

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2016

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on January 21, 2016, at
2 Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1501 E. Hadley, Las Cruces, NM.

3

4 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

5 Ron Camunez, Board Chair

6 Eli Guzman

7 Dawn Rue

8 Mark O'Neill

9 Fran Witt

10

11 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

12 Andriana Natsoulas

13

14 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

15 Hazel Nevarez, PRAB Recording Secretary

16 Mark Johnston, Director – Parks & Recreation

17 Tim Fulton, Parks Administrator

18 Sonya Delgado, Recreation Administrator

19 Phil Catanach, Youth Services Administrator

20 Marci Rive

21 Kevin Armstrong

22

23 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Camunez and recognized the
24 meeting as having a legal quorum.

25

26 **I. Introductions**

27

28 Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

29

30 **II. Conflict of Interest**

31

32 No conflict of interest.

33

34 **III. Approval of Minutes**

35

36 Minutes for November 19, 2015 stand approved as presented.

37

38 **IV. Old Business**

39

40 **A. Skateboard Park/Events, Advisors**

41

1 Mr. Fulton reported that a while back, a group of youth approached staff to do an activity
2 in the skate park. The group did most of the work and staff provided back up support.
3 An event was held with live music, competition, a temporary graffiti wall where graffiti
4 artists did some art work. It was a nice, low budget event. The purpose of the event was
5 to bring the skating community together to bring awareness to some of the vandalism
6 that was occurring. Since that time, staff has been approached by Michael Jimenez,
7 who resides in Alamogordo. Mr. Jimenez was very instrumental in working with the City
8 of Alamogordo to get their skate park. Mr. Jimenez is proposing to work with our local
9 group as a volunteer to help them better organize, fund raise and get support of grants
10 to do some much needed improvements on our skate park. Skaters would like to
11 improve on design issues. Bikes are allowed in the park and Mr. Jimenez has some
12 thoughts on that. Construction crew met with skateboarders and looked at areas where
13 improvements were needed and it is going to require some cutting, removal and things
14 like this. Tim reported he is going to continue to work with Mr. Jimenez with Mark
15 Johnston's permission. Mr. Jimenez is a volunteer and going forward will serve as an
16 adviser on what can be done for the user's enjoyment of the park.
17

18 Mr. Camunez asked if this would be in conjunction with coming events for the allocated
19 funds from the last meeting to help bring in national events. Mr. Johnston responded
20 this is separate from the funding that went to the BMX.
21

22 Mr. O'Neill asked if the same people from that meeting a while back are still involved and
23 the response was yes.
24

25 Mr. O'Neill asked how it was working out with allowing bikes in the skate park. Mr. Fuller
26 reported it is working well with no friction.
27

28 **B. Running Club**

29

30 Ms. Delgado reported that the Running Club is in good standing with Parks and
31 Recreation, with a really strong partnership. The last run was the Turkey Trot in
32 November with approximately 500 runners. The next run will be Super Bowl Sunday.
33 Last year's attendance for the Super Bowl run was 300 or 400 runners. Staff plans to
34 continue having more events with the Running Club.
35

37 **C. Progress in Development of New Parks**

38

39 Mr. Johnston reported there are three new park editions. One is called Soccer Park and
40 is already completed in Metro Verde through a development agreement; the second one
41 is going to be called Sculpture Park, an informal name because it will have an iconic
42 piece on the corner of it that kind of depicts the park itself; and the third is being called
43 Splash Park, the first general public child splash park. Construction on the splash park
44 is moving along quicker than anticipated so it will probably be accepted in a couple of
45 phases, the body of the park and then the splash part of it secondary. The parks are
46 located at Metro Verde in the development by the Red Hawk Golf Course. Mr. Johnston

1 stated he will have Mr. Fuller's staff take pictures of the parks to share once they are
2 completed.

3
4 Mr. Camunez mentioned the plan was for the Board to take a tour of City parks and
5 asked Board members if it would be ok to allow Parks and Recreation staff to arrange
6 for this as one or two of the Board's meetings as the weather gets warmer. The Board
7 agreed.

8
9 Mr. Johnston reported negotiations continue with Park Hill Estates off Del Rey, where a
10 park was going to be built three or four years ago and still hasn't been constructed. Mr.
11 O'Neill asked if it was still going to happen and Mr. Johnston responded that it is going
12 to happen.

