

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**April 21, 2016**

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

3  
4 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

5 Ron Camunez, Board Chair  
6 Angelica Rubio  
7 Andriana Natsoulas  
8 Mark O'Neill  
9 Fran Witt

10  
11 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

12 Robert Harrison

13  
14 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

15 Hazel Nevarez, PRAB Recording Secretary  
16 Mark Johnston, Director – Parks & Recreation  
17 Sonya Delgado, Director – Community & Cultural Services  
18 Phil Catanach, Recreation & Youth Services Administrator  
19 Robert Nunez, Recreation & Youth Services Administrator  
20 David Tellez, Cruces Reds Baseball Club  
21 Grace Telles – Parks & Recreation Juvenile Citation Program  
22 Cathy Mathews – City of Las Cruces Public Works  
23 Mindy Hernandez – Cruces Reds  
24 Marcelo Archuleta - Cruces Reds

25  
26  
27 The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Camunez and recognized the  
28 meeting as having a legal quorum.

29  
30 **I. Introductions**

31  
32 Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Mark  
33 Johnston introduced Parks & Recreation staff present along with Sonya Delgado, who  
34 will be the new Director of Parks & Recreation upon Mark Johnston's retirement.

35  
36 **II. Conflict of Interest**

37  
38 No conflict of interest.

1  
2 **III. Approval of Minutes**  
3

4 Minutes for January 21, 2016 stand approved as presented.  
5

6 **IV. Old Business**  
7

8 No old business discussed.  
9

10 **V. New Business**  
11

12 **A. Trombe – Wall Art Proposal (Informational) – Sonya Delgado**  
13

14 Mr. Johnston explained the trombe wall in front of the Mondy Castaneda building, is a  
15 solar powered heating system. Mr. Catanach informed Board the wall behind the outside  
16 window shows the dark paneling of the wall so a mural will be added to give a little life  
17 to the wall. The mural will be oil based with dark paints to absorb the sun. Estimated  
18 finish date is June 30, 2016. This is one of several mural projects going on. Teens will  
19 be involved in the painting.  
20

21 **B. Castaneda Building, parks & Recreation Front Entry Tree Mural**  
22 **(Informational) – Sonya Delgado**  
23

24 Mr. Catanach informed Board that the front entry of the Mondy Castaneda building that  
25 wraps around to the trombe wall, will have a tree mural that ties to the trombe mural.  
26 The concept drawing is still being developed but estimated completion date is also June  
27 30.  
28

29 Mr. Johnston reported the mural program, another form of recreation to teach youth the  
30 right way to present art, to present aerosol art and the right place to do it, has been very  
31 successful. Since the start of the mural program, there has been no vandalism with the  
32 exception of the North Main underpass, which was not visible to the public, and has since  
33 been cleaned up.  
34

35 **C. Juvenile Citation Program (JCP) Garden Wall Mural (Informational) – Robert**  
36 **Nunez and Grace Telles**  
37

38 Mr. Nunez reported with the help of the teen mobile unit staff, Recreation Leader Sr.  
39 Lorenzo Zepeda and Shaunna Foster, and Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, they have been  
40 working on a mural and garden project of the rear walkway of the Juvenile Citation  
41 Building at 890 N. Tornillo.  
42

43 Ms. Grace Telles of the Juvenile Citation Program shared with the Board pictures  
44 showing the progression of the wall mural. Ms. Telles informed the Board the wall in the  
45 beginning had graffiti which initiated them to take action to cover it with some art. Keep  
46 Las Cruces Beautiful got involved because the graffiti had been reported to codes. Ms.

1 Telles provided pictures showing youth who are participating on the project and pictures  
2 of the current state of the wall, which is still a work in progress.

3  
4 Mr. Johnston reported that one of the things that the JCP program is doing is teaching  
5 the youth this is their building, so they are beautifying it, taking charge of it and  
6 developing ownership of it. Mr. Johnston reported the entire campus, with JCP and  
7 Safe Haven, is going to become a youth involved campus and ownership and is real  
8 important for the programs.

9  
10 **D. Proposed Fees and Charges 2016-2017 (Action) – Sonya Delgado**

11  
12 Board members were provided a draft copy of City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation  
13 Department Fees and Charges/Facility Use Policy with proposed changes outlined in  
14 red for 2016/2017.

