

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Parks Administration Office
1101 W. 4th St.
August 16, 2021
5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair JaneAnn Oldrup called the August 16, 2021 meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Members were present: JaneAnn Oldrup, James Edwards, Meagan Sanders, Becky Joyce, and Kim Elliott. Member Barry Mathison was absent.

Staff present: Jim Burress, Special Services Director; Stephanie Mervine, Recreation Director; Juanita Jennings, Public Affairs Director; Louis Najjar, City Engineer; John Wright, Zoo Director; and Sharene Brooks, Parks Administrative Assistant, Sr.

Guests present: Councilor Juan Oropesa, Rita Kane-Doerhoefer, Patsy Felber, Emma Arzola, Vicki Burress, Juno Ogle, Ivan Hall, Bob Edwards, Iris Watson, Jim Watson, and Larry Connolly.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Edwards motioned to approve the agenda, Member Sanders seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Member Mathison being absent.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Member Elliott motioned to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting, Member Joyce seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Member Mathison being absent.

E. REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS)

2. **Consider Approval of a Recommendation to Connect the Spring River and Cielo Grande Paths.** Louis Najjar, City Engineer, presented a PowerPoint outlining information for the trail connection options. FY2023 funding for \$200,000 had been applied for. A new concept to Roswell, speed humps, may be utilized when the new trail is created. Director Burress gave a brief history of previous options that had been discussed and recommended, and voiced his concerns regarding traffic and safety issues. Comments and concerns were made by Spring River Corridor guests Ivan Hall and Bob Edwards. Further comments, questions and clarification were discussed at length. Member Elliott made a motion to recommend Option #5A to the General Services Committee for the

connection of the Spring River and Cielo Grande trails. Member Sanders seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Member Mathison being absent.

3. **Consider Approval of an Application Recommendation to the Mayor to Fill Position 3 on Commission.** Chair Oldrup provided background information regarding applicant Becky Robertson. Member Elliott made a motion to recommend Becky Robertson to the Mayor to fill position 3 on the Commission. Member Joyce seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Member Mathison being absent.

F. NON-ACTION ITEMS

4. **Introduction of Iris Watson to the Commission.** Director Burress introduced carousel restoration volunteer, Iris Watson. Guest Watson gave the history of the carousel, its current condition, and restoration status. Funding and donations are needed for this project.

5. **Discussion on Upcoming Community Outreach Design Input Event for New Park.** Director Burress provided event information regarding the new park to be installed at the old Chisum School property. Flyers had been distributed to the neighborhood so that on August 24th, the people that live in that area will have the opportunity to say what they would like to see in their new park.

6. **Discussion on Possible Future Agenda Items.** Member Elliott addressed the Commission regarding it being too reactive and unapproachable by the public. He provided an article about what Parks and Recreation is supposed to be to the community and reviewed Municipal Code Chapter 17, Section 17-9. The Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, Mayor and City Administration. Per Code, there may be more to what they should be doing, than what they are doing. The Commission could be more proactive and a tremendous help to City officials and City Administration. Member Elliott also suggested adding/moving items on future agendas. Director Burress appreciated Member Elliott's comments.

7. **Report on Aquatic Center/Recreation Center.** Stephanie Mervine, Recreation Director, gave the aquatic and recreation report. July was a good month. The pool was super busy. There was a huge turnout for the Alien Chase. Member Edwards inquired about tracking out-of-town people. Chair Oldrup asked about the UFO Festival, if the City made money, and using an outside business for the festival. Director Jennings thanked Stephanie for her service to the City. Guest Arzola asked about roof repairs at the Adult Center.

8. **Report on Zoo.** John Wright, Zoo Director, gave the zoo report. July was a good month as well for the Zoo. Sixty-eight percent of the July visitors were from out-of-town. A new baby elk had been born and was now in Clovis. USDA Inspection results and issues were reviewed. Details were given regarding the bear from Alamogordo escape. A Night of the Living Zoo event is planned for October. Chair Oldrup inquired about current operating hours and days open.

9. **Report on Parks Department.** Jim Burress, Special Services Director, gave the report on the Parks Department. He gave an update on the Zoo pond status. Trees, \$11,000 worth, are about to be bought and planted. A presentation at General Services will be given for the amenities to be installed at Carpenter Park. Chair Oldrup inquired about the status of the All-Inclusive Park. The Cemetery columbarium project will start to move forward.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

11. **Public Comments.** Guest Connally asked about the dead trees at Del Norte Park.

H. ADJOURN

Member Edwards motioned to adjourn the meeting, Member Elliott seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Member Mathison being absent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Next Commission meeting: September 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.