

MAY 16, 2019 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, May 16, 2019 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: Leslie Thompson, Chair; Kent Mobley; Patricia Baca; Deb Cutler; Rick Griffiths; George Golombowski

Members Absent: Larry Hilliard; Sherry Galloway, Vice Chair; Tyson Snyder; Thomas Hawkins;

Also present were: Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director; Natalie Spruell, PRCA Assistant Director; Chris Jones, Golf Course Manager; Christa Chapman, Public Relations & Marketing Specialist; Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide; Gwen Johnson, PRCA Administrative Aide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ☛ Leslie Thompson called the PRCA meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 18. A motion was made by Kent Mobley, seconded by Deb Cutler to approve the minutes of April 18, 2019; upon vote, the minutes were approved as presented.

INTRODUCTION of newly appointed members Deborah Cutler, George Golombowski, and Rick Griffiths.

GOLF COURSE - ACTION

~ **Alternative Golf Carts** – Mr. Jones proposed to allow the use of private owned, alternative golf carts at Piñon Hills Golf Course. Upon signing a waiver (approved by COF legal department), a golfer will pay a fee before using their own cart on the course.

- ☛ After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Deb Cutler to approve using alternative golf carts, upon vote the motion passed.

~ **First Tee Signage, Civitan Golf Course** – Mr. Jones explained a partnership proposal between First Tee of San Juan County and Civitan Golf Course. The First Tee will seek out sponsorships and renovate the signs for each hole featuring each of the 9 core values of the program. Ms. Reeves voiced her approval of the partnership and added that it would be solidified with a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by COF. Deb Cutler disclosed she is on First Tee board, and shared with members the expenditure spread sheet that showed the cost for the signs to be restored as well as a copy of the sponsorship program flyer. Mr. Griffiths asked that informational material be provided on site to educate patrons what The First Tee program is.

- ☛ After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Richard Griffith to approve Civitan Golf Course partnering with the First Tee program; upon vote the motion passed.

~ **Golf Course Proposed Fee Change** - Mr. Jones explained that fees at the golf course have not increased since the enterprise fund was dissolved in 2011. He proposed small increases on certain fees and services, added a junior rate for golfers under 18 years old and all season passes increase \$25 (approximately 26 times pays for a season pass).

- ☛ After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Ms. Baca to approve the proposed fee increases at Piñon Hills Golf Course; upon vote the motion passed.

~ **Specialty Drinks, Grill on the Hill** – Mr. Jones explained that Tom Serrano has been the contracted vendor operating the Grill on the Hill since 2002. He asked for approval from members to allow Mr. Serrano to add three or four specialty drinks to their beer and wine menu. Mr. Jones confirmed that there is still a drink limit in effect at the golf course and that Mr. Serrano is very conscientious and responsible when serving alcohol to patrons.

- ☛ A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Ms. Cutler to approve specialty drinks served at Piñon Hills Golf Course Grill on the Hill restaurant; upon vote the motion passed.

~ **PHGC Point of Sale** – Ms. Reeves stated the golf course is in the process of implementing a point of sale service, a positive move that will save money and improve customer service. She further clarified that POS is a way merchandise is sold and tee times are booked. Mr. Jones will present an update at a future meeting.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

~**The Beach Shade Structures** - The project to install shade structures at Lake Farmington is in progress. An oversight in the project has resulted in first having to construct a retaining wall to accommodate the setup of the structure which should ship in mid-June.

~**Bisti Bay Water Park** is approximately 75% complete, and will hopefully open July 4th without the slide feature. There was a miscommunication between sub-contractors on the project and as a result parts for securing the two slides have to be reproduced. Slides are expected to be installed in October after the pool has closed for the season. The added cost for the error is still under review and will likely fall to the contractors. There has been dialogue to extend the days of operation into September but is very challenging due to the availability of lifeguard staff. Though Ms. Reeves is not the project manager and could not speak firmly to the over budget inquiries, she stated that the original design cost for BBWP was presented to cost \$6.1M and the project currently stands at \$8.1M.

~**Outdoor Recreation Industry Initiative (ORII)** - Cory Styron, Director for Outdoor Recreation Industry has resigned; his last day with the City of Farmington is June 7. Ms. Reeves and Assistant City Manager Julie Baird will manage the projects that started under ORII.

~**Mountain Bike Trail** at Lake Farmington, is now opened. It is currently one mile of trail within Lake Farmington that, when complete in the fall, will extend well onto BLM property. The trail began as an ORII project and will now be managed by PRCA. Ms. Reeves stated that at this time mountain bikers will not be charged to access the trail through Lake Farmington.