15  
16 Ms. Sonya Delgado reviewed the proposed changes in the policy with the Board and  
17 answered questions Board members had:

18  
19 Ms. Witt asked if drones were going to be allowed at the Remote Control Airplane track  
20 and if the plan is to get people focused on using the Remote Control Airport rather than  
21 other parks to free up management and safety issues that arise from flying the remote  
22 control airplanes in those parks. Ms. Delgado responded that is the plan and in regards  
23 to drones, staff is waiting to see what regulations FAA comes out with before setting any  
24 rules.

25  
26 Mr. O'Neill asked how much of an increase has Summer Recreation program gone up  
27 from previous years. Ms. Delgado reported there was minimal increase last year.

28  
29 Mr. Camunez asked if there are any provisions for people who want to swim but just  
30 don't have the money. Ms. Delgado reported there have not been very many but have  
31 accommodated some and there is the scholarship program. Mr. Johnston also reported  
32 free swim events are also offered.

33  
34 Mr. Camunez asked what is going to happen with Frenger Pool. Mr. Johnston reported  
35 the hope is to build the new natatorium, and once built, Frenger will go away and  
36 preference is to build a restroom and a splash park in that location, but is years down  
37 the road.

38  
39 Ms. Natsoulas asked if daily aquatic rates increased, response was rates did not  
40 increase.

41  
42 Ms. Natsoulas asked in terms of collaborating with Red Cross, if classes are done on  
43 City property and response was yes. Ms. Delgado reported staff are certified American  
44 Red Cross instructors and teach American Red Cross, that is the swim preference  
45 chosen. Ms. Delgado also reported that staff lifeguard instructors teach CPR and first  
46 aid to the public.

1  
2 Mr. O'Neill asked if life guards are fully staffed. Mr. Catanach reported life guards  
3 recently completed testing and those that tested passed and so are in good shape and  
4 looking to pick up a few more.

5  
6 Mr. Camunez asked what status is as far as use of parks for protests. Mr. Johnston  
7 reported it is a public quorum so if someone wants to come and protest in a public  
8 quorum, they can as long as it doesn't interfere with normal activity; we have not had  
9 anyone come forward with another encampment that we had of the occupy group a few  
10 years ago; camping fees were introduced after that.

11  
12 Ms. Witt moved to approve the proposed fees and charges policy for 2016-2017  
13 presented by Parks and Recreation to move forward to City Council for their approval,  
14 seconded by Mr. O'Neill. The motion unanimously carried by show of right hand.

15  
16 **E. Las Cruces Kings Semi-Pro Football (Informational) – Mark O'Neill**

17  
18 Mr. O'Neill reported that the Las Cruces Kings Semi-Pro Football team, which he had  
19 mentioned to Board a few meetings back, are having a problem in getting the word out  
20 about who they are and are looking for some help in promoting their team and help in  
21 possibly getting a field to play on, maybe get involved with Parks & Recreation so word  
22 can get out that they are here. Mr. O'Neill said they are a good organization and are  
23 very successful with local football players that play for them.

24  
25 Mr. Camunez asked if they were a for profit which Mr. O'Neill said no. Mr. Camunez said  
26 he doesn't see how the City can help because of the anti-donation clause.

27  
28 Mr. Johnston reported there is a ruling from the Attorney General on anti-donation,  
29 profiting from use of tax payer money and for facilities. With a semi-pro team, there are  
30 ways to create a contract or some sort of partnership where they give to our programs  
31 and organization to get something back, quid pro quo. Mr. Johnston said he would like  
32 for them to contact him or Ms. Delgado so they can find out what it is they are looking  
33 for.

34  
35 **F. Baseball Issues (Informational) – David Tellez**

36  
37 Mr. David Telles, manager of the Cruces Reds, addressed the Board to inform them of  
38 an issue with LCYBA regarding two forfeitures being enforced upon their team resulting  
39 from a registration issue of a Jacob Hernandez for the 2016-2017 season. It appears  
40 payment made for a Jacob Hernandez for the 2016-2017 season was posted to an  
41 apparent unpaid balance for the previous year. Documentation of email correspondence  
42 regarding the issue was provided to the Board.

43  
44 Mr. Camunez asked if a representative from LCYBA was present, which no one was  
45 present from LCYBA.

1 Mr. Camunez asked Mr. Telles why he was at the meeting. Mr. Telles responded he  
2 was looking for assistance and help to insure that the right thing is done and insure that  
3 their boys on the team aren't treated unfairly, where two forfeits were imposed against  
4 their team and with one more forfeit, they would not be allowed to play or continue their  
5 season in league play and potentially be eliminated from being able to play in any post  
6 season tournament play with the league.

