivision

6. Action Items

6.1 Olga Pedroza Memorial – Cathy Mathews

Ms. Mathews informed the Board Councilor Vasquez proposed the idea of making a memorial for Councilor Pedroza, who was well liked within her District and within the City, and who retired shortly before she passed away in 2017. She said the idea is to provide a memorial plaque recognizing Councilor Pedroza's accomplishments in her life and in her work at the City. She said staff has been working with the family to solidify the language of the memorial plaque to make sure it covers the important events and accomplishments in her life and working with a local vendor to provide the bronze plaque.

Ms. Mathews reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with the Board to show the different proposed locations for the memorial. She said the original proposed location for the plaque was at Lions Park on the sound wall for Laabs Pool as well as an additional mural. Ms. Mathews informed the Board since a plaque and mural representing Councilor Pedroza's life was being proposed, this was taken to the City Art Board as it is their responsibility to monitor and approve these kinds of art works. At their October 8, 2019 meeting, the Art Board recommended that a different location be selected. They recommended seeking alternate locations at Young Park or alternate locations at Lions Park. Ms. Mathews said staff had recommended Lions Park because tennis was a big park of Councilor Pedroza's life and she often met with constituents on the tennis courts or walking in the park. Ms. Mathews said the other proposed location at Lions Park is on the north facing wall of the of the Laabs pool painting, separated in space and character from the mural wall, but closely located with the tennis courts. She said this is also staff's preferred location because of the proximity to the tennis courts that Ms. Pedroza used most often, because of the opportunity to design a mural that is fitting with the memorial and fits in character in that it's a mural with the remaining murals but doesn't conflict – it would be a mural that represents Councilor Pedroza's life separate from the cultural aspects of life in Las Cruces that are reflected in the existing murals.

Ms. Mathews said other options are to build a free-standing wall that would frame and support the plaque and has the potential for a mural on the opposite side. The proposed location would be in the grass area next to the art sculpture "Refuge" at Laabs Pool. Options at Young Park would be at Young Park, near the tennis courts located just south

1 of the main parking lot – between the tennis courts and the inclusive playground, and
2 near the group picnic shelter.

3
4 Chair Harrison asked who is responsible for wanting this memorial. Ms. Mathews
5 responded Councilor Vasquez of District 3 with support of Councilor Eakman of District
6 4, as well as the family. Chair Harrison asked if the family has any input on locations.
7 Ms. Mathews shared the locations at Laabs Pool and Lions Park with the family and they
8 were ok with either of those. She said these are their preferred locations. Chair Harrison
9 asked what other parks are in District 3. Ms. Mathews responded Young Park, by Hadley,
10 and some smaller neighborhood parks, and Valley View Park borders District 3 and 4.
11 She said Young Park is the largest one and has the tennis courts which is what staff is
12 trying to tie into with Councilor Pedroza's activities and the locations where she met with
13 her constituents, and she did play tennis mostly at Lions Park.

14
15 Mr. Engle said it makes more sense to have the memorial near where she played tennis
16 and met with her constituents.

17
18 Chair Harrison asked if there were two options at Lions. Ms. Mathews responded the
19 three options were the free-standing option near the "Refuge" sculpture, the sound wall
20 between the swimming pool and tennis court where the murals are painted, or the north
21 facing wall that is part of the Laabs pool building.

22
23 Ms. McClure said the north facing wall would be the coolest option, because the free-
24 standing wall would call for tagging. Ms. Schuller added this would have its own prestige
25 and identity. Mr. Engle added this would be less expensive than a free-standing wall.
26 Chair Harrison asked if there was any reason why the Art Board didn't want it there. Ms.
27 Mathews said they didn't want it on the sound wall because there was already a theme
28 going with the murals there and the memorial might interrupt the storyline.

29
30 Chair Harrison asked where the entrance is to use the tennis courts. Ms. Mathews said
31 most people park in the parking lot south and east of the pool and walk from there to the
32 courts.

33
34 Ms. Delgado added the Art Board noted Lions Park wasn't in her District and this is where
35 Young Park came into play.