~**Ojo Court** – PRCA partnered with Leadership San Juan to create a pocket park and path between the sobering center and recovery residency facilities (joint intervention program) at 1615 Ojo Court. PRCA Park Planner, Rachele Crosby designed a conceptual plan to beautify the area with landscaping features and Leadership San Juan volunteers will build the pathway. Phase one is approximately 50% complete.

~**Gold Star Memorial Monument** was approved by city council and is moving forward to be installed at Berg Park next to All Vets Plaza. Arrangements are being made to bring Mr. Hershel “Woody” Williams to Farmington to speak at a VIP dinner during the dedication. COF’s contribution to the project is donating the site, and the Civic Center venue for the VIP dinner.

~**Sgt. Marshall Alan Westbrook**, the first New Mexico National Guardsman killed in Iraq has a memorial at San Juan Generating Station. In the event that the plant should close down, a request was made to move memorial to Berg Park. After Ms. Reeves investigates the possibility she will report back to the commission with a consideration for approval.

~**Youth Athletics** and Park Ops collaborative relationships are being restored. As a result, Four Corners Fast Pitch Association has offered to buy a load of conditioning dirt (\$4,500) and pitch in for a day of caring. On Saturday, May 18th, softball players and Park Op crews will work together to paint dugouts and condition fields in preparation for the Kathy Rouse Tournament over Memorial Day weekend.

~**Accreditation** site visitors will be on site June 24-26. Ms. Reeves praised the integrity of Natalie Spruell, PRCA Assistant Director who, along with her team, pulled the whole assignment together without a hitch.

~**Budget** for FY20 started off with a \$9M deficit. After removing all capital improvement requests the deficit now stands at \$2M. Various contributing factors continue to keep the GRT down, consequently the tax increases are not generating the revenue that were anticipated. Ms. Reeves explained that city departments are tasked with preparing five levels of budget reductions for possible implementation over the next three years.

Building Closures - In an effort to avoid layoffs during the budget crisis, Ms. Reeves will propose to city council that some costly, dilapidated buildings be vacated and programs be consolidated into other facilities. Three buildings with the most immediate need of repair are the Farmington Recreation Center, the Farmington Aquatic Center (FAC) and the Farmington Indian Center (FIC). After factoring in the operational

costs versus revenue from programs, careful consideration determined Farmington Indian Center, and E3 Children's Museum will be suggested for closure. These are culturally sensitive issues and the possibility of these closures have not been well received.

The Farmington Indian Center is primarily a restaurant heavily subsidized by the city; the revenue from the restaurant is approximately \$177K which nowhere near covers the staff wages let alone the operational cost of the facility. The programs and services would operate from of the senior center.

E3 Children's Museum is a popular facility that is very well attended. Their programs and exhibits could be integrated through the Farmington Museum saving a large amount in operational costs.

If closed, Lion's Pool would save much in operational cost and the FAC could accommodate the programs offered. However, the drawback is that Lion's Pool is a beloved facility, it is the only warm water pool in the community with a particular clientele that consider it to be a health and wellness issue. Though it will not be considered for closure at this time, the building is in such disrepair that closure may be inevitable within 1-2 years.

Though .25 percent of the tax increase was originally dedicated to building new outdoor recreation amenities; city council is now re-thinking the Community Transformation Economic Development (CTED) funds. Those funds could qualify as renovation, restoration or expansion and be used for capital deferred maintenance projects such as \$546K needed at FAC. Discussion regarding facility closures continued.

~PRCA Facility Tours - Ms. Reeves asked that commission members join her in tours of the most dilapidated PRCA facilities. Seeing firsthand the condition of these facilities will be helpful if and when the commission is called to weigh in on some hard decisions regarding the future of department's amenities. After a brief discussion, it was decided that department tours will be scheduled quarterly and members could sign up to attend. The first tour will be Tuesday, June 11, attendees will meet at the PRCA Administration office at 11:30 and spend approximately two hours visiting a few facilities.

COMMISSIONER BUSINESS - Ms. Baca reported concerns in reference to a recent homicide at Berg Park. Dialogue followed regarding park safety, homelessness and police presence. Ms. Reeves informed members though CTED funds allowed the opportunity to create a police unit specifically dedicated to the riverine and downtown areas, it takes time to hire and train officers to fill the positions.


Ms. Thompson asked for an ORII update. Ms. Reeves stated the ORII duties are being divided between the Economic Development and PRCA departments. Warren Unsicker, Economic Development Director will take on most of the public interfacing and once projects go to bid and construction begins PRCA will get involved and see it to the end.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other discussion, Ms. Thompson called for adjournment, Ms. Baca seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.



Leslie Thompson, Chair



Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide