

AUGUST 15, 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 August 15, 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; Sherry Galloway, Vice Chair; Kent Mobley; Larry Hilliard; George Golombowski; Deborah Cutler; Rick Griffith

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Madam Chair, Leslie Thompson Called the PRCA meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2019. A motion was made by Ken Mobley, seconded by Deborah Cutler, to approve the minutes of July 19, 2019 meeting; upon vote, the minutes were approved as presented.

DISCUSSION: DRAFT LETTER APPROVAL FROM COMMISSION TO CITY COUNCIL.

The commission looked over the draft letter, and concluded that the letter looked good, and it was introduced to be voted on to move forward with it to the city council. A motion was made, and then seconded but the dialogue around that continued. The commission acknowledged that the facility tour that several of them went on, helped them to gain understanding and see the needs for some of the facilities. It was then determined after a brief discussion....that it would not be a good plan or use of funds to invest money into buildings that are so dilapidated., that a consolidation of services, for example there be more programs and cultural events brought by the Indian Center instead of providing a restaurant in a building that is so run down. Also the idea of Lions Pool facilities programming be implemented at one of the other aquatic facilities, because the Lions Pool buildings is in such bad repair, and would cost way too much to invest in. Communication to the public in positive approach and educating the public to understand why some changes need to be looked at. Focus on the purpose of each program.

The Director of Parks and Recreation, shared we need to be creative and smart, as we come to solutions for these challenges. Shana also encouraged the board by reminding them they have a fresh set of eyes, after taking a recent tour and that there will be another tour time set for September. Shaña conveyed she does have an understanding that many of these facilities are a lifeline for many people, especially Lions Pool and the Indian Center. The commission supports the concept of a Multi-Cultural Center to focus on diverse type programming. Offering relevant programming and teaching opportunities.

The All Abilities park is an exciting goal and it would be a great avenue to also look into constructing a pool there as an all ability pool, for many people groups and our seniors. Discussion continued with positive dialogue concerning the need to Educate and inform the public. Continue the inclusion aspects of our community to mesh and mix multi-cultural relationships and diverse heritage.

After the discussion, the motion made to accept the letter was defeated it was requested that the letter be redesigned with further clarity and how to proceed. With the motion to accept defeated, Madam Chairman Leslie, asked that the letter come back with comments, by September 6, 2019.

Director Shana Reeves, shared with the commission this is an important time, and there is a lot of work today and discussion because we need to update our master plan we are at a building and restructuring stage.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Budget:

Director Shaña Reeves Reported

Budget remains tentative, but PRCA is fairing very well.

Unexpected expenses came up \$114,000 land payment on the Browning property, we thought the last payment had been made, when in fact it had not.

Also 2013-2014 OMI installed new water meters at the Sports Complex. Readings were taken in Dec, and Jan, and Feb, when there was not any consumption so it was thought that there would be no usage.

Although it was winter and no activity. They were never checked again when the water was being use.

The consumption was not billed since 2013/ 2014, worked with David Sypher, and the amount we had to pay was \$65000. They could only back bill more than 1 year so we did not have to pay the entire \$289,000bill. The slide was ordered and paid for the Aquatic Center at \$125,000. CTED funds should cover that. Slide needed so when winter comes, the Aquatic Center is ready with the slide replaced. On a good not we received \$100,000 from the legislative session to be used for maintenance at Ricketts which will help offset some of the expenses. We were able to cut travel by 50% as well. Tech was moved to IT.

We are very optimistic in gaining one position back at the animal shelter, the Community Programs Assistant, which is an essential position to have back. Transfers are coordinated, intakes, plans and executes public adoption events, among other helpful tasks for the Shelter. We have recently had to euthanize frequently for space, so we are hopeful having this position back will alieve the problem areas.

Budget cuts always affect public service that being said the budget is OK right now for this quarter.

Lake Farmington Shade project is taking longer than expected due to circumstances out of everyone's control, this should be wrapped up soon.

Pinon Hills Golf Course transformer work has started this week, using a generator at the moment, and we are moving toward getting this problem corrected, should be completed soon.

September tours for the Commission. The Among the Waters Trail tour is on the top of the list. Wear tennis shoes and jeans. Bonnie Dallas Sr. Center, the parking lots there.

The HQ, headquarters of the Main Street project. Breaking ground in January for the Main Street project. Pinon Hills Golf course is the 4th location on the list to visit.

September 11th, was a date decided, at 11:30 – 1pm, meeting at the PRCA Administration Office, lunch will be provided and then we will take the tour.

8-10 Staff will be attending the New Mexico PRCA State Conference in Hobbs, for certifications and training.

This concluded Shaña's department update.

Natalie Spruell, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, shared some exciting news, State Award Recognition's, we were awarded the Youth Program of the Year for the Heather McGaughey Children's Theater, and the Adult program of the year went to the Museum Hikes and Tours program. The Turf Maintenance Award goes to the Ricketts Field parks crew and the State Volunteer award goes to George

Golombowski, he started in 1995, and has contributed over 3000 hours of volunteer service to the City, working with the Farmington Police, The Farmington Parks and Recreation, he is always contributing insight and ideas.

Shaña continued on with some other updates:

The Farmington Airport is still moving toward bringing Jet Service to Farmington.

The City is looking forward to working with Farmington Municipal Schools, in acquiring the old Tibbets Middle School property, to build the All Abilities Park We have a lot of people waiting to donate, for this great facility. Having an All Abilities Park is a great direction to move toward. We do not offer anything currently like this. There are a lot of community business that want to partner with this. Exciting! In CTED there is \$75000 for a Feasibility study and conceptual and the steering team would push it forward.

A question was asked about the success of the recent past events, the Rod Run, and Connie Mack World Series.

Rod Run was a great success, good participation, and good cars, but not great, we need to continue to mend the relationship with NM Rod Runners Association, If we do not get them back, it is a an event we may not be able to continue.

Connie Mack had a good format, seats were being filled, many liked pool play because there were no eliminations.. Fan support was great, and the electronic ticket process that Connie Mack board transferred over to worked well, and went smoothly.

Ricketts field is beautiful, going back to old fertilization and new equipment and the crew worked hard to get it to this fabulous results. All in all it was a great success.

A Survey went out at the Mayors request concerning the turf, to all the CMWS coaches, two Fracker coaches and the two High School coaches concerning the turf. Eleven responses have come back, and ten out of the eleven said they were not in favor of a switch to synthetic turf. The Future of Ricketts is still in community dialogue. The steering committee for this topic needs to continue to meet and discuss the pros and cons, and what is best for the community. We are getting closer to a decision time about the change from live turf to synthetic turf.

The service from Navajo Prep for the shuttle service was great, and we were so thankful for their willingness to help with that. They were very good to work with, and went great.

Upcoming Events:

The Totah Festival August 30-Sept 1

The meeting came to a close with conversation about Bisti Bay and the positive fun place it is for Farmington and that the Museum has had a wonderful donation of 450 Navajo Rugs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Ms. Leslie Thompson, seconded by Ms. Sherry Galloway to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m., upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously


Leslie Thompson, Chair


Gwen Johnson, PRCA Administrative Aide