

COUNTY OF CURRY)
CITY OF CLOVIS) ss.

The Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 21, 2022 in the North Annex, Clovis-Carver Library, 701 N. Main in full conformity with the laws of the State of New Mexico and the ordinances and resolutions of said city with the following members present:

Commissioner Gary Elliott, District 2
Commissioner James Burns, District 1
Commissioner Megan Palla District 4
Commissioner Fidel Madrid, Chairman, District 3
Joyce Gates, County resident
Jamaal Williams, District 2
Gilbert Salguero, District 3
Lisa Pellegrino-Spear, District 1
Clyde Davis, Organization utilizing parks
Thomas Martin, District 4

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT:

Russell Hooper, Parks & Recreation Director
Lonnie Baca, Clovis Municipal Schools

ALSO PRESENT:

Claire Burroughes, Assistant City Manager
Vicki Reyes, Assistant City Clerk
Tauree Curry, Recreation Administrator
Ben Salazar, Field Representative, Teresa Leger-Fernandez
Representative Martin Zamora
Members of the public

Commissioner Madrid called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and established the presence of a quorum.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Approval of minutes of February 28, 2022

Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022 as presented; Commissioner Palla seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Discussion regarding ADA accessible playground at city parks

Mr. Ben Salazar advised every child should be able to live a life like every other child. He advocated for the board to seek funds for ADA accessible swings. He recommended the permanent swings be installed at least at Greene Acres Park and Hillcrest Park for now. Commissioner Elliott asked for an explanation on the swing set. Mr. Salazar advised it was a platform swing with a ramp that has a gate that locks so that they can swing in their wheelchair.

Ms. Pellegrino-Spear advised Commissioner Madrid has recently brought this up. They just finished Dennis Chavez Park due to capital outlay. She asked if the funding for the remaining two parks could be used to get wheelchair access at those parks. Mr. Hooper advised there was \$75,000 allocated for Dennis Chavez Park and the city put in the remainder of the funding to construct the playground. There are three playgrounds coming up for repair at Rierson Park, Potter Park and Greene Acres Park with the \$375,000 capital outlay. They would like to make destination parks that they could have ADA accessible swings. Ms. Pellegrino-Spear advised they could also look at the outdoor recreation grants.

Ms. Burroughes advised the city had applied for Economic Development recreational grants. The Commission voted to move forward with a Recreational Trails+ grant. A component of that is for master planning at Ned Houk Park and the implementation is to build ADA accessible fishing at Ned Houk Park.

Mr. Salazar advised he is a field representative for Representative Teresa Leger-Fernandez and he would like to ask their grant researcher to look into grants for them as well.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Updates on parks projects

Introduction of Tauree Curry, Recreation Administrator

Mr. Hooper advised the playground at Dennis Chavez Park was completed. They have been prepping for the spring and de-winterizing the parks. He introduced Tauree Curry, Recreation Administrator. He has been with the city for a week and comes from Houston. Mr. Curry advised it has been an adjustment with it being a smaller town, but he was happy to be here. He has a bachelor's degree in Human Performance and Recreation and has worked for the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA and the City of Houston. He has 8 years of experience in parks and recreation and is looking forward to getting programs started here. Ms. Burroughes advised the Summer Youth Program will start in June and Mr. Curry has a lot of experience with programs like this.

Mr. Hooper advised they have the sporting clay targets set up at the shooting range. They are finishing up the smaller details, but they don't have a set date yet for an opening.

Commissioner Palla asked if Potter Pool and the Splash Pad were on schedule to open. Mr. Hooper advised they were going to host a lifeguard job fair and will do some power washing and cleaning up at Potter Park Pool. He was working with a pool contractor from Albuquerque for resurfacing the Potter Pool, but he is no longer with the company. He has received bids, but does not think that could be done by Labor Day so he is waiting on a second bid that he can bring to this committee for review.

Commissioner Burns asked about the additional openings for razors at Ned Houk Park. Mr. Hooper advised he dropped the ball on this, but he will look into it.

Commissioner Elliott asked if all the equipment for the shooting range was in and when the certification would happen. Mr. Hooper advised the certification would be up to the group who are managing the facility to handle.

Mr. Baca advised the schools are going to re-invent summer school with 600-1000 children, K-8th grade. They will offer a PE element where the coaches will be involved, a STEM program, an Arts Program and a Leadership Program. This will be a 5-week program starting in June and 2 weeks in July. They are working on hiring a Program Coordinator and teachers for each program. They will meet with the city manager and mayor once they have a solid plan in place.

Representative Zamora advised he toured city parks (Rierson, Brady, Dennis Chavez) with Ms. Burroughes and Commissioner Madrid to look at a few issues. He advised he wants to be involved in the city as a resident, but doesn't want to micromanage. He wanted to know what he could do to help. Ms. Burroughes advised last year the Parks Board had a conversation about bathrooms at city facilities and decided to keep the bathrooms open. They have to be winterized so one thing they discussed today was how they could provide facilities in the winter. Commissioner Palla asked what they could do to rectify this. Mr. Martin asked if they could reach out to other cities to see what they have done to make this happen. Mr. Hooper advised he could reach out.

Ms. Burroughes advised Dallas uses the porta-toilets and they fence them off so they could look into this as well. They will reach out to other communities. Commissioner Madrid advised the city has a lot of parks and a lot of other communities do not. Commissioner Palla advised they do need to look into this because having the bathrooms unlocked 5 months out of the year isn't something they want to do.

Representative Zamora advised he brought this up to Mayor Morris, Mr. Howalt and Ms. Burroughes because he has witnessed this problem. He has taken his grandkids to the softball fields and the bathrooms are locked. They can do better in the city and it will help promote the city.

Mr. Williams thanked Representative Zamora, Mr. Salazar and city staff for getting lights at Potter Park.

Ms. Pellegrino-Spear asked if they finalized a contract with the race track at Ned Houk. She also asked about the concerns with the golf course that were brought up at the last City Commission meeting. Ms. Burroughes advised the Commission are going to tour the golf course next week. Mr. Hooper advised Mr. Howalt and Attorney Morris are working on the agreements Ned Houk Motorsports.

Commissioner Burns introduced George Markarian who wanted to speak with someone about planting trees. Mr. Markarian advised he is an airman at CAFB and hopes to come back as a rep for the base. The biggest thing that a lot of people wish they had was more greenery. This program is still in its infancy so he doesn't have a lot of information at this time. They would like to get colleges to support them with the logistics of how to properly plant trees, the base to help with manpower and get the city behind them. Commissioner Elliott advised they need to get trees that are drought tolerant. Mr. Markarian advised they would definitely consider that when looking for trees to plant.

Agenda Item No. 6 – For the good of the order

Ms. Burroughes advised Arbor Day is April 30th, but they will plant trees on April 29th with the location TBD. The Great American Cleanup will be May 7th at 500 Sycamore. The Community Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16th at Guy Leeder Softball Complex.

Ms. Burroughes introduced Ms. Ruthann Kelly who is writing the grant application for pickleball/tennis. They met this morning regarding the NM Clean and Beautiful Grant to help with the cleanups.

The committee thanked Commissioner Madrid and Commissioner Elliott for their service as this will be their last meeting.

Commissioner Madrid advised the next meeting would be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 18th.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.