PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 19, 2019

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on September 19, 2019 at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1501 E. Hadley, Las Cruces, NM.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Marilyn Zahler (by telephone)
Cassie McClure
Stan Engle
Robert Harrison
Megan Schuller
Eli Guzman

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Eric Montgomery

OTHERS PRESENT:
Gregory Shervanick, Resident
Sam Ramos
Rebecca Courtney, Progress Club
Debbie Bailey, Progress Club
Eileen VanWie, LWVSNM
Cathy Burn, LWVSNM
Eric Martin, CLC Public Works
Hazel Nevarez, CLC Parks and Recreation
Robert Nunez, CLC Parks and Recreation
Cathy Mathews, CLC Parks and Recreation
Franco Granillo, CLC Parks and Recreation
Sonya Delgado, CLC Parks and Recreation

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 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.

Ms. Schuller moved to accept Ms. Zahler by phone conference, seconded by Ms. McClure. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Conflict of Interest

No Conflict of Interest.

3. Approval of Agenda
Ms. Delgado requested to table Agenda Item 6.2 League Agreements as have not been able to catch up to all the leagues and organizations, and the agreement is still being reviewed by the legal department.

Ms. Schuller moved to approve agenda, tabling Item 6.2 League Agreements until the November 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Guzman. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Engle moved to amend the August 15, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting minutes by removing Mr. Eric Montgomery as being absent and keeping him as present, seconded by Ms. Schuller. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Schuller asked if the customer survey had come out yet as she hasn’t seen anything. Ms. Delgado said it hasn’t come thru yet but as soon as it does, it will be sent to the Board.

Ms. McClure moved to accept the August 15, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Engle. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Samuel Ramos provided the Board with a copy of LCYBA-2019 General Standing Rules. Mr. Ramos advised the Board the rules can also be found on the LCYBA website and said it has been updated several times since his initial complaint of December 2018. He said he is glad Agenda Item 6.2 League Agreements was tabled as the Board needs to look at the rules very specifically. From copy of the 2019 rules provided to the Board, Mr. Ramos pointed out he highlighted various updates. Mr. Ramos said a couple of meetings were held where leagues and coaches were present, and item 11.2 from the LCYBA rules was discussed specifically saying that when the summer baseball league stops and between that period and when fall ball initiates, any team has the ability to remove players or add players. Mr. Ramos also provided Board members a copy of email from Mr. Delgado citing this also with assistance of his attorney and Mr. Ramos read some highlighted parts of the email. Mr. Ramos said this clause was used, even though in our perception they removed his daughter who is the only girl on the baseball team for two consecutive years for being a girl, but cited this loophole as a reason that the league and the coaches decided it was ok to do that. Mr. Ramos said this is one item he pointed out to Ms. Delgado that needs to be specifically addressed in the agreement, so this doesn’t happen to future ladies who want to play on a baseball team in this league. Mr. Ramos said other issues in the agreement are that Ms. Delgado put an addition to the agreement on complaints which is broad and general. It doesn’t have timeline that LCYBA has to address the complaint, who addresses complaint, can a parent go to the Board. Another issue is the Board doesn’t put out meetings, locations,
times. Mr. Ramos said it just says 48 hours after alleged complaint, send email and
follow-up with a phone call. Mr. Ramos said when he initiated complaint with LCYBA,
they were at first receptive, and when found out issue with his daughter, they found
loophole in their by-laws and general orders, it wasn’t a gender issue, and he was pretty
much shut out. He said this is why he went to Ms. Delgado. He said this draft if four
pages. This complaint process was started in December and it’s taken eight, nine months
to draft four pages of this agreement, which is a problem. He said he could draft a better
agreement based on his concerns and what was addressed and his complaint. He said
Ms. Delgado did address some issues but not specifically enough to where LCYBA will
make those same specific requirements upon the league, players, coaches, and parents.
Mr. Ramos asked the Board to review the agreement before they approve whatever draft
comes before them. Mr. Ramos said his daughter wasn’t the only girl removed from an
all-boys team probably citing the same loophole, probably as current as last fall. Mr.
Ramos said he found it odd that Mr. Delgado is the President, his wife is also on the
Board and isn’t sure if there is nepotism there or not. Mr. Robert Poe, Vice President, is
also the founder of the River Bandits program and obviously his allegiance isn’t to the
Board, but to his league, River Bandits – which is a conflict of interest and should have
stepped down a long time ago.

Mr. Engle moved to put an agenda item on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
October 2019 meeting to further discuss the league agreement to offer input, seconded
by Ms. McClure.

Ms. Zahler said she thinks the City lawyer should be present at the next meeting as she
doesn’t think the Board has enough knowledge about having a female on a baseball
team. Ms. Delgado said this has been discussed with legal, and she will ask Ms. Jennifer
Vega Brown to attend next month’s meeting to explain what the league agreement does,
what the Board can do with regards to league rules and their Boards. Ms. Delgado also
added for full disclosure, her name is Sonya Delgado, but there is no relation between
her and Steve Delgado or any of the Delgado’s on the baseball association.

Motion to put agenda item on the Parks and Recreation Advisory board October 2019
meeting to further discuss the league agreement to offer input carried unanimously.

6. Action Items

6.1 WIA Recognition – Eileen VanWie, Eric Martin

Eileen VanWie, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVSNM), introduced herself. She introduced Cathy Burr, also of LWVSNM, Debbie
Bailey, Progress Club President and Rebecca Courtney, active member of the Progress
Club who are present to support the proposal she is presenting to the Board. She
thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about a goal to honor women’s suffrage
activities in the Las Cruces area that helped bring women the right to vote in 1920. Ms.
VanWie said the State League of Women Voters challenged them to research and honor
people, places, and/or events in our area that were instrumental to women gaining the
times. Mr. Ramos said it just says 48 hours after alleged complaint, send email and follow-up with a phone call. Mr. Ramos said when he initiated complaint with LCYBA, they were at first receptive, and when found out issue with his daughter, they found loophole in their by-laws and general orders, it wasn’t a gender issue, and he was pretty much shut out. He said this is why he went to Ms. Delgado. He said this draft if four pages. This complaint process was started in December and it’s taken eight, nine months to draft four pages of this agreement, which is a problem. He said he could draft a better agreement based on his concerns and what was addressed and his complaint. He said Ms. Delgado did address some issues but not specifically enough to where LCYBA will make those same specific requirements upon the league, players, coaches, and parents.

Mr. Ramos asked the Board to review the agreement before they approve whatever draft comes before them. Mr. Ramos said his daughter wasn’t the only girl removed from an all-boys team probably citing the same loophole, probably as current as last fall. Mr. Ramos said he found it odd that Mr. Delgado is the President, his wife is also on the Board and isn’t sure if there is nepotism there or not. Mr. Robert Poe, Vice President, is also the founder of the River Bandits program and obviously his allegiance isn’t to the Board, but to his league, River Bandits – which is a conflict of interest and should have stepped down a long time ago.

Mr. Engles moved to put an agenda item on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board October 2019 meeting to further discuss the league agreement to offer input, seconded by Ms. McClure.

Ms. Zahler said she thinks the City lawyer should be present at the next meeting as she doesn’t think the Board has enough knowledge about having a female on a baseball team. Ms. Delgado said this has been discussed with legal, and she will ask Ms. Jennifer Vega Brown to attend next month’s meeting to explain what the league agreement does, what the Board can do with regards to league rules and their Boards. Ms. Delgado also added for full disclosure, her name is Sonya Delgado, but there is no relation between her and Steve Delgado or any of the Delgado’s on the baseball association.

Motion to put agenda item on the Parks and Recreation Advisory board October 2019 meeting to further discuss the league agreement to offer input carried unanimously.

