

**FEBRUARY 18, 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, February 18, at 6:15 p.m. Virtually through the ZOOM platform, Farmington, NM

Members Present George Golombowski , Co-Chair; Deborah Cutler; Thomas Hawkins; Evan Noel; Richard Griffiths; Ken LaCasse; and Deborah Cutler

Members Absent: Leslie Thompson, Chair; Larry Hilliard, Tyson Snyder; Patricia Baca; and Carla Stimac

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

OPENING OF MEETING:

George Golombowski called the Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs Commission meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. George welcomed the Commissioners and thanked them for being present. The roll was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

George asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Rick to accept the minutes as written, Deb made the second. The vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- ✓ Rachelle Crosby, Parks Planner for Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, will be; sharing a visual presentation of some land that was donated. (Shaña Reeves; PRCA Director shared in place Rachelle)
- ✓ Park naming sub-committee: This sub-committee will be tasked with coming up with a list of potential names for the Neck LLC (80 acres) and Reilly (13 acres) properties.

Shaña shared on the screen 2 visuals to describe the area that was being discussed. She explained that the City was given some property over the last couple years. In the past, 80 acres were donated (which we call the Neck property at this time) for outdoor natural recreation and also recently the City was given some property for outdoor recreational use that connects right up to that 80 acres. The recent donated land is being called the Riley property. The Riley property gives us better access to the 80 acres. Both pieces of land were donated with the intent it would be used for outdoor bike trails, outdoor natural recreation, possibly a pump track and so forth. We would like to create a parking lot, restroom facilities, a shaded shelter structure area, with picnic tables, and a pump track. The property is by Hood Mesa trail.

Naming Sub- Committee:

Shaña requested that a couple commissioners volunteer to be on naming committee to help name the area. The committee would consist of 3 commissioners, and 2 public members. The task would involve researching our other parks and names, and how they got their names. The committee would then come up with a list of several names for this new park area that would then come to the City Council. The City Council would narrow the list down to the top 3-5 names. The top names, would be brought to the public for input.

George opened the floor for discussion and volunteers for the Naming Subcommittee.

- ✓ Discussion included conversation about future growth of the property connecting to more existing trails with the help from a possible grant in the future.
- ✓ Naming Subcommittee volunteers: Deb Cutler, George Golombowski, and Evan Noel.
- ✓ It was determined that Shaña will contact the two community members and generate an email and a time that will be good to meet with the Naming Committee for the initial meeting and then the committee can move forward on their own.

❖ Recommendation: Increase to Golf Fees

Chris Jones; Manager of Pinon Hills and Civitan Golf Courses, was invited by Co-Chair George to bring his presentation to the group.

Chris opened by thanking the group for letting him be a part of the meeting. Chris began with visuals on a shared screen with a power point and a video presentation. Pinon Hills Golf Course is rated #4 in an article that posted on golf.com

He reminded the commission that in 2019 there was some conversation about raising the fees at the Golf Courses and it was decided to revisit the conversation in the future. Before continuing on with this topic, Chris had video footage that the Convention and Visitor's Bureau had shot with the capabilities of a drone. The footage was an excellent view and show of the Pinon Hills Golf Course.

Chris continued and shared the power point which started off with some information on the history of the golf course moving onto some information on current purchase of new mowing equipment that was badly needing to be replaced and some immediate needs that still need to be planned for and completed to improve and repair, and replace some items like the irrigation system that is still the original since 1988, and the cart path will need to be done at the same time. Our beautiful golf course needs a lot of TLC. Some of the items have gone before Council, and then COVID hit us, and they were put on hold. \$2.5 to \$3.0 million is the projected cost and some ways of funding that are being looked into by city officials.

Chris went on to share the planned upgrades for 2021, one of which is A/C replacement for the pro-shop and restaurant. Also an enhanced driving range revenue stream, which would provide a credit card pay-at-dispenser option.

The increase in fees is being suggested because we have not raised fees since 2011, and as the research that was done, shows that we are at fees that are way lower than many, many, courses. While we are not wanting to raise our fees too much, it is time to raise them a small percentage to increase our revenue. A 2% inflation factor is being proposed. With small incremental increases over the next 5 years, the Annual Passes that currently cost \$675 a year would be \$823 by 2025 year. Also a proposal will be brought to City Council to increase Daily fees, Cart Rental Fees by just a small amount. Across the board the proposal being brought to Council would cover several fees. The Revenue these proposals would generate would really make a positive impact without costing our patrons much more. Anticipated increase in revenue per year would be approximately \$61,000 per year. Civitan golf course, will also be included in the proposal. There has not been an increase in fees in a very long time. The projected revenue to be generated with the increases would be approximately \$15000.00 a year.

