

FEBRUARY 6, 2020 MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Commission (PRCA) of the City of Farmington met in a regular session on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 6:15 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall, 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, NM. Roll call was taken with attendance as follows:

Members Present: Deborah Cutler; (sitting in for Leslie) Chair; Kent Mobley; Thomas Hawkins; George Golombowski; Patricia Baca; Larry Hilliard and Ken LaCasse.

Members Absent: Leslie Thompson, Evan Noel, Tyson Snyder, Richard Griffiths

Also present were: Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director; Natalie Spruell, Gwen Johnson, PRCA Administrative Aide;
Mike Duke; Aquatic Center Manager,
Deputy Fire Chief Robert Sterrett; Fire Chief Dave Burke

Guests present: Marcus Appleton; Community Member,

OPENING OF MEETING:

Madam Chair; Leslie Thompson was unavailable for this meeting although she was briefed by the Director of PRCA Shaña Reeves; Deborah Cutler sat in as Chair. Deborah Welcomed the Commissioners and guests. Chair Deborah Cutler called the Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs Commission meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Roll was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Deborah asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the past January 16, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Kent Mobley, seconded by Larry Hilliard; upon vote, the minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

NEW BUSINESS-

Proposal of Mossman-Gladden Dog Park, Presentation by Marcus Appleton:

Mr. Marcus Appleton was introduced by Shaña Reeves with an introduction and invitation to share his proposal.

Mr. Appleton is a resident and loves the community, he is a dog owner like many in his neighborhood. He prepared an informative handout that each commissioner and leadership were given. He began with the facts: our city has two existing dog parks; one on the East side of town, and one on the West side. His prepared proposal has two concepts drawn out. Mr. Appleton addressed the need of a dog park on the central, south side of town.

The hand out showed outlines of plans with measurements taken from google earth. He pointed out Mossman Park has plenty of space to design and construct a dog park using some of the existing space. Mr. Appleton had worked out some strong research with points on the benefits of a dog park, one of which is this would provide a better chance of keeping dog feces out of the recreational area of a park that youth and children use. Also it would eliminate damage dogs do to grass and the expense to replenishing

damaged grass and landscaping. After collecting data from feedback, 81% of this neighborhood was in favor of his idea.

Prior to this meeting, Shaña had met with Mr. Appleton. She then discussed the feasibility of this and went with the crew for measurements, and had an estimate worked out keeping in mind to be as cost effective as we could. The cost would be a minimum of \$66,179.00 for option two plan, the larger of the two proposals. Mr. Appleton was commended by Shaña for his diligent effort to bring this proposal and all the time and research he put into the proposal. Shaña then addressed the Commission and stated that PRCA is seeking their consideration of this proposal; thought and feelings were open for discussion.

As the discussion was opened, The commissioners brought up concerns about parking, availability to other city residents that do not reside in that neighborhood, the noise level of barking dogs and activity to residents that live close by that do not have dogs. Positive feedback about the proposal was also expressed. Chair Deborah Cutler moved for a motion to have this project moved to the Capital Improvement List (CIP), and public meetings should start being lined up to have the community's input and educate the community on this proposal. It was communicated there are several items on the proposed project ideas and each will be dealt with in the order of priority as funding becomes available.

Larry Hilliard 2nd the motion. The commission moved and the vote was unanimous to add this proposal to the list.

The next order of business was brought to the floor:

2. Lake Farmington Access Fees,

3. Aquatic Park Proposal. ALL as one PowerPoint presentation lead by Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director, With involvement from Deputy Fire Chief Sterrett,

Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director opened the discussion by stating that the Fire Chief Burke also brought a PowerPoint to be shown after the PRCA power point to explain all-encompassing components of the proposed project

PRCA is recommending Lake Farmington Access Fees be reviewed and possibly changed as we move forward into the season and this would a good time for change with the possible plans of a future Aqua Park as an added recreation lake amenity.

Mayor Duckett and Council have requested that PRCA research the idea of adding an Aqua Park to Lake Farmington as a fun extra water amenity; and what the potential of that expansion could do for Lake Farmington.

She also wanted to clarify that the word WIBIT is a company that the Aquatics Division has been purchasing the fun, flotation playground pieces that are currently in Lake Farmington Beach area, and a lot of people call it a "Wibit Park." In the new Aqua Park proposal the choice of product is from AQUA GLIDE.

Mayor and Council have given permission to open Lake Farmington up for swimming. This means the community, will be able to swim anywhere in the Lake, at their own risk. The Beach will still be available with life guard supervision and if the Aqua Park project moves forward there will not be any inflatable playground floats in the Beach swim area. They will all be in designated area.

The access fee is one of the first items needing attention. At this time there is \$5 per car fee in place. PRCA has received feedback from bird watchers, and senior citizens who are wanting to fish and this fee costly.

