

**May 20, 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, May 20, 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; Thomas Hawkins; Deb Cutler; and Ken LaCasse

Members Absent: Larry Hilliard; Patricia Baca; and Tyson Snyder.

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

OPENING OF MEETING:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leslie Thompson asked if all had a chance to review the minutes and should any changes be made. All agreed the minutes were good. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Carla Stimac. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS-

2021/2022 Meeting Resolution was brought forth by Leslie, to be approved with continuing to meet the 3rd Thursday, monthly at 6:15 pm. Rick moved to pass the resolution as written, George seconded Vote was taken all approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE-

Shaña, PRCA Director, Gave a warm greeting to the Commission, thanked each one for their attendance and presented the PRCA Department Report.

COVID UPDATES:

- ❖ We are adapting once again to a lot of changes. We are currently at a turquoise level. This level allows for us to operate our facility's with a 75% guest capacity. We are expecting to fully open by June 30th. Our current mask policy is that those who are fully vaccinated do not have to wear a mask and we are handling that with the honor system. If you are not wearing a mask we are assuming that you are fully vaccinated. We are no longer taking temperatures as guests enter our buildings. Our COVID safe practices are relaxing.

- ❖ Civic Center: We are mostly booked for May and June with patron events. There is some stage creation being worked on. We are slated to do Mama Mia in July at Sandstone. It will be all professional cast and a slightly scaled down version. We are excited and looking forward to an uplifting production and we feel it really be enjoyed.

The staff at the Civic Center used the past months to deep clean, organize and do some projects in the building they in the past have not had time to do.

They installed NIX PLAY which is a on line reservation system that will display what is going on in each event room or event hall by means of a screen at the entrance to each room. Also EVENT PRO an on line reservation system has also been installed as a new booking software. It will interact with the photo tours that Christa uploaded on line. Patrons can now reserve the rooms, and banquet halls through Event Pro as they are able to browse through the virtual tours.

The Budget this year has been very good even with the unusual year we have had. The COVID Care funds that are coming our way will really help with offsetting some budget shortfalls. We are going to be able to move forward with some much needed deferred maintenance into our buildings. We also received some money from the CTed Funds, with a portion of Renewal & Replacement helping with the deferred maintenance projects that will be worked on.

- ❖ The Golf Course is gaining a new entrance, patio cover, cart path revision, and irrigation design. These are all some much needed investments. Our streets department is helping with some of the major pot holes and bad spots in the parking areas at the Golf Courses.
- ❖ The Recreation Center will see some much needed TLC as well. The middle section of the roof is getting replaced, new stucco, new exterior paint and new signing on the building. Next year we will look to getting new basketball goals and new gym flooring. Gym Dividers are also needed. An assessment needs to be done on the ceiling in the gym so the correct basketball system is invested in. The Racquetball courts are also going to get some attention and updates.
- ❖ Sandstone is getting some work done, with a completely new set, allocated at around \$50000. If that is finishes up under budget, more seat backs will be added. Major work has been done with the restrooms exteriors, with new block repair completed due to deterioration from wet ground and poor drainage and that has all been corrected and new painting has been done.
- ❖ Regional Animal Shelter has recently the shelter has received 2 grants. The first one being the Empty Shelter Grant, and many pets were adopted and rehomed the week of a special program. The shelter is at a 90% live release rate for the last 2 months. The second Grant, is a \$100,000 grant that came out of a foundation out of Santa Fe. That can help with enrichment programs and the community, spay and neuter, and items for the animals or facility that are needed. It is a one year, one time awarded no match Grant.

- ❖ Bonnie Dallas Sr. Center has been working with great passion and success feeding our seniors. Seniors Southwest Senior services RFP, has been taken over by us, which means we have taken over administering the program that goes to the areas 5 other Sr. Centers that feed seniors.
- ❖ The Beach is open on a first com first serve basis, the lake is available to use at your own risk. The lake remains unguarded which has nothing to do with budget it is we just do not have the life guards.
There is a challenge getting young people that want to take the guard class. We are challenged to find individuals to staff the other positions as well.

More staff is needed! We are still 40+ short in Parks Operation. A major challenge is finding people that are ready to come back to work. This division is working so hard with such a small number of employees.

We are advertising. We have worked with HR to lower our hiring age to 16 yrs. of age, while staying with in the fair standard labor act laws and guidelines and we are continuing to work with the HR department to help problem solve with us. We are advertising on the electronic signage. There is also an intern program starting up with Farmington High School this summer that may help us gain some students to help us with various positions for the summer season. We are hoping we gain 30 or 35.