6. Action Items

6.1 WIA Recognition – Eileen VanWie, Eric Martin

Eileen VanWie, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVSNM), introduced herself. She introduced Cathy Burn, also of LWVSNM, Debbie Bailey, Progress Club President and Rebecca Courtney, active member of the Progress Club who are present to support the proposal she is presenting to the Board. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about a goal to honor women’s suffrage activities in the Las Cruces area that helped bring women the right to vote in 1920. Ms. VanWie said the State League of Women Voters challenged them to research and honor people, places, and/or events in our area that were instrumental to women gaining the
right to vote. The purpose is to nominate specific examples of local women’s history to
the Online National Votes for Women Trail, a non-profit that promotes preservation and
interpretation of sites where women contributed to the quality of life and to our
democracy. The goal is to have 2,020 on the trail by year 2020. She said this week there
are 1,151 sites mentioned, including four in New Mexico:
- The State Capital where the amendment was ratified February 21, 1920
- Anita Otero Warren’s home in Santa Fe
- Clara Bell Williams Hall at NMSU
- Maria Gutierrez Spencer marker at NMSU

Ms. VanWie said in addition to utilizing the online trail, they want to make a nomination
for a metal marker recognizing local suffrage events. She said the William Pomeroy
Foundation from New York has a commitment to supporting the celebration and
preservation of community history and their national women’s suffrage program is
collaborating with the National Votes for Women Trail to provide metal markers for
qualifying nominations. Each state is eligible for five markers. In New Mexico, there will
be one in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Los Alamos, Las Vegas, and Las Cruces. She said in
our part of the state, the women’s clubs, especially the Women’s Improvement
Association (WIA), played an important role in getting local support for women suffrage.
With this joint project with the Progress Club, they would like to nominate a site that
represents Pioneer Women’s Park, the Women’s Improvement Association (WIA), and
WIA leader Laura Eppelsheimer Frenger for the National Votes for Women Trail and a
Pomeroy marker. She said they have found primary sources of documentation and have
drafted a text for a marker and are hoping the City would be in favor of working with them
on this project. She said the criteria for the marker must show enduring engagement in
suffrage activities, a location that cannot be extensively altered to destroy the
significance. She said they understand there is a conceptual master plan design for
Pioneer Women’s Park but hope a marker could be placed there and fit within the plan.
She said another criteria for the marker is to have a date or dates and must be installed
where it is easily read. She said their responsibility would be to describe Pioneer
Women’s Park, women who worked for suffrage there and their activities, to create text
for the marker, to find a place for the marker, install it, and provide upkeep. They would
also need to create a public ceremony to honor the person, place and events. Pomeroy
Foundation would provide the marker but LWVSNM want to work with the City on this
project and hope the City will support it. Ms. VanWie provided a printout that showed
how the marker would look and draft text.

Ms. Delgado said with regards to the Pioneer Women’s Park Conceptual Master, Parks
and Recreation doesn’t have any issue. She did invite Mr. Eric Martin to provide any
additional information. Mr. Eric Martin, Facilities Management Administrator for Public
Works, said his department received an email thru City Council and City Manager’s office
with Ms. VanWie’s organization’s request to see how the City could support this
endeavor. He said the initial comments received were yes, the City would like to see how
this can be done. He said the first step was to bring this forward to the Board with the
background information and from there (avoiding any anti-donation issues), the
organization thru their company would provide the plaque and the City would arrange to
install it, whether on a building or in the park. This would go to City Council, because
there is a recognition process, and especially if the plaque is attached to the WIA property because it is declared a historic structure. He said pending approval of the Board, then they would work with both organizations and Parks and Recreation to meet the goal for 2020.

Ms. VanWie said they are open to where the marker would be placed in the park. Chair Harrison asked the time frame LWVSNM wants plaque placed. Ms. VanWie said if it can’t be done by January 2020, then by the end of 2020. Ms. Schuller asked if there is a place the plaque can go to meet the goal and then be moved to a better suited location when the master plan is completed. Ms. Delgado offered probable scenarios of where to place and probable moving. Ms. McClure suggested placing closer to the playground to use as a possible learning opportunity for children playing in the area.

Ms. Schuller moved to accept proposal of the plaque to be placed in Pioneer Women’s Park, seconded by Ms. McClure. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 League Agreements – Sonya Delgado

(This agenda item was tabled under item 3 – Agenda Approval.)

7. Discussion Items

7.1 4th of July Report (Informational) – Sonya Delgado

Ms. Delgado informed the Board a summary report is included in their Board packet to tell them how the 4th of July event went this year and along with an expense comparison report over the past couple of years. She said it looks like the event will continue at NMSU. The venue does work well but it does cost more because it is not on City property. She added Mr. Phil Catanach, Recreation Administrator, oversees this program and does a real good job with the event.

Ms. Schuller asked if the report is the proposed budget with a comparison. Ms. Delgado said the first page of the report shows what was spent and the last report has the comparison for the last three years. Ms. Schuller asked if there is a reason why the $10,000.00 for Potty Time showing for other special events is allocated to this program directly. Ms. Delgado clarified that amount is for all special events and about half of that is spent for 4th of July.

7.2 Community Pool (Update) – Sonya Delgado

Ms. Delgado reported to the Board meetings will be held for public input on the new 50-meter community pool design. She said there is already a concept and design with the allocated money for the project, but input can is still be taken. She reported the meetings are September 23 and 24, both at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall conference room 2007-B and C.
7.3 Veteran’s Park (Update) – Sonya Delgado

Ms. Delgado informed the Board the Veteran’s Advisory Board will be going before City Council for a work session on September 23, 2019. She said being considered is changing the look of Veteran’s Park to be more of a destination/outdoor museum. The Veteran’s Advisory Board is in agreement with this. A master plan will also be going forward to City Council for their approval talking about this concept and what can be done going forward. Ms. Delgado also informed the Board the property north of Veteran’s Park had its first read to do a land swap. If it goes thru, this will be the land for the parking lot.

Ms. Zahler said she reviewed the minutes and the project for the war dog was started last January. She is concerned this isn’t forgotten and is put on the plan. She said it hasn’t been decided what will be put on the plaque and still need to do a letter. Ms. Delgado said she doesn’t have any additional information. She said the project is not forgotten and Ms. Karen Woods will be contacting Ms. Zahler to assist her with this project.

7.4 First Responder Memorial (Informational) – Sonya Delgado

Ms. Delgado informed the Board Parks and Recreation and the City Art Board were approached by Mr. Joe Martinez, who has a plan to create a First Responder Memorial and needed to find a place for it. Ms. Delgado said Branigan Park is being considered as an option for the memorial. City Council will have the final determination on the place. Ms. Delgado said if it goes thru, it will be a huge project because Mr. Martinez goal to unveil the memorial is September 11, 2021.

Ms. Rebecca Courtney, with the City Art Board, reported Mr. Martinez went to their last Board meeting and it is the City Art Board’s responsibility, for all public art on City property, to review the aesthetics of the art, deciding whether it’s going to be an acquisition or commission piece. She said in this case, Mr. Martinez is paying for it all. She said they did have a motion to have City First Responders to work with Mr. Martinez and Lorenzo Zepeda, City of Las Cruces Art Program Coordinator, and other City staff on the aesthetics of his design, and recommended probability of Branigan Park as placement.

Chair Harrison asked if there was any way to put Ms. Zahler in contact with Mr. Martinez regarding her idea of a First Responder dog. He asked Ms. Zahler if she would be interested in meeting with Mr. Martinez. Ms. Zahler said yes, and Ms. Delgado said she could put him in contact with her.

7.5 Stipends Request Process (Draft) – Sonya Delgado

Ms. Delgado informed the Board the stipends request used to be in the Fees and Charges Policy, and she would like to place it back on the policy again. She said the current process right now is extremely cumbersome and difficult. Ms. Delgado said the
Fees and Charges will be coming before the Board for review November 2019 and for approval in January.

Chair Harrison asked when does staff meet with the leagues on this aspect. Ms. Delgado responded meeting will be in November and again in January.

8. Staff Member Comments

Mr. Nunez reported Out of School Time has over 400 youth between ages Kinder thru 12th grade. They are doing field trips to museums, NMSU Community College. They have had guest speakers on public safety, employment, continuing education.

Mr. Nunez reported Keep Las Cruces Beautiful’s next Team Up to Clean Up will be in District 3 September 21, 2019. Mr. Nunez said these events are averaging about 1 ½ tons of trash per district. He added KLCB is at the end of their first quarter and just received notice of their grant approval for this fiscal year. He added KLCB has seen increases in Adopt A Spots this first quarter.

Mr. Nunez reported the Juvenile Citation Program first quarter’s numbers are up regionally. Staff recently went thru an application training in which the program will be able to be funded for a three, four-year period which will help in regarding to administration of funds.

Mr. Nunez reported Youth Board recruitment process is going well.

