

**JUNE 17, 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, June 17 2021, at 6:15 p.m. at the Executive Conference Room, 800 Municipal Dr. Farmington, NM 87401

Members Present Leslie Thompson, Chair; George Golombowski, Co -Chair; Evan Noel, Richard Griffiths, Carla Stimac, Thomas Hawkins, and Ken LaCasse

Members Absent: Larry Hilliard, Patricia Baca, and Tyson Snyder, Deb Cutler.

Also present were: Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director; Natalie Spruell, Assistant PRCA Director; Gwen Johnson; PRCA Administrative Aide and Guest Karen Lupton

OPENING OF MEETING:

Leslie Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. Roll was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leslie Thompson asked if all had a chance to review the minutes and should any changes be made. All agreed the minutes were good. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Thomas. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS-

Shaña introduced Karen Lupton to bring a request for support of a Naming Request: In or honor of Dr. Lehmer.

Karen has been involved in our community and worked for the Civic Center in the past. Karen has also served on the River Reach Foundation.

As this commission is an advisory board to Mayor and Council, the commission is involved in supporting or not supporting items that are brought to us at times. This naming request will move forward to the Mayor and Council for the approval and decision to move forward. .

The naming request that Karen is asking for support on is naming a spot or location honoring Dr. Lehmer. The River Reach Foundation was established in 1986, and Dr. Lehmer has been instrumental and involved with this Foundation at the beginning and still even now. The River Reach Foundation has established hundreds of acres of land dedicated as protected, and enhanced. This Foundation has played a huge part in our community, and our City Parks and Recreation areas. Dr. Lehmer sat on the PRCA Commission, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, and the SJR Hospital board just to name a few. Karen shared from her heart that Dr. Lehmer is very deserving of recognition. Even now as he is in his 80's he is very involved in the River Reach, and other community outreach. His passion for our waterways, parks, and community continues.

Shana shared to the Commission that we do have a Naming policy in place. The location that is being suggested to be named for Dr Lehmer, is along the Among the Waters Trail expansion. There is a lookout point on the third leg of the trail, it almost looks like a little

pocket park and it overlooks the bluffs by the US 64 bridge. The thought is to have a shade structure there and have a plaque located there naming the spot as "Lehmer's Lookout", or "Lehmer's Point."

All the Commissioners were in favor of naming a spot along a trail in honor of Dr. Lehmer.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE-

The first update that Shaña, PRCA Director, shared with the Commission is that, The Naming Committee that was appointed to develop a name for the Foothills recreation property, presented the name suggestions to council. The Council was very pleased with the list of names that had been thought out. The Council narrowed the suggestions down to three that will be sent out for public review and comment.

There is a meeting taking place, this Saturday June 19, at 9 a.m., where Julie Baird, the Assistant City Manager along with Shaña will meet with neighbors. It is intended as a time to share with the neighbors that live the closest to the donated land in that Foothills area to hear the vision and ask questions or share input and concerns. This is not intended as public. The group of neighbors that live or own property were sent letters and invited. The planning and development of this land will be for non-motorized recreational activities. A member of the public took a picture of the letter and posted it on social media. Many calls have come in, and the meeting may now have more attendees than what was originally planned for. There will be other community input sessions planned in the future. We are aware there are some concerns as the talk gets out and Shaña gave direction to the Commission on how to best answer any public concerns or questions:

"One caveat of receiving the donated acres is that it would be developed for hikers, mountain bikers, education all non-motorized recreational activities.

We have a Grant through the National Mountain Bike Association to move forward with a masterplan of future development. We do not have the funds yet to develop it. We are just in the beginning stages. We are in the very early stages. The purpose of the meeting Saturday is to find out opportunities and challenges. This is the first of many meetings."

Pickleball was discussed also at the recent Council Meeting. It was attended well.

Brookside is still rendered useless at this point and those courts are still in litigation, from the damage that was done during a refinishing project that was contracted out. There were some recommendations discussed the double striping the courts is not really an ideal solution. Double striping courts cause confusion and cutting into peak times of playing times for both sports.

What is recommended is that we rebuild Brookside courts. , Examples were given of asphalt with liners and topcoats for Brookside, Lions, Cooper, and Mossman-Gladden would be around \$360,000. The estimated amount for concrete post-tension courts would be about \$520,000. We were directed by council to get a quote to upgrade and rebuild Brookside as a Pickle Ball only courts, or double stripe four of the least used tennis courts at the Sports complex, and also double striping Mossman- Gladden courts.