We also offer a \$50 a year pass, but again for some seniors that is very difficult to pay as well. PRCA is proposing a \$1 per person access fee for ages 3 and older. PRCA is recommending to keep the annual pass at \$50. With this recommendation all community members would gain access to Lake Farmington for \$1. This would to swim anywhere (but the Beach area), walk, birdwatch, bike trails, etc. Gaining access to the Beach would be an additional fee (PRCA is recommending \$1 per person ages 3yrs and older), and if the Aqua Park opens that would be another additional fee. Camping will remain \$10 per site, for up to 8 people, with one vehicle per site. Extra vehicles will need to pay the access fee of \$1 per person. They will have access to the lake only. Payment to the Beach area will be required if they choose to use the beach area, or Aqua Park if constructed. A 48hr reservation or earlier will be required to reserve a site. There will be designated sites for day spots and for reserved spots.

With the current dialog of expansion and a possible Aqua Park, it changes the flow of operation in several ways, Public Safety, Access, Manpower and the flow of traffic.

Deputy Chief Robert Sterrett approached the Commission and presented some concerns, he recommended suggestions to resolve these issues as Lake Farmington adds amenities and more people begin using this recreational area for swimming, fun and recreation. Safety is a big priority. One of the priority improvements would be the road, to help speed up the response time in the event of an emergency situation in the water, or in the surrounding recreation areas. Currently the road is very tight for larger equipment to have easy access, and this makes it difficult passing through. After accessing and investigation Deputy Chief Sterrett, Chief Burk and in collaboration with Shaña Reeves, and Mike Duke, Aquatics Manager have come up with a couple different options.

The area that reflects as being the best choice for access would be near the damn. The first responders would not need to navigate with traffic, especially on peak use days such as Fourth of July.

There is a company that offers dock material to build a floating raft component would cost around \$22,500.00, and a building could be built on it. The building could be a Porta Grace steel structure and it would provide protection and security for the personal water craft and raft. This cost would be around \$7,460.00. This plan would allow for the first responders to be able to unload equipment such as Jet Ski's at this floating dock station. The PRCA would also own a Jet Ski that would need to be purchased and would cost around \$12,800, with the rescue attachment costing around \$2,200.00. It would be equipped with a back board, and other safety equipment for the primary Shift Supervisor to use who would respond first until the First Responders arrive. Proceeding through the Power Point there was a secondary means of support rescue, equipment, a motorized 40hp raft that would cost around \$22,000.00 to be used by fire and rescue staff for search and rescue mission support dive teams and or special events also.

Deputy Chief Sterrett went on to explain that fire breaking out is another concern. Wind driven brush fires, or fire in any of the structures. A "Dry Hydrant" was suggested and explained, as a way to access water for fires. This is a remote water supply for fire suppression on the backside of the lake. The approximate cost would \$40, 000.00. This concluded the Deputy Chief's presentation.

Shaña continued the presentation stating that the Mayor and Council have a vision for the Aqua Park and feel strongly that it would be a great added amenity as Farmington continues to transform into a Recreation Destination.

Mike Duke Manager of the Aquatics Division, was asked to share information and a PowerPoint presentation on the possible Aqua Park. There would be an additional fee established to enter into the Aqua Park. The Aqua Park proposal would include a life jacket only policy. A guest would pay the fee, get fitted for your jacket and have 50 minutes of fun. Then in the next 10 minutes the staff would assist the next

group through the same process and enjoy the park for 50 minutes. Continued schedule would run until the Aqua Parks closes for the day.

A proposal of a \$5 - \$12 fee for 50 minutes of Aqua Park time. The park would be open 12pm-6pm. To be able to access the Aqua Park, You would pay your fee at the guard shack, get a wristband, get fitted for a lifejacket, life jackets will be mandatory.

To have the park guarded appropriately, a group of 6 guards maximum to guard the large option of the Aqua Park.

Chair Deb Cutler asked about the age limit and Mike shared that is still being discussed but that he is leaning toward similar rules as the other facilities have which is 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult. There is still a lot of discussion concerning this, and another option may be a swim test, like the Aquatic Center does for the swimmers to be able to use the diving boards.

It was asked by the Commission if the Aqua Park could be rented out after public hours for special events, birthday parties, and large crowd gatherings. Mike responded yes that would become available.

As the presentation continued Mike, described small, medium and large layouts of inflatable components that create a fun water playground. Mike explained you could start with the small or medium and then add on in time. Smallest, Aqua Glide is a preferred company that Mike has researched and the Small playground would cost approximately \$81,900. Adding the life jackets, maintenance and installation roughly looking at \$193,000. 74 people, 10 features. . The Medium playground has 20-25 features and will accommodate 140-150 people, costing around \$125,417.00.

A question was asked about what the life of the structures are, and it was explained by Mike that the manufacture said 5 - 7 years. Part of the maintenance is keep them clean, and have the company come in take down and clean and fold them to store for the cold season.

Commissioner Larry Hilliard commented with positive feedback that the safety plan is impressive and he felt a great plan, and to see people using an amenity and having fun, knowing there are safeguards in place would great.