Ms. Mathews reported Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) program has completed for the year, with one more request for reimbursement. She said the program was very successful and obtained good data regarding status of irrigation systems. Ms. Mathews said the YCC application has been submitted for next year.

Mr. Granillo reported Peak Performance numbers and figures are being put together. He said one of their goals is 85/90% schedules met for the whole department which includes medians, right of way, alleyways, construction maintenance, parks maintenance, athletic fields maintenance, trail maintenance, and mowing. He said numbers for mowing were low which could be a reporting issue or equipment being down. He said staff does well in adjusting their schedule for mowing areas that don’t need to be mowed as often and keeping up larger destination parks. Mr. Granillo reported the medians group is hitting 89% of the 90% schedules met. Parks maintenance is hitting 70% schedules met. Mr. Granillo said he is impressed with the numbers and as it gets tighter and cleaner, numbers will go up. He said he is proud of his staff. He added Peak Performance is very real with real numbers and asked Board to contact him for more information.

Ms. Delgado reported update on Provencio Van Dam lighting. She said it has been going back and forth between Legal and Purchasing on language and thinks everybody is now on same page. She said next step will be to finish up contract and make outreach to vendor who will be putting lights up. Ms. Delgado said she will send the Board an
email when this happens. She let Board know to contact her if they need any additional
information or back up.

Ms. Delgado reported the Go Bond projects contracts are in or about to be in final
negotiation. Parks and Recreation has quite a few projects, input will be called for, and
Board will be involved as well. Ms. Delgado said the Board will get updates,
presentations and be informed of meetings.

Ms. Delgado reported a legislative priorities list has been put together for all City
departments. She said Parks and Recreation had about 30 some odd items. The list
will go to Council to decide which will go forward. Ms. Delgado said she is hoping Parks
and Recreation will be in the top ten.

Ms. Delgado reported the Integrated Pest Management Ad Hoc Committee will begin
towards the end of October. Individual names for the Committee are going forward to
the Mayor for review. This needs to be completed with City Council by June 2020 so
meetings will be held monthly and individuals will be taken around the City and shown
what is done, how it is done, what is used, when it is used, no spray zones so they can
pass the information forward to City Council. Ms. Delgado informed the Board they are
welcome to apply for the Committee. She said 12 individuals will be selected.

Mr. Delgado informed the Board, as part of Peak Performance, Parks and Recreation
will be starting timeline this year for accreditation through National Recreation and Park
Association (NRPA). She said once timeline is started, staff has one year to complete.
She let the Board know they will be involved as they will have to review, and they are the
governing body.

Ms. McClure asked, on PVD Lighting, if staff has flexibility to do this around their season.
Ms. Delgado said yes, but if teams have to be moved, staff will make sure to move them
to a place they can still play.

Ms. McClure asked about the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) lease. Ms. Delgado
said it is with Legal.

Chair Harrison asked is Parks and Recreation is currently accredited with NRPA. Ms.
Delgado responded no.

9. Board Member Comments

Mr. Engle mentioned his neighbor swims a lot and is looking forward to the 50-meter
pool and he will let her know of the public meetings.

Ms. Zahler asked if staff gets copies of the NRPA magazines. Ms. Delgado said yes.
Ms. Zahler asked what she should do with all her magazines. Ms. Delgado let her know
she can bring them to Parks and Recreation Administrative office and staff can distribute.
Ms. Zahler asked if Ms. Delgado has checked to see how Ms. Zahler can get on the committee for the new dog park shelter. Ms. Delgado said she did pass Ms. Zahler’s name to the Animal Services Board. Ms. Delgado said they are still in design of the facility and not on the park yet. She said once that gets closer, she will remind the Animal Services Board and let Ms. Zahler know when participation happens.

Ms. Zahler asked to schedule some time to meet with Ms. Delgado.

Ms. Zahler thanked the Board for being so courteous to her.

Ms. Zahler suggested to Ms. Delgado, regarding the young girl not being on the baseball team, to talk to attorney about coming up with a policy on this.

Chair Harrison thanked Ms. McClure for running the August Board meeting.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Zahler moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Ms. Schuller. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Hazel Nevarez, Recording Secretary

Robert Harrison, Chair