DRAFT
PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH BOARD
MARCH 20, 2019

Following are the summary minutes from the Parks and Recreation Youth Board meeting held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1501 E. Hadley, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

PARKS & RECREATION YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Katie Allbright
Emma Christiano
Jocelyn Contreras
Annalise Edwards
Kaitlin Nicole Fitzherbert
Esther Heerema
Nyasia Lambert-White
Jonathan Lee

PARKS & RECREATION YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Cade Creason
Elizabeth Furr
Susannah Jozwiak
Karen Melo
Tanner Nielsen
Sarah Rodriguez
Miranda Romero

OTHERS PRESENT:
Stan Engle, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Member
Cassie McClure, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Member
Robert Nunez, Recreation Services Administrator
Sonya Delgado, Parks & Recreation Director
Martha Moreno, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Katie Allbright and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

I. INTRODUCTIONS
Board members introduced themselves. Staff introduced themselves and stated their position.

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No conflict of interest.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Annalise: Moved to approve Agenda as presented, seconded by Nyasia. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jonathan: Moved to approve minutes for February 20, 2019 as presented, seconded by Annalise. Motion carried unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cassie: Presented a list to board members on “Suggestions for Parks and Youth Board Action Items”. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board are here to assist the Youth Board to move forward with ideas, suggestions, and events. Reach out to us for any questions, ideas, concerns and comments. We would like to see more attendance from you at our Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings.

Stan: Happy to see you have concerns on these issues and passionate in making a difference.

Katie: We want to assist in making improvements.

Katie: Recently the youth shelter “My Friends Place” was reopened with the assistance of local businesses. It’s open to teens age 12 – 17, they can stay up to 90 days, there’s food, water, shelter, bedding, etc. They assist runaways, homeless, at risk youth. This involves youth and it might be something we can help with.

Sonya: Madam Chair they just opened this month they have reached out to us they want to bring their teens to some of our programs/facilities they will be attending our Teen Splash on Friday. They are getting the word out through the schools.

Katie: They also said they are taking donations, toiletries, board games, etc. This could be something we can be a part of.

Sonya: Madam Chair I sent an email to Mr. Cook who writes articles for The Bulletin; I’ve asked if he could interview some of the board members on what you are about, what you are doing, thinking, ideas, etc. hopefully we can get this taken care of quickly.

In reference to stipends, sent an email to legal hopefully will get some answers soon. This would assist with the Pilot program for showers and/or washers, voucher program.

Our advisory board presents to city council twice a year, fantastic if you can attend if not able to, we will report your information to council.
Stan: Madam chair as a member of the public I would like to say that I’m very happy that all of you are interested in service at such a young age. Its uplifting to see.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Feminine Health Issues and Solutions – Committee (Update)

Jocelyn: There are no updates.

Robert: Madam chair and board members for A and B I reached out to Las Cruces Public Schools and Public Health. I spoke with the liaison for student advisory council and asked if these subjects could be placed on their agenda so we could report our concerns and issues and how can we proceed through LCPS.

The department of health has staff that can speak to us and if we host an event, they can provide staff to assist in giving out information. Pinon is another agency that we can reach out they do presentations at the schools. The Health Educator at Mayfield provided information on both topics. Will email you the information that I gathered.

B. Healthy Decisions and Education about Sex – Committee (Update)

Annalise: I’ve been looking at information for different programs that work with schools in other cities and areas. There is a workshop “Talk Is Power for Families”. It is designed to promote effective communication skills, build parent-adolescent relationships, help parents develop successful monitoring strategies, and teach adolescents assertiveness and refusal skills.

The Responsible Sex Education Institute group go into the schools and speak at a classroom for the day on variety of subjects. This program provides training to youth serving professionals to ensure that they can provide high effective sex ed. It would be best that we find a program that fits to provide information to the youth.

C. Winter / Spring Community Services Events – (Update)

Katie: The Bullying Coalition is having a booth at “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” event held April 6, 2019 at Young’s Park, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. We have talked about assisting; 2 people rotating every two hours. This is an event that we all can be a part of.

Annalise: We should reach out to all board members and see who is available; then come up with a schedule.

Robert: Madam chair Mr. O’Neill reached out to the board for assistance 8:30 a.m. is set up event starts at 9:00 a.m.

Katie: All are in favor of volunteering for this event.
Katie: Another event we have is Team Up to Clean Up.

Robert: This event is part of our Keep Las Cruces Beautiful program. The flyer lists dates/events for 2019. Would like your assistance getting the word out to clubs, groups, organizations, student council, peers, band groups, family, etc. I will post information on the Parks & Recreation web page, city web page, face book, etc. Not only are we providing information for Parks & Recreation but also any other events that will benefit our community.

Katie: Las Cruces High School has TV’s set up for advertisement; will check if we can get this advertised.