As the presentation was completed there was an invitation to the Commission for comments and questions.

A suggestion was made by a commissioner that after the 5 years increase brings us to be where we need to be that moving forward, there is a 2% increase each year on the pass fees so that we would not have to do this again. If there is some way we could add this to this proposal, this may be very helpful.

Shana commented that this was a great recommendation and that she appreciated the good suggestion.

Comments were made to Chris that this was a great presentation.

A question was asked when this would go into effect. And the response came from Shana that our recommendation would be July 1 at the new fiscal year, although that would be up to Mayor and Council.

Miniature Golf was brought to the discussion and it is still a capitol project, but it is not at the top of the list of the CTed funds project wish list. It was suggested that possibly a portion of the increase of fees at Civitan golf course, be put to that Miniature Golf future project and this idea could possibly be considered.

City Council Representative, Janis Jakino joined the meeting as a public guest and she was invited to share.

Counselor Jakino opened by thanking the Commission for letting her listen in on the meeting. She shared that it is helpful to gain some insight on some topics before they come to the City Councils table. She did have a question for Chris Jones concerning the article on golf.com, and if it had generated any one to visit or give feedback at either one of the Golf Courses.

After some conversation of being a destination place and hosting some larger sports events all around. Janice thanked every one

Thomas made a motion to recommend the fee increase be taken to City Council Evan Noel seconded. After some discussion the motion was amended to also include a cost of living or inflation increase yearly in pass fees after the proposed increase that would carry us til 2025 are fulfilled. As the Golf Course Manager advises. A vote was taken and it was unanimous that the fee increase for Golf Courses go to City Council

DEPARTMENT UPDATE-

Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director

❖ Burg Park

There has been a development at Burg Park after receiving some feedback from very concerned public members. The concern is with the deer population that has made residence in that location. The public is feeding them more and more with apples, and corn and the deer have become much acclimated to the people. Some of the animals are showing some slight aggressive behavior and it is startling the public.

- ✓ Assessment has been done, and it has been determined that we do have a problem, with people hand feeding the deer, etc., and the deer are interacting with the public much too closely.
- ✓ Educational Program will be launched about Recreating in a Wildlife or Nature Park and interacting with the animals.

- ✓ Game and Fish have been engaged with for some feedback and suggestions
- ✓ Signage may be put up
- ✓ We are working hard to get that situation under control, so that no one or no animal gets hurt.

- ❖ Community Development Block Grant Fund projects (CBDG funds)
 - ✓ Indian Center restrooms are complete
 - ✓ Parking lots are complete
 - ✓ Recreation Center Restrooms and locker room updates are in progress

- ❖ Among the Waters Trail Project is coming along nicely.
 Shaña was proud to report current negotiation's with Amanda Garcia and her father to purchase the property that connects the trail that goes underneath Murray to Boyd Park
 Also exploring options with the Thompson's and some of their property

- ❖ Updates from Natalie
 - ✓ Sr. Center updates has been very busy with food delivery services,
 - ✓ 339 seniors were given the 1st COVID vaccine
 - ✓ Farmington Sr. Center has taken on the roll for Northwest Seniors Association.
 - ✓ The other centers that fall under that include Blanco Sr. Center, Lower Valley Sr Center in the Kirtland area, and Aztec and Bloomfield.
 - ✓ These 4 centers vaccinated a total combined of 302 seniors.
 - ✓ 28 days later the 2nd dose will be given.

The Pump track project at Sycamore missed breaking ground starting date, due to a snow storm the new date to start is being rescheduled.

The old PRCA Admin building at Park Operations, has been turned into offices and a training facility for the Park Operations division.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Evan Noel gave many thanks to Shana and team for all the work at the Among the Waters Trail. With acknowledgement and praise of how important and nice it is.

With no further items for discussion or comment from the Commissioners, Co-Chair; George Golombowski asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Ken LaCasse, and seconded Evan Noel. The vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2021

George Golombowski, Co-Chair


Gwen Johnson, PRCA Administrative Aide