

**APRIL 16, 2021 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, April 16, at 6:15 p.m. at the Executive Conference Room, 800 Municipal Dr. Farmington, NM 87401

Members Present     Leslie Thompson, Chair; George Golombowski, Co -Chair; Evan Noel; Richard Griffiths ; Carla Stimac; Patricia Baca; and Tyson Snyder.

Members Absent:     Thomas Hawkins, Ken LaCasse, Deborah Cutler, Larry Hilliard.

Also present were:   Natalie Spruell; Assistant PRCA Director; Gwen Johnson; PRCA Administrative Aide; Guest, William Farmer, and Chris Jones, Golf Course Manager.

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Leslie Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. Roll was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Leslie Thompson found an error to the minutes that was brought to our attention. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by George. No objections.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Our guest, William Farmer, Fort Lewis College senior, graduated from Farmington High and played baseball during his education here in Farmington came to share a presentation related to parks and recreation. He began his presentation on non-motorized recreation and what our area could do to improve for our non-motorized recreation. He shared his thoughts, facts, and ideas with much passion and positive energy.

William did an internship with a local non-profit, Farmington Area Single Track that serves with a mission to build, preserve and advocate for non- motorized trails. The group worked on a project called the six graves revitalization. The project worked on and completed was basic trail work, a map of the area, and set out over 20 signs. The objective of the project was to create user friendly, and user awareness of the areas for non-motorized trails. After working on this project he had the desire to move more into investigating Farmington's non-motorized perceptions.

William challenged the group to think about what we offer for recreation and shared reports, and statistics, on diversity of recreation, and the benefits of outdoor recreation. Farmington has been moving in a direction of diversifying and capitalizing on outdoor recreation and William would like to be a part of that in the future. The surveys and data he has collected can be used to enhance the non- motorized trail recreation and move in a positive direction. Trail infrastructure, and outdoor recreation infrastructure were some of key points in his survey. Trail signage, trash, and shooting in non-motorized recreational areas were the majority of concerns from the survey. After his presentation there was a very positive dialogue session of question, answers, and discussion time.

Chris Jones gave a positive presentation with a handout on the Disc Golf proposal, for the Civitan Golf Course.

The San Juan Basin Disc Golf Club has approached Chris about getting into a formal agreement to use Civitan Golf Course as location for their club with the golf course buying the baskets and having them set up at Civitan for them to use. The club has leagues, tournaments, and special night events. When the baskets are on the course they would be available for the public to pay the green fees and use them as well. There is a great interest in this program. Currently it is very popular. At this time they are projecting fourteen events for this summer. The opportunity to be on a green turf, is a huge draw for this club opposed to being at a wildness area. Civitan is the perfect course for this. Chris is seeking recommendation and opinion from the commission to move forward with establishing this option on the golf course and to move forward with the agreement with the club. The golfers have not had a problem with the disc golf trial and it is very popular. The Commission liked the idea, motion was made by Tyson and seconded by Rick and Patricia in support of this project and all were in favor.

#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATE-**

Natalie Spruell; Assistant PRCA Director, Gave a warm greeting to the Commission and presented the PRCA Department Report.

COVID UPDATES: We were at a turquoise and now yellow, so the programs and hours of buildings that had been re-opened to higher capacity, had to be dialed back again. The transition plan to open to a higher, level needs to always be in place.

- ❖ The Indian Center  
Operations were not affected, they were still able to continue with the drive up meal order service.
- ❖ Park Operations  
More staff is needed. In a typical summer season we average 91 employees with seasonal, and at this time we are 40+ short. Struggling to find people that are ready to come back to work. We are challenged to find individuals to staff Lake Farmington as well.  
Plantings in the down town area are being continued with.  
Fire Mitigation is still in progress, it is a 3 year project. With the removal of evasive species, the water table has risen. There are new pole plantings being put in. Also the River Reach foundation has donated 30, 2inch in diameter trees. They are working with our Parks operations to get those trees planted. Signage has also been put up to let our community know the goal to fill in the bare areas.
- ❖ Bisti Bay Will open this season. Lifeguards are needed.
- ❖ Aquatic Center made some changes once again due to the yellow COVID protocol, but is still offering all programs just at a reduced capacity.
- ❖ Lions Pool CBDG project is at phase 1 with the bid process for the re-plastering, and the re-decking moving forward

❖ The Lake

Will be re-opening this weekend for non-motorized boats with inspection. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only, due to staffing issues. We are in need of more staff to have more hours available during the week days.

❖ Administration Office

The office has been busy. Civic Plus is replacing the Rec -Track. This will be much more user friendly program for online services, both for our users and how it interfaces with our website.

The goal is to have that live, by mid- June.

The office is also very busy working on some grants, filling out the applications and getting those submitted. A Grant through Representative Fernandez in Washington D. C., would be beneficial to the All Abilities Park project. The second grant is through the National Parks and Recreation Association would help with the feasibility study and master plan for this park.

❖ Rec Center/Sycamore Park Community Center

The Boys & Girls Club has transitioned programs with location changes. They are done using the Recreation Center and Sycamore Center. They are using Sr. Center Annex. They will be using the Sr. Center Annex until the end of the school season.

The Recreation Center locker room project funded by CBDG funds is almost at completion. The showers were removed, and sinks were removed upgraded to make it all ADA compliant.

The Pump- track at Sycamore, is close to be completed also. A resident came forward with some tips to improve a couple areas.

❖ Senior Center

Serving lunches at the drive up location only. The Home Delivered Meal program is still in progress. The Fitness center is open with COVID protocols in place. They have a great system that is working well and the public is happy that this is opened back up.

❖ River Reach Foundation

Memorial Day weekend event is being planned. It will be music and food at the park on Saturday and Sunday.

❖ Sandstone is preparing to move forward with the performance of Mama Mia

Tyson Snyder was invited by Natalie and Leslie to give an update on CMWS.

New seating has been completed. Seating assignments to those new seats is in progress. 75% capacity would be a Turquoise level, Green would be 50%, and Yellow 30%, as the COVID restrictions are followed. The number of capacity for the event will be decided as the event is here. The operations of the concessions has not been determined yet, but there will not be vendors setting up. There will not be the kids play/recreation area. The teams are excited, to be

able to attend to play some ball. All the tickets must be digital due to a mandate from the state. More handicap seating was added 56 on bench level and 8 wheel chair spaces have been added. Seating for foster families and host families were added.

6049 seats occupy the stadium with 75% are reserved ticket holder seats.


The teams are excited, to be able to attend to play some ball even with the changes and having to scale back. Unfortunately due to the COVID guidelines there will not be a parade.

The goal is to bring a fun and COVID compliant event to our community.

### **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

Leslie thanked George for officiating the last meeting and with no further items for discussion Leslie Thompson, Chair; called for the adjournment and the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Next meeting will be May 20, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Thompson, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gwen Johnson PRCA Administrative Aide