36
37 Ms. Schuller moved to recommend the northeast corner of the Laabs Pool building at
38 Lions Park for the memorial for Councilor Pedroza, seconded by Ms. McClure.

39
40 Mr. Engle reiterated he thinks this location is ok if this was her favorite spot even though
41 it isn't in her district.

42
43 Motion carried unanimously.

44
45 **6.2 December Meeting/Holiday – Chair Harrison**
46

1 Chair Harrison asked Board if they would like to meet for the regular scheduled
2 December 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Engle asked if there are any pressing issues. Ms.
3 Delgado said there isn't anything pressing.

4
5 Ms. McClure moved to cancel the December 19, 2019 meeting and meet back up in
6 January, seconded by Mr. Engle. Motion carried unanimously.

7 **7. Discussion Items**

8 **7.1 Fees and Charges Facility Use Policy/Red Line – Sonya Delgado**

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12 The Board was provided with a copy of red-lined draft copy of the 2020-21 Fees and
13 Charges Facility Use Policy reflecting proposed changes. Ms. Delgado informed the
14 Board the draft is being provided to give the Board time to review before bringing it back
15 in February for action. She said she will bring it back for the January Board meeting to
16 allow for any questions from the Board. Ms. Delgado reviewed the red-lined changes
17 with the Board.

18
19 Ms. Schuller suggested, on the red-lined changes beginning on page 24 differentiating
20 fees for Residents and Non-Residents under item VII-Sports Leagues (Per
21 Field/Court/Game Fee), considering a third column be added for Resident/Dona Ana
22 County/Non-Resident – splitting the difference for the County fee.

23
24 Ms. McClure asked if its been addressed that if someone in the City or County wants
25 space for tournaments, if they get priority or its weighted more than an outside group.
26 Ms. Delgado said leagues were asked for their schedules and tournaments for the entire
27 year. These are put in the system first, and then outsiders turn in their schedules and
28 they are lined up. Ms. Delgado said this is addressed in the league agreement.

29
30 Ms. McClure said she was handed a note from Mr. Shervanick to ask if there would be
31 different rates for the new Community Pool and Aquatic Center use for residents and
32 non-residents. Ms. Delgado responded this Resident and Non-Resident fees is only for
33 tournament use and for fields; the pool fees will be discussed next year.

34
35 Ms. Delgado pointed out Downtown Area Fees is still in this policy but may come out in
36 the next year or so. She did say Parks and Recreation does not permit the downtown
37 area; the fees are listed only because a place was needed to list the information. Mr.
38 Engle asked if the Downtown area was different from the Civic Plaza, because he
39 understood Parks and Recreation handled the Civic Plaza. Ms. Delgado responded
40 Parks and Recreation is only responsible for the maintenance and Economic
41 Development is responsible for the rental.

42
43 Ms. Delgado let the Board know if the Board has any questions on the changes, they are
44 free to email her between now and the next Board meeting in January.

1 Chair Harrison asked about the dam, if it is rented for running events. Ms. Delgado said
2 the dam does not belong to Parks and Recreation. The dam is a facility maintained by
3 Public Works. Parks and Recreation works with Public Works for approval when
4 requests come in for its use.

5 6 **8. Staff Member Comments**

7
8 Ms. Mathews said it has been a very busy time and staff is getting a lot of work done and
9 will get more work done next year.

10
11 Mr. Granillo said he agrees with Ms. Mathews, and is very proud of staff, working highly
12 together with both internal and external customers, servicing everyone very well. He
13 said staff is already looking at things to do next year in the parks and other areas of
14 beautification for the City to keep it looking good and keep it at a high level of
15 maintenance. He said even with the Round-up situation, staff is doing a good job with
16 weed control. He said Christmas decorations are up and will come down in a few weeks
17 and then will start with maintenance for next year.