13 **V. New Business**

14 **A. Remote Control Airport**

15
16 Mr. Johnston reported the remote control airport is 90-95% complete and is being heavily
17 used by local Mesilla Valley Flyers, who are assisting with key control and access to the
18 site as it is an operating green waste and construction dump still, so gates and entrances
19 have to be controlled. Solar panels and solar charging station bid was just received so
20 moving forward with this since there is no electricity there. Mr. Fuller's crew is working
21 hard on the archery range, target stands are all complete and targets will be purchased;
22 layout and set up needs to be done. An April grand opening is anticipated as this is
23 going to be one of the largest reclamation of a land fill for recreational purposes in our
24 area.
25
26

27
28 Mr. O'Neill asked if there is any danger with it still being used as a landfill. Mr. Johnston
29 responded that the actual garbage dump is now capped and on the south side of the
30 property is where the active green waste and construction waste is still being recycled,
31 so the property splits in half.
32

33 Ms. Witt asked if the archery range is for all ages and if permanent targets are up. Mr.
34 Johnston responded that permanent targets are up in different distances so there will be
35 an ADA compliant children's beginner's range that will be in 10 yard increments and then
36 will go all the way up to the expert bowman, with help from the Organ Mountain Bowman
37 folks that are volunteering to help lay it out. There will be three different types of targets
38 there.
39

40 Mr. O'Neill asked if the archery range was going to be under the guidance of a non-profit
41 group or city run. Mr. Johnston responded it is going to be open to the general public,
42 however it is going to have oversight through partnerships.
43

44 Mr. O'Neill asked if there wasn't going to be staff on duty unless there is an event. Mr.
45 Johnston responded that to begin with, gate may need to be monitored with a security
46 guard to ensure there is no illegal dumping.

1
2
3 **B. 2007 Resolution Approving Agreements with Leagues (Informational)**
4

5 Mr. Johnston informed Board, because questions have come up from time to time, that
6 back in 2007-2008 individual agreements from all the leagues would come before the
7 Board. In 2009, 2010, 2011 these agreements were incorporated into the Fees and
8 Charges Policy. The Fees and Charges Policy along with all the league agreements
9 now come to the Board once a year and rather than have duplication of all the paperwork
10 with all the different leagues, staff gathers all this paperwork and presents the leagues
11 with a permit to use the facilities. Mr. Johnston informed Board members this process
12 will continue in this way. Ms. Delgado and Mr. Fulton will be presenting the Fees and
13 Charges Policy at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting for approval
14 and then take to City Council for adoption.
15

16 Mr. O'Neill asked if there are enough specific items that would warrant a separate
17 contract for a league, would a separate contract be issued or would staff handle it. Mr.
18 Johnston replied staff will handle this, generally staff does not try to get into the business
19 of the operation of independent leagues. However, staff makes sure they are
20 incorporated and insurance is on file. Mr. Johnston pointed out that back in 2007-2008,
21 a disbursement was made of \$54,500.00, which was pretty repetitive over the years and
22 that's why staff worked with the Board to get this incorporated and since then requests
23 for stipends have dropped off.
24

25 **C. New Sports Facilities being Planned/Scott Bannister Project**
26

27 Mr. Catanach informed Board that originally, Mr. Scott Bannister had put in a proposal
28 to City Council back in March of last year for multi-ballfields, soccer fields, outdoor
29 volleyball, indoor gym at the corner of Valley and Tashiro and it didn't come to fruition.
30 Recently, Mr. Bannister took the proposal to Mesilla and just in the last week has
31 withdrawn the proposal. The proposal will be coming back toward the City. Mr. Bannister
32 is looking for some land to build his projects. No proposal has been given. This would
33 be a very good economic boost and bring us some ballfields.
34

35 Mr. Camunez asked if we have any idea as to locations. Mr. Johnston responded that
36 there is talk about a possible partnership on the 320 acres where the East Mesa Public
37 Safety Campus is going to go on the corner of Lohman and Sonoma.
38

39 Mr. O'Neill asked if Mr. Bannister would own the land or co-owned. Mr. Johnston
40 responded the City would own the land, there would be a lease involved because it would
41 be a private enterprise; however, to offset the cost of the lease, programming and
42 programming time would be traded for community.
43

44 Mr. O'Neill asked why the original proposal didn't work out. Mr. Johnson responded that
45 he would have to speculate that part of it could have been the Walmart proposal, the

1 other is Tashiro would have had to be improved to full curve, gutter and sidewalk for the
2 length of it.

3
4 Ms. Witt asked if there could be a possibility that Mr. Bannister would pull out of the East
5 Mesa location. Mr. Camunez responded that he thinks Mr. Bannister has always wanted
6 to be affiliated with the City but because of the obstacles with Tashiro and it not working
7 with the County, this location is a win win.

8
9 Ms. Witt asked when this is going to come about. Mr. Johnston replied that it is still
10 speculation at this time.

11
12 Mr. Gomez asked what the cost for a project like this is. Mr. Johnston replied that for a
13 50 acre project, \$6 million to \$10 million.

14
15 Mr. Camunez asked when the East Mesa Public Safety Complex will be completed. Mr.
16 Johnston replied most of it will be completed by August and with the rest as on on-going
17 process.

