

OCTOBER 20, 2016 MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Commission (PRCA) of the City of Farmington (COF) met in a regular session on Thursday, October 20, 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; Leslie Thompson, Vice Chair; Ellyn Dimond; Sherry Galloway; Larry Hilliard; Kent Mobley; Peter Holzem; Thomas Hawkins; Jeffrey Holcomb

Members Absent: Jane Banes; Patricia Baca

Also present were: Cory Styron, PRCA Director; Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✦ Peter Holzem moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2016; Sherry Galloway seconded, the minutes were approved as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BRIDGE NAMING, DISCUSSION - Mr. Holcomb reported that Animas Bridge and Berg Bridge were chosen to be the official names by the majority of those surveyed. Surveys were posted on-line, on social media, and handed out in person. A vote will be taken during the next meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDENS, DISCUSSION - The Four Corners Foundation (established to assist the homeless in San Juan County) has opened a transitional living facility operated by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH). The Foundation has written a grant hoping to obtain funding to establish a community garden located on the PATH property. After collecting analytical data during the first year of operation, the Foundation will present findings to this commission for a possible partnership with the City of Farmington. Discussion continued.

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS, DISCUSSION - Mr. Styron asked that discussion be put on the agenda for a later meeting as forthcoming Business Plan research may have an impact on Park Rules and Regulation discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 16 DIVISION RESULTS, DISCUSSION - Based on FY14-16 PRCA Business Plan, Mr. Styron presented major department objectives accomplished by June 30, 2016. **Improve Internal/External Communication of Activities and Services:** Administration; Animal Shelter; Golf; Museum System; Recreation Center. **Attract Tourism and Develop Recreation Amenities:** Administration; Civic Center; Museum Systems; Park Ops and Aquatics; Pinon Hills Golf. **Upgrade Use of Technology:** Administration; Indian Center; Museum Systems; Park Operations. **Pursue Grant Opportunities:** Administration: River Stewardship Grant (approximately \$280K) - will create improvements near Rocky Reach Landing slated for spring 2017. **Increase Programming for Families, Youth and Teens:** Aquatic Center; Museum; Senior Center; and Recreation Center. **Increase Festivals and Special Events:** Civic Center, Museum Systems. **Maintain/Improve Existing Facilities:** Aquatic Center/Lion's Pool; Museum System; Indian Center; Parks Operation's field & playground renovations, RC Park relocation/viewing stand; Senior Center's improvements funded mostly by New Mexico Long Term and Aging; and Recreation Center. **Expand Trails and Connectivity:** Southside River Road parking and trail head. **Ensure ADA Accessibility at Facilities:** Park Operations and E3 Children's Museum, CDBG funds requested for improvement projects beginning spring 2017. **Upgrade Outdated Amenities:** Museum Systems, Parks Operations, Ricketts Park irrigation analysis. **General Administration** - Animal Shelter, Indian Center, Museum Accreditation, Senior Center, Sycamore Park.

FARMINGTON LAKE REVIEW, DISCUSSION - Mr. Styron reported Farmington Lake Review 2016 will be presented to City Council on Tuesday, October 25. The long term vision is to open the area up for additional recreational activities. FY16 season was extended for watercraft inspections which almost quadrupled from the year before.

A designated swim area was opened in May bringing 40K visitors on average (Brookside Pool averaged 16K). Improvement suggestions and customer feedback were discussed. Mr. Styron reported that soon construction will begin to increase the beach depth by 10K square feet making it necessary to redirect the road; an additional water feature will be added to the swim area as well.

Mr. Styron reported conversations have begun with the State Parks Department to form partnerships in creating camping/picnicking areas at the lake. With continued improvements, Farmington Lake Recreational area has the potential of being a successful destination spot thus creating a positive impact on Farmington's long term economic development. Vehicle counter data showed, on average, 70K vehicles would enter the area annually. Implementing a reasonable access fee could provide roughly \$350K to defer costs and create a funding source to introduce grander items. Mr. Styron responded to a question from Mr. Hilliard stating the recommendation he would make to City Council would be for all funds generated at the lake to be deposited and used solely for improvements at the lake. Mr. Styron is not in favor of setting the lake up as an enterprise fund. Discussion continued regarding challenges and tightening up regulations.

Mr. Styron reported the City of Farmington along with the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has hired an architect/pool consultant to provide a feasibility study providing 3 water park options that could renew the Brookside Pool site; public input meetings are scheduled for November 15 and 16.

FARMINGTON LAKE FEES, DISCUSSION - In order to present to city council and implement by summer 2017, Mr. Styron asked that a small group of members develop a Farmington Lake fee structure by December or January; Ms. Thompson, Ms. Galloway, and Mr. Hawkins volunteered. Mr. Styron indicated there are standards already set in State and National parks that would be helpful toward the research. Discussion will continue.

BUSINESS PLAN, DISCUSSION - Mr. Styron informed the members the need to develop the department's Business Plan for the next two years. He asked members to look over the Master Plan's Executive Summary and the FY15-17 Business Plan to prepare for discussion in November.

DEPARTMENT REPORT - Presented were the September Department Reports (*found on-line at [fjtn.org/transparency/Administrative Officials/Monthly Department Head Report](http://fjtn.org/transparency/Administrative%20Officials/Monthly%20Department%20Head%20Report)*) and Upcoming Featured Events for the department.

COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

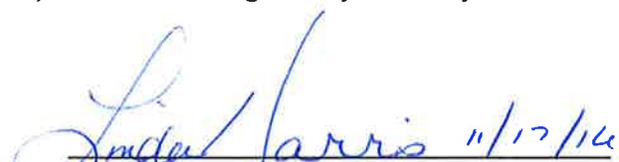
Mr. Snyder stated he would like to step down as Chair and volunteered to head up a nominating committee and will continue discussion at next meeting.

Mr. Holcomb shared a citizen's desire to develop a Bicycle Motocross (BMX) race track on COF property. Mr. Styron stated no one has approached him asking for PRCA's involvement. Mr. Styron understood after conversation with Councilor Duckett, the citizen was looking to obtain suitable property from a private partnership. Ms. Thompson gave the opinion that, should the city be involved in a BMX track, it would be best to have it in an area that is already an established and accessible venue such as Farmington Lake.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thompson called for adjournment, Peter moved to adjourn the meeting, Sherry Galloway seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.


Tyson Snyder, Chair *Signed in*
Chair's absence


Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide