

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
June 16, 2016

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on June 16, 2016 at Parks
2 and Recreation Conference Room, 1501 E. Hadley, Las Cruces, NM.

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

5 Ron Camunez, Board Chair

6 Angelica Rubio

7 Robert Harrison

8 Andrianna Natsoulas

9 Mark O'Neill

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

12 N/A

13
14 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

15 Hazel Nevarez, PRAB Recording Secretary

16 Sonya Delgado, Director – Director of Parks & Recreation

17 Phil Catanach, Recreation & Youth Services Administrator

18 Robert Nunez, Recreation & Youth Services Administrator

19 Tim Fulton, Parks Administrator

20 Jake Gutierrez, Recreation Program Manager

21 Yvette Vargas, Acting Recreation Program Manager

22 Claudia Chavez, Recreation Program Manager

23 Andy Hume, Downtown Planning and Development Coordinator for City of Las Cruces

24 Paul Royalty

25 Dawn Rue

26 Eli Guzman

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28
29 The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Camunez and recognized the
30 meeting as having a legal quorum. Mr. Camunez requested a moment of silence for loss
31 of life in the terrorism attack during the past weekend.

32
33 **I. Introductions**

34
35 Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent; District 4,
36 still vacant. Mr. Paul Royalty introduced himself as will be representing District 6 as soon
37 as he completes his Oath of Office.

1 Parks & Recreation staff introduced themselves. With new Board members on board,
2 Recreation section Program Managers were in attendance to inform Board members of
3 the programs offered by the Recreation Department.

4
5 Questions Board members had as a result of information provided:

6
7 Mr. Camunez asked if lunch in park for children is still being provided with
8 response being yes.

9
10 Mr. O'Neill asked if regular summer camps being provided were infused with
11 regular programs provided. Ms. Yvette Vargas responded summer camps are
12 separate from regular programs.

13
14 Mr. Camunez asked if Mr. Jake Gutierrez had a lifeguard certificate. Mr. Gutierrez
15 advised he has an Aquatic Facility Manager but not a lifeguard certificate. Mr.
16 Camunez asked Mr. Gutierrez if he planning to get one and Mr. Gutierrez said it
17 is something he could entertain. Mr. Gutierrez reported he just recently completed
18 the Aquatic Facility Operator certification course.

19
20 Mr. Camunez asked Ms. Delgado if all staff is trained in basic first aid and CPR.
21 Ms. Delgado reported that all of the Parks & Recreation Department is expected
22 to be CPR and First Aid trained and the recreation side, it is done yearly and
23 maintains those standards.

24
25 Mr. Camunez asked if lifeguards are certified through the American Red Cross.
26 Mr. Gutierrez responded yes.

27
28 Mr. O'Neill asked if sponsorships and co-op agreements through the college was
29 still continued? Mr. Gutierrez said this is something that is in the forefront.

30
31 Mr. O'Neill asked status of Olympic sized pool. Ms. Delgado reported it depends
32 on funding source, right now there is none.

33
34 Mr. Camunez asked what the World's Largest Swim Lesson is. Mr. Gutierrez
35 reported it is an opportunity to stress to community the importance of knowing
36 how to swim, potential dangers and swim precautions to take.

37
38 Mr. Harrison asked what the plan is for the Apodaca Park pool. Ms. Delgado
39 reported when the pool was first vacated, the idea was to turn it into a splash park
40 and that idea is still being entertained, but it comes down to funding.

41
42 **II. Conflict of Interest**

43
44 Ms. Angelica Rubio made mention that she has been invited to be on the Board of the
45 Downtown Partnership and doesn't think there is a conflict but wanted it on record. Mr.

1 Camunez and Ms. Delgado concurred that Board would address in the future should a
2 conflict arise.

3
4 There was no conflict of interest by Parks & Recreation staff.

5
6 **III. Approval of Minutes**

7
8 Minutes for April 21, 2016 stand approved as presented. Mr. Camunez asked for a
9 volunteer to proof read future minutes prior to board meetings. Dr. Harrison volunteered
10 to proof read minutes prior to board meetings.

11
12 **IV. Old Business**

13
14 No old business discussed.

15
16 **V. New Business**

17
18 Mr. Camunez requested to change the order of agenda items, moving item C, Office
19 Elections, ahead of Item B, Plaza Name Results.

20
21 **A. Plaque Presentation for outgoing Board Members**

22
23 Plaques were presented to outgoing board members, Mr. Eli Guzman, Ms. Dawn Rue
24 and Ms. Andrianna Natsoulas. Ms. Natsoulas announced this evening's meeting as her
25 last with Board, and June 30, 2016 as effective end date with Board.

26
27 Board members were also shown retirement plaque they requested for Mr. Mark
28 Johnston, who recently retired as Director of Parks and Recreation.

29
30 **B. Office Elections – Chair/Vice Chair (Action)**

31
32 Mr. Camunez expressed his desire to continue as Board Chair mainly because he has
33 worked closely throughout the years with Ms. Sonya Delgado, who is the new Director
34 of Parks and Recreation, and because he understands the needs and the budget for
35 Parks and Recreation.

36
37 Mr. Mark O'Neill moved to nominate Mr. Ron Camunez as Board Chair of the Parks and
38 Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Dr. Robert Harrison. No other nominations
39 were made. Motion to appoint Mr. Ron Camunez as Board Chair of the Parks and
40 Recreation Advisory Board carried unanimously by show of right hand.

41
42 Ms. Andrianna Natsoulas moved to nominate Mr. Mark O'Neill as Vice Chair of the Parks
43 and Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Dr. Robert Harrison. No other nominations
44 were made. Motion to appoint Mr. Mark O'Neill as Vice Chair of the Parks and
45 Recreation Advisory Board carried unanimously by show of right hand.

1 **C. Plaza Name Results & Recommendations (Action) – Andy Hume**
2

3 Mr. Andy Hume introduced himself to the Board as Downtown Planning and
4 Development Coordinator for City of Las Cruces. A list of names received from contest
5 entries for naming the downtown plaza was provided to Board for their recommendation
6 to take forward to City Council for approval. Mr. Hume provided the following guidelines
7 followed by City in naming a facility:
8

- 9 1) Don't pick a name that will be controversial, i.e. religious, political, no profanity.
10 2) Don't name after a person who is still alive.
11 3) Public place needs to be all things or one thing to as many people as possible.
12

13 Ms. Natsoulas asked who makes the final decision. Mr. Hume explained City Council
14 makes the final decision and because the plaza is a Parks and Recreation facility, this is
15 why recommended name are being requested from the Parks and Recreation Advisory
16 Board.
17

18 Ms. Natsoulas moved to submit the names "Downtown Plaza" and "Plaza Las Cruces"
19 to City Council for their review seconded by Ms. Angelica Rubio. Motion carried
20 unanimously by show of right hand.
21

22 Ms. Delgado advised Board Mr. Hume will take recommended names to City Council
23 and use Board minutes to confirm recommendation.
24

25 **D. Rotation of Meeting Facilities (Action)**
26

27 Ms. Delgado informed Board that in the past, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
28 meetings were held at different Parks and Recreation facilities. With new Board
29 members not familiar with facilities, Ms. Delgado asked if this would be something Board
30 would like to do again.
31

32 Mr. O'Neill moved to host Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings at different
33 Parks and Recreation facilities quarterly seconded by Ms. Angelica Rubio. Motion
34 carried unanimously by show of right hand.
35

36 **E. Movies in the Park (Informational) – Phil Catanach**
37

38 Mr. Catanach informed Board Movies in the Park started in 2012 which was an idea of
39 Councillor Miguel Silva. Movies currently are being shown at Young Park and have
40 grown from four movies the first year to 20 being shown this year. Movies are being
41 shown weekly from May to mid-October this year, averaging a little over 200 in
42 attendance. Movies are sponsored by Pic Quik, who gave a \$10,000.00 donation to pay
43 for Movies in the Park and Music in the Park. Request has been made for closed caption
44 so next movie will be closed caption. Swank motion pictures are used, movies are
45 received about as quick as they come in, and movies picked are family friendly, action,
46 national popularity and what's particular to our area.

1
2 Mr. Camunez expressed concern with security and issue of drones in the park and would
3 like to see built in safety measures so it doesn't come back that Parks and Recreation
4 hasn't done anything about security. Mr. O'Neill said a resolution could be done from
5 this Board to City Council.

6
7 Mr. Catanach did inform Board three security guards are present for Movies in the Park
8 but are not police. Mr. Camunez suggested to Ms. Delgado to have a work session with
9 police and fire on security.

10
11 Mr. Camunez asked if Pic Quik has been recognized. Ms. Delgado reported Pik Quik
12 has been recognized yearly at City Council meetings for the last three years.

13
14 **F. Splash Pad Opening (Informational) – Phil Catanach**

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16 Mr. Catanach informed Board the opening of Metro Verde Splash Pad on North Park
17 Drive, across from Monte Vista Elementary, opened June 3, 2016. This is a
18 neighborhood splash pad and has 17 amenities. There have been problems with wood
19 chips getting in the nozzle and with leaks. As of today, the park has been closed until
20 further notice for maintenance. The park will be kept open from May through September
21 from 10 am to 8 pm.

22
23 **G. Juvenile Citation Program Update (Informational) – Robert Nunez**

24
25 Mr. Robert Nunez informed Board that Dona Ana County Board of Commissioners
26 passed a resolution to provide us with \$35,000.00 to \$50,000 to expand our Juvenile
27 Citation Program down south to help with kids who have transportation problems and
28 can't get to our programs.

29
30 **H. Klein Park Update (Informational) – Tim Fulton**

31
32 Mr. Tim Fulton informed Board that back in fiscal year 2014-2015, a conceptual
33 masterplan was approved by City Council for Klein Park after a lot of deliberation of what
34 kind of capital improvement should go in the park. It's a multiphase improvement. In
35 fiscal year 2014-2015, \$204,000.00 was approved for improvements, consisting of
36 electrical upgrades. The contractor has done their portion and required some upgrades
37 by El Paso Electric, which will be completed by June 20, 2016. Along with that, a
38 retaining wall that runs entire perimeter of the park is being repaired. New stairs and
39 hand rails are being added. This has left \$10,000.00. Ms. Cathy Mathews, the City's
40 landscape architect met with the community. Mr. David Chavez from the community
41 proposed looking into refurbishing the entry monument, northwest corner of the park on
42 San Pedro. Mr. Chavez proposed to remove the paint, redo the base and expose the
43 granite and redo the bronze plaque. Ms. Mathews has prepared some work documents
44 and will go out for proposals and hopefully will be in that \$10,000.00 price range. Local
45 community will decide on the next phase of the conceptual plan as funding is approved.
46

1 **I. Pal Boxing (Informational) – Sonya Delgado**
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3 Ms. Delgado informed Board the most recent new PAL Boxing Board President, Billy
4 Avalos, who was there approximately six months, has resigned. Mr. Avalos met with a
5 lot of resistance to changes by Pal Boxing Board. Louie Burke is the Vice President in
6 charge at the moment. During this time, the agreement with the City and PAL Boxing
7 was being reviewed. Ms. Delgado reported she will be scheduling a meeting with Mr.
8 Burke and will report back to the Board. Mr. Camunez and Ms. Delgado have been
9 speaking, to see if Mr. Camunez can meet with the other PAL Boxing Board members
10 to find out what’s going on and what can be done to help.
11

12 Mr. Camunez recommends a joint Board work session because our property is being
13 used.
14

15 **J. 4th of July Report (Informational) – Sonya Delgado**
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17 Board members were provided a flyer for 4th of July celebration listing activities, time and
18 date of event. Ms. Delgado informed Board the event is a two-day festival July 3rd and
19 4th which kicks off with a 5K run and electric light parade downtown on July 3. On July
20 4, there will be fireworks, activities for the youth, music activities throughout the day and
21 into the evening. Co-headliners are Tony Toni Tone and Jo Dee Messina. The stage
22 this year was moved slightly and Ms. Delgado provided a map to Board so they could
23 visualize. Ms. Delgado reported rain jackets were bought for this year.
24

25 Mr. Camunez asked if flags were bought and Ms. Delgado confirmed flags were bought.
26 Mr. Camunez expressed dissatisfaction with the night program for the 4th of July and
27 asked where in the program does it show the 4th of July is celebrated. Mr. Camunez
28 expressed there is nothing patriotic about 4th of July night. Mr. Camunez expressed the
29 firework display is too late; the program should start at 9:00 pm with the National Anthem
30 followed by history of the 4th of July and then start the fireworks. Mr. Camunez would like
31 to see the electric light parade moved to the morning of July 4 and transition the day with
32 family celebration.
33

34 Mr. O’Neill commented that the Board has asked in the past to be involved in the 4th of
35 July committee to offer input and doesn’t know why that hasn’t happened.
36

37 Mr. Camunez expressed he is hoping Ms. Delgado will allow the Parks and Recreation
38 Advisory Board to have more input for next year’s 4th of July.
39

40 Ms. Delgado reported this is the first year the Parks and Recreation staff kind of formed
41 a committee and can definitely expand upon that and can bring information back to the
42 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board after the event and if someone from the Parks and
43 Recreation Advisory Board wished to be on that committee, staff can make that happen.
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46 **VI. Public Comment**

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VII. Member Comments

Mr. Camunez let Ms. Natsoulas know she will be missed and let Mr. Royalty know he looks forward to working with him on the board.

Ms. Natsoulas expressed it's been great being on the Board and it's really been fun working with Board and is impressed with everything the Parks and Recreation Department does.

Mr. Camunez welcomed Mr. Royalty even though he isn't officially on the board this night.

Mr. Camunez asked if new board members have met with Ms. Delgado for a briefing. He advised staff will provide new members with a map of parks in their district and asked that they visit and check on parks in their neighborhood and report back to Board and Ms. Delgado. He reminded Board that this is not a micromanaging Board and cannot tell staff what to do.

Mr. O'Neill welcomed new board members and provided a Park Visitation/Evaluation form to be used when visiting parks.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.


Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary


Ron Camunez, Chair P&R Board