Going with this plan will cost about \$10,000 and that has been approved by Mayor and Council and we will be proceeding with that as soon as possible. The Mossman- Gladden was not a favorite location by the avid Pickle ball players, but this would be a great spot for families and novice players that are just wanting to recreate and not playing for competition. We will also be having the quote updated for the rebuild of Brookside for Pickleball only courts.

- ❖ Bisti Bay: A very popular place. We are open under turquoise level, at 75%. The staff is handling everything well and we are all excited that it is open.
- ❖ Civic Center: A production of Mama Mia! Will be performed in July, and then the Do Wha Riders, and some other shows are also coming. We are planning for and looking forward to some outdoor theater and shows.
The fountain at the Civic Center is being prepared to be running and permitted, as a water fountain to be used safely if people accidentally get wet in it. It was not intended for those purposes but direction has been given to take those steps.
- ❖ Regional Animal Shelter: Doing very well we continue to have a live release rate of %98. We have still not determined when we will stop doing adoptions by appointment, because of being short staffed. We do not want to jeopardize the safety of our staff or our animals. The appointment process has also proved itself to be a positive alternative to the walk in process. The animal are calmer, and not as anxious. The patrons have a better one on one interaction with staff and pets and it is not causing any negative concerns from the patrons. Possibly in the future there can be discussion of keeping this process as a more permanent change. It has also helped with our owner surrenders. The pets are becoming re-homed by the owner when it is not as easy just to drop the animals off.
There was suggestion made by a couple of Commissioners that a comment card be offered to the public as they leave there appointment. They could share their experience and also do they like the appointment method.
- ❖ Golf Course: Continued improvements are happening. The shade sails should be going up soon for the patio covering, the cart path has been repaired and patched to help make them easier for travel, and the air conditioners were replaced at the Grill on the Hill. The irrigation and design revision is going well we will be getting a draft of that.
We had a group of 70 men that visited and golfed Pinon Hills. It is a group that picks a different course each year, and Pinon Hills was their pick of this year. It all went well, there were special events for them with a local brewery and Clancy's involved and all turned out to be an incredible time for them.
- ❖ Lake Farmington: The not so good news is that we are continually challenged as we are short on staff and the Lake area is being used a lot.

The trash, weeds and restrooms are some of the major challenges to name a few. We have doubled the number of porta-lets and we are in hopes this will help some.

We did have a job fair and we did gain 7 seasonal employees right away. We continue to advertise and recruit.

Highlights from Natalie, the Assistant Director of PRCA:

Updated information on our Park Play Days, Christa Chapman has planned and organized these and has done a great job! The first of 3 Park Play Days is this Saturday, June 19 at Kiwanis Park, from Noon to 2pm. Games will be available for the public to play with. Goodie bags, a visit by members of the Police and Fire Departments and Vendors will be on scene with refreshments of sale, Kwick Radio will bring music, and live remote, and our Outdoor Pledge will be promoted.

Brookside Park at July 3rd and at Sycamore Park, July 31st will be the other 2 Saturdays they will be offered.

We have 29 interns through the State Education program that will be joining us to help with several of our divisions. The Golf Course, will have 8, Park Operations, Recreation Center, and the Animal Shelter and whoever else is needing extra hands and 2 will help paint at Sandstone. They will help us for 5 weeks, 16 hours a week, and this is no cost to us. The State program pays for them to gain the experience.

- ❖ Recreation Center: New stucco and painting is done, and the center portion of the roof is being worked on
- ❖ Exciting News: The Grant that we got to upgrade our internal master plan and for the construction documents of the projected All Abilities Park will be discussed at a kick off meeting on the June 24th, concerning how the \$500,000 grant money that was awarded to PRCA will put used in those projects. The Tibbetts property is still being worked out.
- ❖ Connie Mack is coming together, with more and more of the details being wrapped up to have a successful World Series this year.
- ❖ Sr. Center started in house dining again which has been gaining momentum in numbers.

Shana closed with praise to the PRCA Team.

“The PRCA Divisions are dealing with unprecedented situations even still, with the loss of staff and shortness of staff and a lot of turn over, in this past year. Our team is adapting with great courage, dedication, and extraordinary measures, facing new challenges each day. They continue to rise up and train new staff and get the job done with less staff.”

Shaña Reeves

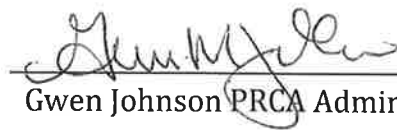
ADJOURNMENT

With no further items for discussion Leslie Thompson, Chair; called for the adjournment and the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George Golombowski and seconded by Ken LaCasse. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Next meeting will July 15, 2021



Leslie Thompson, Chair



Gwen Johnson PRCA Administrative Aide