18
19 Mr. Granillo added he agrees with the Board's recommendation for Councilor Pedroza's
20 plaque because what some people don't realize at times, if you put a plaque in the middle
21 of a park, it is going to get hit with irrigation, hit by a mower, trim work around it. He said
22 a lot of things and happen to metal or stucco – water can deteriorate it. He said putting
23 the plaque near a wall or concrete surface is the best location.

24
25 Ms. Vasconcellos suggested to the Board that if anyone is looking to give a unique gift,
26 to recommend giving a memorial tree or a memorial bench.

27
28 Ms. Vasconcellos added the front of the Aquatic Center looks nice with their holiday
29 decorations.

30
31 Ms. Delgado informed the Board there is a Go Bond meeting coming up for the East
32 Mesa Recreation Complex, December 4, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Room 2007B&C. She
33 said the Sports Leagues and Associations that utilize Hadley right now were invited to
34 this meeting. There is another meeting December 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Dona Ana
35 Community College at East Mesa in the auditorium – this meeting is open to the public.
36 Ms. Delgado added outreach was made to the users again for this meeting. She said
37 she did get some emails back, particularly from soccer and she said this information was
38 given out at the meeting to both the current President and Friends of Soccer and she
39 emailed them back with the dates and times again and informed them it was mentioned
40 at the meeting and said she was sorry they didn't get the information. She said she did
41 pass this on to her boss, so he is aware. She said once input is received, they will put
42 together what this will look like. They should come back in January or February to the
43 Board. Ms. Delgado said will let the Board know so they will have time to give their input
44 as the concept starts to develop.

1 Ms. Delgado said the Community Pool will come before the Board in January with the
2 final concept. Ms. Delgado said not all requested changes were able to be
3 accommodated because of budget limit.

4
5 Ms. Delgado invited the Board to the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Plaza de Las Cruces
6 on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. She said the actual lighting of
7 tree is 7:00 pm. Staff will be giving out coco and cookies. Ms. Delgado mentioned the
8 wind did destroy some decorations.

9
10 Ms. Delgado mentioned the Parks and Recreation Awards Banquet is December 4 from
11 noon to 2:00 pm and Board is welcome to stop by.

12
13 Ms. Delgado said the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) committee begins January
14 2020. She said she will make sure the Board gets a list of the meetings – open to
15 anybody. She said this is a six-month project and will be in front of Council the second
16 meeting in June 2020.

17
18 Ms. Delgado thanked the Board for their time and dedication and for volunteering to be
19 on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She said Parks and Recreation is a big
20 department and a lot of people don't realize all the things Parks and Recreation is
21 involved in until they come work with us or are a Board member. She let the Board if
22 there is anything she can do for the Board in the coming new year, any information they
23 need, or if there is something she can do for the Board differently to help them or to
24 inform them a little bit better, to not hesitate to let her or her staff know. She would
25 appreciate the feed-back.

26
27 Ms. Delgado said she hopes the Board has a Happy and Safe Holiday and will see them
28 in 2020.

29
30 Ms. Nevarez provided the Board with red holiday Ziggy pullovers. She did mention to the
31 Board that if they attend the tree lighting and wear the pullovers, to make sure they wear
32 their Board name pin, so they don't get mistaken for staff.

33 34 **9. Board Member Comments**

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36 Ms. Schuller asked if there is any update on the Youth Advisory Board, if they were able
37 to get anybody selected to the Board. Ms. Delgado said the Board will get a full report in
38 January.

39
40 Ms. Schuller commented to staff to stay diligent, keep up the work and don't come in
41 work too early.

42
43 Mr. Engle asked who is going to be Santa at the tree lighting ceremony. Ms. Delgado
44 just said Santa will be at the Railroad Depo first and make his way to the tree lighting
45 ceremony. She added Ziggy will be there.

1 Chair Harrison thanked the Board for coming to this special Board meeting. He thanked
2 Ms. McClure for assisting with the Agenda meetings. He said he appreciates everything
3 they do and wished them a fun and Happy Holiday
4

5 **10. Adjournment**
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7 Ms. Schuller moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Ms. McClure. There was no
8 discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.
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Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Robert Harrison, Chair