Robert: Will get flyers for posting to the board.

Annalise: I think the youth board should volunteer in participating for the Great American Cleanup on April 13.

Robert: We can select a location or James Woods, KLCC coordinator can assign a location. Event is from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sonya: Madam chair I think we should just get with James to assign a location.

Jonathan: Registration for clubs; I can have the Honor Society register this would be good for us to do.

Robert: Will email information and application to the board.

D. Little Free Library – (Update)

Annalise: It’s a definite interest; city hall was the location we had selected.

Robert: Madam chair and board members city hall is not allowing us to place a Little Free Library at their location. Spoke with the Parks Administrator and we have identified six (6) locations and park staff is willing to assist with materials and guidance in constructing the little library: Sam Graft Park; Sagecrest; East Mesa Park; Mesilla Park; Metro Verde Sculpture Park; and Klein Park.

Sonya: Madam chair as a reminder when you take action; your action will be your recommendation to send forward to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to give your final approval so staff can assist you with that project. You might want to have a couple of options if for some reason your 1st option was not available.

Katie: Do we want to place them in order of preference?

Robert: Would like to get a current list of Little Free Library locations so that we are not duplicating in the same area.
Katie: The following are the order of preference: (1) East Mesa Park, (2) Mesilla Park, (3) Park, Sagecrest Park and (4) Klein Park

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Youth Opportunities – Robert Nunez

Robert: Madam chair and board members there are recreational opportunities, we have various resources within the Parks & Recreation Department. Think of some ideas of interest and we can place on our agenda for next meeting date.

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions has employment opportunities for youth ages 14 – 24 year-round. Possibly have them come present and provide pamphlets with information to reach out to the youth in the community that are interested in employment.

Sonya: Madam chair and board members in reference to the Movies and Music in The Park. I’m going to ask our Recreation Administrator to look at what regional/local acts might be available to come down. We need to get contracts completed, find a few weekends we can get these events scheduled. If there is a musician, act, etc. you are interested give the information to Robert.

Katie: Would you please get in touch with them so they can come and give a presentation to the board.

Robert: Yes.

Katie: When HALFF visited with the board; we mentioned Laser Tag as being an activity of interest for the youth.

Sonya: Will look into it; will bring more information in April.

B. Public Transportation – Robert Nunez

Robert: Madam chair and board members Public Transportation is going through some changes with their routes and times. More opportunities for youth to get to classes, activities, programs, etc.


Robert: Madam chair and board members the application process will open in April, closing date May 31, 2019. The term is for one year. If you are interested, please reapply. New board will start July 2019. Will email application to board members. Thank you for your dedication and time. Looking forward to gaining new individuals but also retaining some of you that attended this first year. We made tiny increments of progress but as we talked at the beginning you have established that foundation. Community appreciates it.
Katie: As we are getting ready to turn in our positions on the board or reapplying, a lot of us are going to think that we didn’t get much done, but you need to remember that this was the first year that we were in existence. It’s difficult for a new organization to perfect the entire city. What we have completed has been amazing. We still have a couple of months to go we are going to finish strong. Hope to see some of you on the next board, I’m reapplying. We had talked about having an end of year banquet; invite city staff, city council, etc.

Annalise: If we would go out to dinner; who would pay?

Sonya: Madam chair we will have more information in April.

VIII. STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Emma: The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is meeting tomorrow so do you just show up if you want to attend?

Sonya: Yes, it’s at 6:00 p.m. here.

Robert: If you are attending, I will get with you before the meeting.

Katie: Thank you for being here, your attendance is greatly appreciated.

Katie: Next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m., Parks and Recreation Admin Conference Room.

Jonathan: On the Music in The Park what does that entail?

Robert: Madam chair and board members we have Movies In The Park and Music In The Park. Staff works through a promoter and hire various artist and local artist to perform. Groups can contact us, and we will refer to promoter to work out a contract. Music in the Park is held at Young Park on Sunday’s and Movies In The Park are held on Saturday’s.

Sonya: Concerts are free and highly attended. Families have gatherings; it’s fun.

Jonathan: Is it restricted, or can anybody play what are the qualifications?

Sonya: We can do two things have Open Mic Night or pay an act. We go through a promoter they help them get established.

Jonathan: I play at the Farmers Market on Saturday’s. There are tons of people and musicians.
Sonya: You could have an Open Mic Night if you like, we can help with that so when we come back in April for action, we can discuss, that is an option. Let us know if that is what you want to do.

Robert: If we did a Music In The Park event maybe we could schedule young local artist, DJ’s, musicians, poets, etc.

Jonathan: I would love to play at the park all the musicians at farmers market would love it too.

Sonya: Be ready, be here in April we will have some action items and make some decisions. Awesome!

X. ADJOURNMENT

Annalise: Moved to adjourn, seconded by Nyasia. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.