Shaña Reeves interjected that there has been a great collaborative effort with the Fire department and to work thorough the safety plan there will be a lot of training involved for the guards and employees that will be working out at Lake Farmington. Other plans for the future of Lake Farmington recreation area are also being investigated. Construction of cabins for public to rent, the Aerial Adventures, more electric, and better roads. The final cost projection for the overall vision for our Lake area is still undetermined. Shaña wanted to stress this is a very conceptual vision still in the beginning steps. The proposed Cabin project is in the middle of RFQ, which is, request for quote, with a company and in the middle of a feasibility study. PRCA Director Shaña Reeves, and department are looking for thoughts and feedback to take to Mayor and Council. Shaña conveyed that Commission member, Evan Noel had emailed the office, and wanted the Board to know "He is in favor of all the Farmington Lake enhancements." Chair Deb Cutler asked if anyone had any thoughts. Several Commissioners gave positive feedback. Shaña reported that as she had a meeting with Leslie Thompson. Leslie loves the idea, but has concerns, one of which is, "should we pursue this project this year?" And the price point was a concern. This is why \$5 fee for the Aqua Park concept is being proposed.

After discussion, everyone was in close agreement that the large playground option would be the most cost effective. And the infrastructure for the roads and safety, enhancements were also something that needs to happen in conjunction.

Chair Deb Cutler asked for motion, on the access fee proposal.

Motion was made by Larry Hilliard, Seconded by Kent Mobley to change the Access fee to the Lake Area from \$5 a carload to \$1 per person. Passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Patricia Baca, and seconded by Larry Hilliard, to recommend the \$5- \$6 admission, Large Aqua Park components with all the infrastructure previously discussed for safety, passable roads, customers' service, bathrooms, etc. Passed unanimously.

The Next order of Business

4. Fire Mitigation Needed.

Fire mitigation is needed. One of the designated areas is Animas Park around the Nature Center. A dense area of invasive species needs to be cleared at that location. There are serious concerns for possible fires. There has been communication with the Friends of the Nature Center committee. There will be an exhibit displayed at the Nature Center to educate the community as to how and why this process is so important. A power point has been prepared by Deputy Chief and presented it to the Commission to explain, the steps of the hand crew to remove the invasive species. The notion is to leave all the native species grounded. This would be a 3 year project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DECEMBER BUDGET 2020 REPORT

This report had been handed out and discussed at the previous meeting. Copies were made available to each Commissioner again for their reading.

~ UPDATES

Shaña Reeves; PRCA Director, briefly went over a Project updates.
Pending projects,

1. All Abilities Park, still on the docket, still the City is still hoping that the All Abilities Park location would be Tibbets property and as soon as we find out if that is possible then a conceptual and feasibility study will follow.
2. Lake Farmington group pavilion, is being revaluated before execution is carried out.
3. Harvest Food Hub and kitchen. Local Foods in Downtown, San Juan College and the San Juan Extension is partnering with the City. Possible location "The Roof". This project is still being perused.
4. North Trail Extension, 90% designed. We have gotten the permit from the Army Corp of Engineers. Bank Stabilization is needed, and with the permit phase one of this can be started.
5. Pickle Ball Courts has had a few setbacks but is still under progress.
6. Totah Theater in the works. A collaborative project with San Juan County.
A plan to develop a film studio office, conference center, and performances is in the vision.
Managed by the Civic Center and the Four Corners Film would hold an office there.

Infrastructure Maintenance repairs, upgrades and enhancements:

1. Athletic Fields upgrades and turf. There is interest in putting artificial turf on the diamonds at the complex. Estimates are turned in.
2. Lions Pool needs lots of love, we will need a structural engineer to look at the menu of items this building needs. There is discussion and studying of these improvements that are needed.
3. Pinon Hills needs irrigation upgrades and a new cart path.
4. Recreation Center needs a new Gym floor, basketball goals, and a gym divider.
5. Cabins at Lake Farmington
6. Mini Golf at Civitan Golf Course and upgrades for the Civitan Pro Shop.
7. Animas Wave Feature, a recreation amenity that you can surf, kayak, raft and have a lot of fun with. Master plan has been approved to be done.
8. Gateway Park, a large conceptual study has been completed. Improvements to the Farmers Market area.
9. Railroad, Right of Way Trail. It is being investigated to go in collectively with the City of Farmington City of Aztec, and San Juan County, and look at the fees ability of a paved bike trail along the railroad right away from Farmington, through Aztec, nearly to Durango. This is on the CPI (Capitol Improvement Project) list as a project of interest.

Every Year the City of Farmington submits Infrastructure Capitol Improvement requests. These are referred to as ICIP. Shay Jaquez, our PRCA Business Analyst was introduced and brought to the commission a spread sheet list of needed improvements of capitol, major projects. Shaña Reeves explained and highlighted some of the projects. 14 Divisions, does it impact operations, does it impact revenue, top 25 projects.

Mayor and Council have proposed to give PRCA 500,000 a year reoccurring C-Ted Funds starting this next fiscal year. Some of the priority projects were explained to the Commission.

Shaña asked the Commission to look the list over.

Deb Cutler made a motion to adjourn, Larry Hilliard second all agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm



Deb Cutler

Sitting as Chair for Leslie Thompson,
Aide



Gwen Johnson, PRCA Administrative