

## **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Commission (PRCA) of the City of Farmington session met through the virtual Zoom Platform session on Thursday, September 17, at 6:15 p.m. Roll call was taken with attendance as follows:

Members Present: Leslie Thompson, Chair, Vice Chair; Kent Mobley; Deborah Cutler, Evan Noel, George Golombowski, Ken LaCasse, Richard Griffiths,

Members Absent: Patricia Baca; Larry Hilliard; Tyson Snyder Thomas Hawkins,

Also present were: Shaña Reeves, Director of PRCA, Natalie Spruell, Assistant Director of PRCA, and Gwen Johnson, Administrative Aide with PRCA

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Madam Chair Leslie Thompson called the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Commission meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. She then took the roll call, with the above mentioned present. The meeting then moved forward with Commissioner Deborah Cutler, making the motion to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup> minutes, and Commissioner Even Noel granted the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was taken, minutes were approved as presented.

There was no new business to discuss and no old business needing any action. Madam Chair then moved on to have Shaña Reeves, Director of PRCA share the department report and updates.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Shaña Reeves, Director of PRCA was asked to present the Department updates and report. Shaña, began by conveying that if the Governor's gathering numbers increase, the October PRCA meeting be held in person, and that it is important to meet, so that the Public Open Meeting act can be voted on. This is to determine the day and time that the Commission would like to continue to meet in the next coming year. If the gathering numbers do not change we will meet through the Zoom platform once again.

Our department was hit hard for staffing during these COVID times. There were 125 seasonal employees whose hours were zeroed out. We lost 23 fulltime positions total in FY20. The Parks Operation crew is operating with 1/3 of their staff. Some of the department has been reassigned. We have 3 fulltime employees at finance and our lifeguards are working at the Museum with the exhibits and projects.

Sycamore Park is still not open, although we are working in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club, to host an after school program. Keeping all the COVID guidelines in place.

Civic Center is not open to the public at this time, we are accommodating some internal meetings with groups that are exempt from the state orders. Some of which are safety meetings, employee orientation, insurance benefits, and hospital meetings have been held in the meeting rooms. If you are an essential, and exempt through the public health order these meetings can meet.

The Recreation Center is partially open at this time for racquet ball, Zumba gold, and jazzercise. The Recreation Center is also a facilitating site for the Boys and Girls Club after school program.

Park Operations, with their staff of 30, which is usually 90, is still working hard to maintain the up keep of all they have always done, because unlike the other divisions, the trash keeps piling up in the parks, the structures still need cleaning and extra sanitizing, the playground still need sanitizing, the grass still

needs to be mowed they are just really doing all they can do to stay on top of it all. They are doing an amazing job!

The Farmington Animal Shelter is opened by appointment only. The appointment only has worked out very well. It has not hindered the adoptions at all, it actually has helped our animals to stay less anxious and calm. With less amount of foot traffic coming in and out of the shelter, we believe it has helped the animals to be more adoptable. The animals are quieter, feeling greater security. They have become easier to interact with. With observing this positive effect from the altered visiting plan we are looking possibly at continuing this "by appointment only" rule even after the COVID Pandemic guidelines.

Shaña continued sharing about the some of the current projects that have are in progress currently.

1. Ricketts Park Bleacher Renovation is moving forward with the bleachers being in by the end of this month. The poles and net replacement is being finished up.
2. Lake Farmington entrance road is being redone by the pay station and the pay station is being relocated. The pay station will be set on a new pad, in the center of the 2 pay lanes. The road will be altered so the patrons needing to check in and have watercraft inspected will stay in one lane and the other lane will be for patrons needing access with no watercraft. This should help with less traffic lined out and down to the entrance off the highway. At this point then there will also be a public safety road, for emergency vehicles to be able use, to bypass the lake traffic in case of an emergency. This has be big project to get organized and planned out with a collaboration of several departments, such as , COF Electric and Utility, Community works, Fire, and Police to name a few.
3. We are moving forward with "Among the Waters Trail" but slowly because it had to be put back out to bid. The bids came ½ million more than was expected. CBG projects will be renovation of the Farmington Indian Center and Farmington Recreation Center restrooms and the Recreation Center parking lot.
4. The down town project is moving forward with the goal of having tree and vegetation planting at the end of October. The Farmington Animal Shelter will be developing a Community Cat Program, which is being funded with \$65,000 donation from a non-profit. The cat program will reduce the rates of euthanasia and increase our live release rates for the cats and kittens at the shelter. Tipping the ear, and returning the cats to the location where they were found is very successful in lowering the population rate. This program has an 80% success rate.
5. The Farmington Boys and Girls Club is rolling out an after school program, and the City of Farmington is an active partner. The Farmington schools are funding it. We are helping provide some staff and facilities to use. This program may be expanding to offer 7:45 am -3:30 pm virtual learning support, in that the staff would offer assistance in helping the kids with connecting through the computer with their teachers, with the internet platform Zoom, make sure they are signing on to the sites where they should be signing in and answering some question. The staff are not teachers, and will not be teaching, just support.
6. The 40th Annual Road Apple Rally will be a virtual event this year. Participants will register, download an app, ride the course in groups of 10 or less or individually, screen shot their results and

turn them in. This event will not involve volunteers at the course although the course will be marked and the Fire and Police have been notified of the event, in case their assistance is needed.

7. The Golf Course has been staying very busy. A lease is being looked at, for equipment due to the fact that the equipment has to be replaced and there is just not the money in the budget. The backfilling of the Assistant Superintendent Position is being delayed so we can pay for the lease. The equipment is failing and we cannot go another month without taking this step. The plans for new irrigation and to redo the cart path is on hold. Due to the impact from a combination of the pandemic and the budget, hard decisions are having to be made. We know the Pinon Hills Golf course does need major attention and we are at a vital point, although for the moment all projects are on hold.
  
8. The Civic Center used the shutdown COVID time wisely. The staff have been very productive in the way of getting repairs taken care of, deep cleaning and organization. At Sandstone, the stage and the bathrooms have had a complete makeover. The rental contracts have been re written with legal involvement. And a new program called Event Pro has been incorporated for the reservation process. Staff has been training with this new program. Christa, our Marketing Administrator has done an amazing job building the Civic Centers webpage with beautiful photos of areas and facilities. She and staff staged for weddings, events, and meetings. She has created digital 360 degree tours displaying what the Civic Center offers as far as event, banquet and meeting rooms. And last but not least, our staff with PRCA has used these past COVID months to catch up on projects, deep cleaning, repairing and enhancing many areas of our facilities. When we are open under full operation, finding time to get some things done is very difficult at times, but our team has truly embraced these time to produce positive results.

The meeting was open for questions.

Madam Chair Leslie Thompson, asked about the status for the Brookside, Pickle ball courts. Shaña explained that the contracted company had really created a problem when they removed the existing lining without approval and authorization. The information gathered at this time provides an option of rebuilding the courts with regular asphalt which would cost approximately \$350,000 or use post tension concrete with a cost of approximately \$550,000. Sending a response back to the company, there response has brought it mediation. Our Budget at this time has no money to repair or replace the surface of the courts.

The next question asked by Madam Chair Leslie, where are we in the process of a resurfacing the Aquatic Center pool, and Shaña explained that Lions Pool is a priority at this time and the Aquatic Center projects have been pushed out another year. There are two issues that have to be addressed and repaired in order to for Lions Pool to pass the fast approaching inspection in June. The repairs at Lions Pool to pass the inspection, are going to approximately cost \$300,000. The question was raised, if that included the moisture barrier problem being corrected? Shaña responded no, that does not include fixing the problem.

The next question was the outlaying restrooms at the golf course and when could they be reopened and Shaña expressed that she would follow up with checking into getting those re-opened.

Commissioner Deb Cutler, brought to the conversation that she has received several phone calls from citizens that are discouraged with the Farmington Amateur Baseball Congress, (FABC) and lack of refunds for youth that were registered for programs that were cancelled due to COVID.

Deb shared that she has explained to those that have contacted her that FABC is a private entity, not connected with City programming, and the City works with them in the process of using the ball park fields.

Commissioner Evan Noel asked how the Among the Waters trail was coming. Shaña shared the update that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> portions of the trail have been surveyed, cleared, bladed and the 3<sup>rd</sup> portion of the trail has had lights installed. The middle portion of the trail is still a work in progress. The project has been put back out for bid. Bids came in at \$1.2 - \$1.4 million and it was projected to cost around \$950,000 to survey, grub, clear, blade and install bridges. The project is still moving forward.

Shaña also shared the Governor had given some updates earlier in the day, which has allowed for some changes in some programming opportunities.

Fields can start to be scheduled for practices only, of 10 or less people at a time.

The pool can start to offer lessons of small groups, and Lions can start to offer limited exercise and arthritis classes all following the Governors guidelines. October 5<sup>th</sup> is the target date for these programs to start back up again.

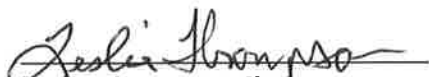
Madam Chair Leslie, made comment to the change of the Lake Farmington access fees to \$1 per person and asked how the response has been. Shaña spoke to that and shared that the lake has been very popular this season and heavily used.

Commissioner Ken Mobley asked how we advertise what we have to offer here in our area. It was explained that the Convention and Visitors Bureau does a big share of advertising, and PRCA does what we can with a minimal marketing budget, but Shaña pointed out the marketing assistant position was lost to budget cuts as well as the marketing budget being reduced by 50%. Shaña then brought up our website on a split screen to share and gave the commission a tour through all the updates and improvements on our PRCA portion. She showed them virtually the wonderful pictures, and virtual tours of the parks that Christa, our PRCA Marketing Specialist had designed and added to give our viewers a very easy to navigate experience to see all that our PRCA has to offer and all the programs, and facilities our viewers and patrons can access for information.

There were no Commission items to share.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There be no further business or discussion to come before the Commission, Madam Chair, Leslie Thompson asked if there was a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Kent Mobley made the motion, Commissioner George Golombowski seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

  
Leslie Thompson, Chair

  
Gwen Johnson,

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Administrative Aide