We still cannot open the bathrooms in our parks due to the result of the man hours it takes to keep our restrooms clean. Currently all the park operations staff that we have, are mowing, and trimming, and grooming our parks. We are planning on getting the porta- lets cleaned more often, and we are working on getting additional porta- lets to put out at the ball parks and have them cleaned additional times for games and tournaments only.

Shana asked the Commissioners as they are in conversation with the public, to let them know that all of facilities that are currently open to the public have restrooms and they can use the rest room facilities.

- ❖ Rec Center and Sycamore Park are open. We are going to focus on youth association sports only. No adult sports will be offered at this time because we still do not have Sports Supervisor. Having Umpires and scorekeepers is also another issue in this decision.
- ❖ Connie Mack World Series is happening this year, and the decision was made that there will be a parade. Ricketts parks is almost completed. The new net is amazing, the new turf, and the new seats. There will be a Ribbon Cutting, open house July 6th. Emails will be going out to the ticket holders and tickets holders will be able to purchase their tickets sometime in June.

- ❖ The Farmington Indian Center is doing well. They are still offering the drive thru meals. They will continue this plan thru June. The Indian Center had a nice surprise. A young man that was traveling from New York after learning Navajo, who has a You Tube Channel with 3 million followers and shares his adventures and languages that he has learned, and he visited the Indian Center. His visit will be featured on his You Tube channel. He spoke Navajo to the staff and learned how to make tortillas, with them. It was a great experience for all.
- ❖ Lions Pool will be getting some repairs and attention very, very, soon. Retiling and re-plastering of the pool and removing old decking and resurfacing that. The expenses will be covered with the CBDG funds. Upon completion of the environmental study the project will begin.
- ❖ Bisti Bay Will open this season. We are opening on May 28th at 75% capacity most likely. We are planning on being open 7 days a week. Lifeguards are needed.
- ❖ Administration Office: The office had a great achievement after working hard and applying and submitting for a huge grant through the National Parks and Recreation Association. If awarded this would help with the feasibility study focusing on creating parks that are Adaptive, Inclusive, and Accessible, and the master plan for All Abilities Park. We made top 10 after having the interview. The Interview went very well. We are very excited and we will find out by Friday if we will be gifted any of the \$300,000 to \$500,000 funding that is being awarded. This would be a great gift toward the All Abilities Park planning process.

We are still on track with the Tibbetts property. More exciting news an anonymous donor came through, they are a 501 C-3 international donor and they have donated money in many places, one of which is the Denver Co, Children's Hospital, and the Wings program. They would like to donate \$500,000 to the All Abilities Park project.

- ❖ Farmington Museum: The Museum is gaining two new positions. New exhibits to be on display, one of which is celebrating the 100th year of the first gas there will be a soft opening for that, and then in October the exhibit will fully open. The museum has also been operating with very short staff. There has been an offer to an Exhibit Designer, who is coming to us from Georgia her name is Rachel Landress
The NFL GridIron exhibit is being released and moving on

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Positive discussion centering on the new downtown area was very positive feedback with comments that were made by a couple of the commissioners. Some of the comments were that the downtown area is now very user friendly for our disable patrons. The outdoor

speakers sharing live music down the streets is bringing some life and joy to the downtown area. Pickle Ball questions came up and Shana shared the Julie and her are going to Durango to look at their courts and how they are laid out for play, parking, restrooms etc.

A question was brought by a commissioner on the Pickleball court progress. Shaña shared that June 15th will be a work session with items on the agenda to present the naming committees findings for the neck LLC and the plan to plan that area. And we will bring the Council up to date on our findings toward the Pickleball Court project, as we still await settlement from the damage done to the court by the company that was contracted and started this project. It is all still trying to settled, and executed.


There is concern from some of the commissioner's that our deferred maintenance should not be put off so long and that we need better balance of taking care of what we have and adding more new amenities. CTED funds will help establishing this balance to repair items as we need to.

Soccer Fields concern was brought to attention with the field 3 at the north corner, and it was decided to meet with Doug on that.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items for discussion Leslie Thompson, Chair; called for the adjournment and the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deb Cutler seconded by Rick. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

Next meeting will June 17, 2021



Leslie Thompson, Chair



Gwen Johnson PRCA Administrative Aide