18
19 Mr. O'Neill asked if the ballfields project would be far away enough from the residents,
20 where there won't be any problems. Mr. Johnston replied when there is change of any
21 kind there is generally some concern with some residents.

22 23 **VI. Public Comment**

24
25 Kevin Armstrong with the Dog Park Coalition was present to report there has been a
26 problem with getting the shade structure scheduled. Mr. Camunez responded that he is
27 not familiar with this and turned this over to staff.

28
29 Mr. Johnston said he will leave this to Mr. Fuller to take care of this with Mr. Armstrong.
30 Mr. Johnston did say the pressure is on a four-man construction crew.

31
32 Mr. Camunez recommended that Mr. Armstrong's group work this out with staff amicably.

33 34 **VII. Member Comments**

35
36 Ms. Witt wanted to thank staff for getting the Board members on the Public Information
37 Office releases.

38
39 Ms. Witt wanted to let staff know how much she loves the Parks and Recreation App.
40 Ms. Witt said that her neighbor actually built this app and she asked him how to tell which
41 parks are in which district. Ms. Witt said that he is going to color code the pins by district.
42 Mark asked Ms. Witt that when Phil works on this, that he get in touch with staff because
43 the Council districts are color coded on the GIS map, and staff can color code the Council
44 District pins to match.

1 Mr. Camunez asked if Board members have a map of parks in their district plus the
2 overall map. Board members responded that they do.

3
4 Mr. O'Neill reported that Las Cruces has a semi-pro football team called the Las Cruces
5 Kings and they just won the championship this last year. They play all the surrounding
6 cities and are looking for some support and a place to play. Mr. O'Neill has invited them
7 to come to one of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings to let Board know
8 about their programs. Mr. O'Neill thought that maybe Parks and Recreation could help
9 them. Mr. Camunez stated he didn't think the City could be involved with them. Mr.
10 Johnston stated that if they are not for profit, staff can work with them.

11
12 Mr. Guzman reported staff is doing a good job.

13
14 Ms. Rue had no comment.

15
16 Mr. Camunez reported that Mr. Miguel Silva's, who was instrumental in some of our park
17 stuff in his district, funeral will be January 23 at Newman Center at 10:00 a.m. Mr.
18 Camunez would like for staff to send a condolence card on behalf of the Parks and
19 Recreation Advisory Board and staff.

20
21 Mr. Camunez asked on progress of Klein Park. Mr. Johnston responded that initial phase
22 was scheduled for May but there was a scheduled event, so construction may need to
23 be moved around a bit but hopes to have it done by summer.

24
25 Mr. Camunez asked if there are any positive changes going on with PAL. Mr. Johnston
26 responded that there is a new Board President, Billy Avalos, who is bringing some fresh
27 ideas and new ways of doing things forward. Mr. Johnston reported that Mr. Avalos
28 wants to get in touch with Mr. Guzman about furthering some of the offerings at PAL
29 other than just the boxing realm.

30
31 Mr. O'Neill asked if PAL is now under Parks and Recreation again. Mr. Johnston
32 responded yes. Mr. O'Neill suggested changing the name. Mr. Johnston said that may
33 be an opportunity to be looked at because Police Athletic League is a corporate entity
34 and our boxing club has not been affiliated with the Police Athletic League for years. Mr.
35 O'Neill asked if Austin Trout is involved with PAL. Mr. Johnston responded pro boxers
36 are still utilizing facility, however there is supposed be quid pro quo. They have to give
37 back to the community if they are using the facility. That is being looked at very carefully.

38
39 Mr. Catanach reported that Austin Trout will be giving a presentation January 27 at the
40 Field Safe Haven to the kids of the Weed and Seed program.

41
42 Mr. Camunez brought up the 4th of July celebration, that there is nothing patriotic about
43 our 4th of July celebration. Mr. O'Neill asked if this should be discussed at one of the
44 Board meetings and have a Board member appointed to the July 4th committee. Mr.
45 Camunez wants to know if something can be done to improve the event before taking

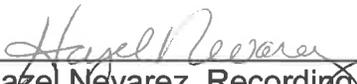
1 next step of getting a resolution from City Council to get someone on the 4th of July
2 committee.

3
4 Mr. Camunez said he would like to see Parks & Recreation Department grow and spread
5 its wings when called to do the 4th of July, the tree lighting ceremony and to be more
6 involved in the planning aspect. Mr. Camunez is asking consensus from the Board for
7 Board to move in direction of building upon what staff is doing.

8
9 Mr. Johnston suggested three Board members get together and put together an itemized
10 list of ideas and send to Hazel. Staff can then start to talk logistics. Mr. Johnson may
11 ask some Board members to come to the table or may even call it a work session and
12 call all Board members to the table to discuss.

13
14 **VIII. Adjournment**

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16 Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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21 _____
22 Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary



Ron Camunez, Chair P&R Board