7  
8 Mr. Camunez asked Mr. Johnston for direction. Mr. Johnston reported LCYBA is an  
9 independent league, with rules and regulations that they should be following. Mr.  
10 Johnston reported explanation received from LCYBA was there was a past due balance  
11 from last season and the payment received this year was posted to the past due. Mr.  
12 Johnston informed Board coaches were well aware there was a roster problem when a  
13 child that wasn't on the roster was played, a choice a coach makes, taking a chance of  
14 a forfeit or another issue. Mr. Johnston said it would behoove the Board to have  
15 representatives from LCYBA come to next Parks and Recreation Board meeting to go  
16 over their side of the details on this.

17  
18 Mr. Camunez asked what role does the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have to  
19 solve this problem. Mr. Johnston responded that the Parks and Recreation Board can  
20 be a sounding board for them. The Parks and Recreation Board can invite LCYBA to  
21 the next meeting if they want to hear their side of the story; if not, a message can be sent  
22 to have this rectified at the LCYBA Board level.

23  
24 Mr. Camunez asked that Parks and Recreation staff compose a letter to LCYBA on  
25 behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board, that this issue is being sent back to them for  
26 their review and to look at the situation again and report back to the Parks and Recreation  
27 Advisory Board what transpires from this meeting.

#### 28 29 **G. Updates (Informational) – Cathy Mathews:**

30  
31 Ms. Cathy Mathews introduced herself as City of Las Cruces landscape architect in  
32 Public Works and is present to provide information on items being worked on:

- 33 • **Klein Park** – implementing phase 1 of master plan, which is redoing walls  
34 along Oregon Avenue, Griggs and San Pedro. Stairways are being redone  
35 to meet current code and be safe, and electrical service is being improved  
36 with two locations with electricity.
- 37 • **Chandler Tank Mountain Mike Park** – (the water retention facility on  
38 Sonoma Ranch) – working with a private developer of Metro Verde  
39 subdivision (John Mascato who represents Sierra Norte Land  
40 Development) to make this into a mountain bike park. Pictures of Chandler  
41 Tank and the proposed trail system with a small parking lot and picnic  
42 shelter was provided to Board. The proposal is mountain biking would be  
43 brought into this facility and make it more accessible to youth and people  
44 who are interested in trying the sport and practice the sport in town.

#### 45 46 **VI. Public Comment**

1  
2 No public input.

3  
4 **VII. Member Comments**

5  
6 Ms. Witt asked if Hazel could hold on to the folders with the baseball issues for the next  
7 meeting.

8  
9 Mr. O'Neill welcomed Sonya as the new Director of Parks and Recreation and offered  
10 his congratulations to other staff on their promotions and wished Mr. Johnston well on  
11 his retirement.

12  
13 Ms. Natsoulas asked if there could be better communication about internal procedures,  
14 as there was no announcement of Board members who were leaving and new Board  
15 members coming on board.

16  
17 Ms. Natsoulas expressed that she didn't feel Board members agreed to a revised agenda  
18 because she thought the Baseball Issues was public comment and was discussed under  
19 new business. Mr. Johnston responded that the Baseball Issues was under New  
20 Business because the Cruces Reds asked to be on Agenda.

21  
22 Ms. Rubio had no comment.

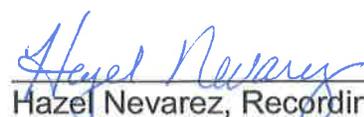
23  
24 Mr. Camunez thanked Mr. Johnston for doing an excellent job for the City. Mr. Camunez  
25 said on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board, they would like to give Mr. Johnston  
26 a gift and asked Mr. Johnston to leave an address so gift can be sent to him. Mr.  
27 Camunez expressed congratulations to Ms. Delgado.

28  
29 Mr. Camunez would like staff to order new shirts for the Parks and Recreation Advisory  
30 Board for the new term. Mr. Camunez also asked that plaques be ordered for the  
31 outgoing Parks and Recreation Board members.

32  
33 Mr. Camunez did point out an error on the Parks and Recreation Board member roster  
34 showing Ms. Angelica Rubio as Vice-Chair, letting her know she isn't the Vice Chair.

35  
36 **VIII. Adjournment**

37  
38 Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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41   
42 \_\_\_\_\_  
43 Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary  
44

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Camunez, Chair P&R Board