



MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order at approximately 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Denny.

ROLL CALL

Those present: Councilor Tabitha Denny and Councilor Jeanine Corn-Best.

Staff present included Tim Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, Gina Amos, Daisy Diaz, and Elizabeth Stark-Rankin

Guests present included Councilor Savino Sandoval, Vernon Dyer, Bob Edwards, Jeff Jackson, and Ben Ramirez.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Corn-Best motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Denny was the second. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Councilor Corn-Best motioned to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting. Councilor Denny was the second. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

2. Recreation Programs update
Tim Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief summary of Parks and Recreations upcoming new programming for this summer. They are planning a summer program at Carpenter Park for underserved youth to keep them engaged, learning, and active. They will be collaborating with other departments such as the library, the museum, the Police department, and fire departments as well as Department of Health's Healthy Kids program to develop activities. This program will run from 9:00 or 10:00 am to noon, when the summer lunch program arrives in the park. A kick-off is planned for National Kids in the Park day and the program will run from June 1st thru the summer until school starts. Also, the department is looking at doing the annual Easter Egg Hunt a little differently this year, with games and activities. Planning is in full swing for Party on the River/Cinco de Mayo and a Balloon Festival.
3. Parks and Recreation mowing and maintenance projects

Tim Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief summary of the plan to have Parks take over all City property mowing, landscaping, and irrigation. Right now the department is gathering information from all the departments as to what lawn care equipment they have, personnel and man hours devoted to this work. The purpose of this plan is to use City equipment and personnel more efficiently.

4. Presentation of new fee schedule

Tim Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief summary and handout of the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule Draft. He asked Committee members to take a look at this and let him know their thoughts and ideas. This fee schedule goes into more depth than in the past and is a precursor to the Cost Recovery and Program Pricing Model that he is also working on. He hopes to have these approved through the Committee and Commission before the Summer Programs kick off.

5. Youth Sports organization meeting

Tim Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief summary of the meeting he will be holding with the Youth Leagues. He hopes this will increase communication between the leagues and the City. They will be going over the proper maintenance of the fields and equipment, as well as talk about how they can share resources. Damian Cheatum, Yucca Recreation Center Supervisor will be the lead on this meeting to be held later this month.

REGULAR ITEMS (Action Items)

6. Request approval of the Veteran's Cemetery Master Plan design

Tim Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation asked that that Committee hold off on voting on this item as the Master Plan design has changed. He is currently working with the Veteran's Cemetery board to write up Rules and Regulations for the VA Cemetery and once those are agreed upon, bring both items before the Committee, Commission, and Buildings and Lands.

OTHER BUSINESS (NON-ACTION)

7. Public Comments

Councilor Savino Sanchez asked about a plaque at Martin Luther King Park that was damaged and removed by vandals, when it will be replaced. Tim Williams responded that he has placed Mike Ramey, Parks Supervisor in charge of finding a replacement that can't easily be stolen or damaged by vandals.

Councilor Savino Sanchez then asked about the shade structures at the softball fields that were to be erected. Tim Williams responded that he will be looking into that, however when the project was built, the shade structures were to be included but, they ran out of money to complete the shade structures. Furthermore, that portion of the project is beyond the expertise of the Parks department and will have to be contracted out.

Ben Ramirez, President of the Eastside Little League asked about the money slated to do work on the concession stand at Eastside Little League Ballpark. Tim Williams responded that there is \$75,000 through the ICIS program to do the

work on the restrooms and snack bar there. The City is bringing on a Project Manager to handle these types of projects as well as the one at Baumann/Coke field.

Ben Ramirez then stated that in the past there have been problems with using the park behind the Boys and Girls Club, as it is fenced and the Boys and Girls Club generally keeps it locked. Mr. Ramirez is wondering if he will be able to use this field for practices this season. Tim Williams responded that he will be addressing that with the Boys and Girls Club.

Vernon Dyer, Track coach for Valley Christian Academy stated that Valley Christian doesn't have any track facilities. There are several tracks in town, but they are all run by RISD and they do not allow him to use them. He had an idea that if it would be possible, he would like to put in a 400 meter oval track at Cielo Grande. This would just be a dirt track, bladed off without any other facilities. It would be open to the public for use anytime, as well as New Mexico Senior Olympians wanting to train for walking or running. All Saints Catholic School has agreed to do the blading and it would not require any money or maintenance from the City. This would be a temporary track so that if a time came to develop that area at Cielo Grande, there wouldn't be any problem with that. Tim Williams recommended that Vernon Dyer put together a proposal to go before the Commission. He also stated that it is possible that the joint-use agreements with RISD need to be reviewed.

ADJOURN

Councilor Denny motioned to adjourn. Councilor Corn-Best seconded. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Submitted by: Gina Montague Amos