

**June 16, 2016 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, June 16, 2016, 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: Tyson Snyder, Chair; Jane Banes; Sherry Galloway; Larry Hilliard; Peter Holzem; JB Holcomb; Leslie Thompson

Members Absent: Patricia Baca; Ellyn Dimond; Corey Freeman; Kent Mobley

Also present were: Cory Styron, PRCA Director; Debbie Homer;

Roll Call -

Tyson Snyder, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and began roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tyson Snyder asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the May 19, 2016 minutes and if there were any questions or changes. There were none and Mr. Snyder called for a motion. Mr. Holzem moved to accept the May, 19, 2016 minutes as presented. Ms. Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Action Items – None

B. Discussion –

1. R.C. Park Update –

Mr. Styron advised the commission that the Parks crews are in the process of installing the viewing stand at R.C. Park. Mr. Styron said that there are now two groups competing to use the facility whereas six months ago no one was wanting to use the park. This is a positive and hopefully will continue to be utilized.

2. Beach at Lake Farmington Opening -

Mr. Styron stated that the Beach at Lake Farmington is bringing in more visitors daily than Brookside Pool. He further stated that due to the high turbidity in the river the intake pumps had to be shut down which currently has dropped the lake by six feet. The swim area is still open but some of the water features have been removed for safety reasons. Mr. Styron advised the commission that the kayak rental vendor is doing well and is putting together a tandem kayak race between Fire and PD to take place over Labor Day Weekend. Mr. Snyder asked that with the success of the Beach if further development at the lake will be considered. Mr. Styron replied that yes a proposal for a campground and other venues is being put together for presentation to the City Council this fall. He said that later this year a proposal to make Lake Farmington a fee based area will be presented to the commission for consideration. Mr. Hilliard asked if it is possible to place depth

markers in the swimming showing what the depth is? Mr. Styron replied that he will have the idea put under consideration. Mr. Snyder asked what if any numbers at the Aquatic Center have been affected by the opening of swimming at Lake Farmington. Mr. Styron replied that he didn't know but he would ask the Aquatics Director if numbers have been reduced due to the opening of swimming at Lake Farmington.

3. Civic Center Public Meeting –

Mr. Styron asked the commission if they had received their invitation to the Civic Center public meetings on June 20 and 21, 2016? Several commissioners stated they had not received theirs. Mr. Styron asked Ms. Homer to please forward the invitation via e-mail on June 17, 2016. Mr. Styron encouraged the commissioners to attend one of the four meetings to review the conceptual plans being presented.

4. Family Waterpark Conceptual Plan RFP (Request For Proposal) –

Mr. Styron informed the commission that the consultant bid process kicked off last week. Mr. Styron said that the bidding process will close next week. He also said that Tyson Snyder and J.B. Holcomb have agreed to be on the evaluation committee.

5. Athletic Fields Update –

Mr. Styron advised the commission that Worley Field has been closed for Renovations and as a result the Connie Mack leagues are practicing at Piedra Vista High School field. Mr. Styron said that FABC and AABC have increased the number of tournaments this year resulting in Park crews only having eight days instead of eighteen days to prepare Ricketts Field for the Connie Mack World Series. The 9U Series Tournament will begin on July 28, 2016 at Justis Park. Mr. Styron said that the 9U will have a big impact for the City due to the large number of parents, grandparents who will be coming in from outside the area to watch the games.

6. River Stewardship Grant Update -

Mr. Styron informed the commission that the PRCA Department is a finalist for a River Stewardship Grant for \$280,000. The River Reach Foundation began this process several years ago and have helped with the planning. The grant will help to deepen the channel approximately 500 yards past Rocky Reach Terrace so that boulders can be added to create a fish and aquatic wildlife habitat. Mr. Styron said that we should hear in the next couple of weeks if PRCA will receive the grant. Mr. Styron said that the grant was very well written by Mary Gardocki, Parks Planner with input from other river experts and feels that PRCA will be awarded the grant.

7. Zika Virus Update –

Mr. Styron advised the commission that there will be a Mayor's Round Table interview that will air next week regarding the City's mosquito program. Regarding the Zika Virus there are three items to note: 1. There has not been a Zika Virus case that originated in the United States. All cases were contracted in South America. 2. The species of mosquito that carries the Zika Virus does not live in the Four Corners area. 3. The City has a proactive mosquito control program with a Vector Control Specialist on staff who begins monitoring water pools in March of each year. Several different methods are used to control mosquitos once they begin appearing.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

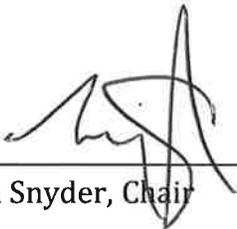
Mr. Styron asked the commission if they had any questions regarding the May Department Report. Mr. Hilliard stated that he noticed during Riverfest that there were several loose boards on the first bridge at Berg Park that needed to be taken care. Mr. Styron replied that he would have the bridge checked out. Mr. Styron noted that during Riverfest the Berg Park Trail counters registered 27,000 people for 2016 compared to 23,000 people in 2015. The counters reflect trail users only. Counters are located at Berg Park, Animas Park and Nature Center. Mr. Styron told the commission that during the period from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016 that the trail counters reflected 480,000 patrons used the river trails. Mr. Styron reminded the commission that as of June 1, 2016 that the Crouch Mesa Facility was closed and transferred to a private business. Ms. Thompson asked Mr. Styron if there has been an agreement reached between the county and the city regarding the Animal Shelter. Mr. Styron replied that an agreement had been reached with the county regarding animal services for one more year.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS -

Ms. Thompson stated that she is receiving complaints from lap swimming residents who are concerned about cell phones being used to take pictures in the Aquatic Center locker rooms which creates privacy issues. A suggestion was presented that perhaps signs could be placed on the doors stating that no picture taking is allowed in locker rooms. Mr. Holcomb asked about wood chips vs sand. Mr. Styron replied that that sand is not ADA compliant, harbors critters, and can become a litter box for cats. Wood chips that are treated meet ADA requirements, doesn't pack like sand, and is less expensive.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Ms. Galloway moved to adjourn, Mr. Holzem seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.



Tyson Snyder, Chair



Debbie Homer, PRCA Administrative Aide