

**April 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) Commission of the City of Farmington met in a regular session on Thursday, April 18, 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: Sherry Galloway, Vice Chair; Larry Hilliard; Tyson Snyder; Thomas Hawkins; Kent Mobley

Members Absent: Leslie Thompson, Chair; Patricia Baca; Benjamin Mortensen;

PRCA Staff Present: Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director; Natalie Spruell, Assistant PRCA Director; Ryan Niehaus Asst. Aquatics Director; Myra Newman, Farmington Indian Center Director; Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide; Gwen Johnson, PRCA Administrative Aide

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ✚ Mr. Mobley moved to approve the February 21, 2019 minutes as submitted. Mr. Hawkins seconded, motion was approved unanimously.

**FEE STRUCTURES**

**FARMINGTON INDIAN CENTER** - Ms. Newman explained that the restaurant at the Farmington Indian Center serves breakfast and lunch Tuesday-Friday. She further explained there has been no price increase to the menu items since 2012. She presented a handout comparing costs of other local restaurants also serving traditional Navajo cuisine. Ms. Newman asked that the members approve the nominal price increase in order to get City Council approval.

- ✚ After brief discussion Mr. Snyder moved to approve the proposed price increases, Mr. Hilliard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AQUATICS** - Ms. Reeves introduced Ryan Niehaus, Asst. Aquatics Manager. She explained the department is looking to streamline the entire Aquatics Division to gain better consistency with admission fees, to adjust prices for increased staffing and operational costs, and to give customers the freedom to use passes at various aquatic facilities. Mr. Niehaus presented a detailed pricing proposal for Bisti Bay Waterpark (BBWP), Farmington Aquatic Center (FAC), and Lion's Pool.

**BISTI BAY WATER PARK** - Two options were given for BBWP both showing the same hours of operation; 10:00-11:30 for lap swimming; 11:30-6:00pm for public swimming, and 6:30-8:30 for private rentals. Option 1 and 2 both propose \$2.50 for lap swimming; public swim is proposed at \$6 in Option 1 while Option 2 suggests \$7 for 10 yrs. plus and \$5 ages 3-9. The benefit to Option 1 is not having to ask how old the person is which in turn moves customers through the line more quickly. Revenue forecast is based on 100 days of full occupancy from June-August for lap swimming and public swimming.

Ms. Galloway asked how far off budget BBWP is. Ms. Reeves answered she would be able to report back with a more accurate number after the strategic planning on May 7.

Discussion continued regarding sessions, party rentals, sponsorships, food trucks, and possible push back from lap swimmers.

- ✚ Mr. Snyder moved to approve the proposed hours of operation and admission fees from Bisti Bay Water Park Option 1, Mr. Hawkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AQUATIC DIVISION PRICING** - Mr. Niehaus further explained the proposed admission fee increases at Lion's Pool and FAC. Discussion continued among members and staff. Ms. Reeves asked for a recommendation of approval to City Council in support of the Aquatic Division pricing. She added that she would like to implement the pricing at facilities by July 1.

- ✚ Mr. Mobley moved to approve the proposed Aquatic Division pricing. Mr. Hilliard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION**

- After review, Mr. Snyder moved to approve the Open Meetings Resolution, Mr. Hilliard seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

## **GOLD STAR MONUMENT**

Ms. Reeves explained that Gary Smouse, owner of Chick-Fil-A, contacted Mr. Reeves asking if the City of Farmington would partner with the Medal of Honor Foundation to bring a Gold Star Memorial Monument to this community. Mr. Smouse explained that Hershel "Woody" Williams has dedicated his life to honoring Gold Star families by speaking and erecting memorial monuments in communities all over the country. The foundation would like to donate a monument to the city and bring Mr. Williams to Farmington June 26-27 to speak and kick off the project with a ribbon cutting on site.

Ms. Reeves stated essentially the City would be donating land at Berg Park adjacent to All Vet's Memorial for the location of the monument; the Parks Department would maintain the area thereafter. The City would also provide the venue (Civic Center) for the speaking engagement and a VIP donor dinner. The foundation would be responsible for marketing the entire visit.

Ms. Reeves stated this would be a good fit for Farmington and Berg Park. It would be a destination site for Farmington and the first Gold Star Memorial in New Mexico.

Ms. Reeves asked the members to consider recommending to city council to approve moving forward with the project.

- After a brief discussion and viewing the hwwmohf.org website, all members agreed the project would be an excellent representation in the community. Mr. Mobley moved to recommend to City Council to accept the Gold Star Memorial project; Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion carried.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Ms. Reeves reported on the state of the Department.

**Project Updates** – Main Street Complete Streets is at a standstill focused around the drainage. Aerial Adventures feasibility study is being published, Mr. Styron will present the update at a future meeting.

**Department Updates** - Accreditation has been submitted. CAPRA visit is tentatively scheduled for June 24-28.

Lake Farmington shade structure installation is delayed because of an unexpected retaining wall that needs to be installed. Mr. Styron, ORII Director has secured additional funding for the installation.

Civic Center issues arise surrounding irrigation and landscaping. Various options are being considered for solutions to drainage for the detention pond on the north side of the building.

A Strategic planning session will be held on May 7 with the Mayor and City Council to discuss the future of the CTED fund (.25% of \$4M). City Manager and staff will propose bonding ½ of the amount in 5 year bonds to generate roughly \$10-15M for use toward needed projects. The City Manager is challenged with the delicate balance of meeting City Council's expectations of providing community transformation and economic development with the reality of actualized revenue.

The COF budget has reached a crisis level and the City Manager has executed a limited hiring freeze. The volatile budget season has resulted in city wide attritions and as a result FY20 will start out with a large deficit. The department has lost four significant positions to attrition; two at the Museum, one at the Animal Shelter, and two at Park Ops that will have substantial effects. Ms. Reeves warns there are major departmental infrastructure upkeep; facility tours will begin for commission members to see their current condition. The public will have to choose; moving forward with new amenities will mean closing down older, dilapidated facilities.

## **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

Mr. Hilliard asked about the state of the Rod Run. Ms. Reeves responded that even though relationships are slowly being restored with Northwest New Mexico Rodrunners, the group is unwilling to participate this year. The event will move forward July 20 or 21 with shortened hours (4-6pm).


Ms. Reeves responded to Mr. Snyder's inquiry regarding the Facebook post of the Colinas Del Norte playground repair. A piece of equipment was decommissioned in January and blocked off with plywood and


bailing wire. Ms. Reeves communicated with the woman who posted the complaint and assured her it would be addressed. Future decommissioned pieces will be blocked in a manner that is safe.

Mr. Mobley asked if the synthetic turf study will be delayed. Ms. Reeves reported that it is a CTED project and still on the table. He also asked if facility closures are necessary, would the commission be responsible for recommending it to City Council. Ms. Reeves answered that if the budget crisis becomes imminent City Council will make that decision before it ever reaches the commission. If, for example, Lion's Pool needs to be closed before the budget reaches that level, then members would need to make the difficult recommendation for closure.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

  
~~Sherry Galloway, Vice Chair~~  
Leslie Thompson, Chair

  
Linda Harris, PRCA Administrative Aide

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