

COUNTY OF CURRY              )  
CITY OF CLOVIS              )        ss.

The Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 16, 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 Lauren Rowley (for Commissioner Porter),  
District 2  
Commissioner Helen Casaus, Vice Chairperson, District 3  
Commissioner Megan Palla, Chairperson, District 4  
Philip Fazee, County resident  
Jamaal Williams, District 2  
Sabra Smith, District 1  
Clyde Davis, Organization utilizing parks  
Thomas Martin, District 4

ABSENT:  
Commissioner George Jones, District 1  
Gilbert Salguero, District 3

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT:  
Russell Hooper, Parks & Recreation Director  
Justin Howalt, City Manager  
Lonnie Baca, Clovis Municipal Schools

ALSO PRESENT:  
Claire Burroughes, Assistant City Manager  
Vicki Reyes, Assistant City Clerk  
Tauree Curry, Recreation Administrator  
Damian Lechner, Zoo Director  
Members of the public

Commissioner Palla called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and established the presence of a quorum.

#### **Agenda Item No. 3 – Election of chairperson and vice-chairperson**

Ms. Burroughes advised former Commissioner Madrid and former Commissioner Elliott were the chairperson and vice-chairperson. The committee will need to appoint two members for these positions. Commissioner Casaus made a motion to nominate Commissioner Palla as chairperson; Commissioner Rowley seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation

Commissioner Rowley made a motion to nominate Commissioner Casaus as vice-chairperson; Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation

#### **Agenda Item No. 4 – Approval of minutes of March 31, 2022**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2022; Commissioner Palla seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Discussion and recommendation regarding Guy Leeder field lights**

Mr. Hooper advised they were approached by Roger Jackson regarding replacing lighting at Guy Leeder softball fields with LED lights. They want to use the user fees for this project. They are trying to find out what the user fees would be estimated at and how many lights they were looking to buy. Commissioner Casaus asked if they have ever paid user fees back to the city. Mr. Hooper advised they have made improvements every year or every other year and that covered the costs. Mr. Howalt advised the lights that are there are functional so the city would be giving up user fees to replace a piece of equipment that is currently functional. Until they have all the details that is something they would need to consider.

Commissioner Casaus advised she had never heard of user fees being paid back to the city and they need to accumulate some money back from the use of the fields. Mr. Hooper advised that is something they have started to look at and will need to discuss during Revenue Review.

Mr. Williams asked how often they're supposed to pay user fees. Mr. Hooper advised they are user fees per season. The tournament fees were not approved two years ago, but he will ask for that again. Mr. Howalt advised they would look into user fees per team or per player during the Revenue Review recommendations. Mr. Hooper advised they are looking at all of their options.

Mr. Howalt advised this item and the next are only discussion items.

**Agenda Item No. 6 – Discussion and recommendation regarding parks restructuring**

Mr. Hooper advised they are trying to create tiers for the employees instead of having, for example, 7 zoo keepers or 13 parks maintenance specialists. They want to create positions such as zookeeper and senior zookeeper and so on. Aquatics is under park maintenance and it's not a good fit. He would like to move that to recreation and turn it over to Mr. Curry. Commissioner Palla advised this was a wonderful idea and gave people an opportunity to move up. Mr. Hooper advised all of the raises are based on time, not on performance and he would like to change some of that. Commissioner Palla asked if the wages would adjust as someone moves up. Mr. Hooper advised that was something they would like to do. Commissioner Casaus advised it was good for employee morale.

**Agenda Item No. 7 – Discussion and action regarding AYSO**

Commissioner Palla advised they had a conversation with AYSO in December. Mr. Hooper advised they were supposed to respond by May 1 and he has not heard from them. He spoke with Pat Snyder who said they were working on it and hoped to have something by the fall. Commissioner Palla advised she thought they had to have a plan and a board in place by May 1 to be ready for the fall. She would hate to see that field sit empty if someone else could use it for another sport. Mr. Howalt advised the space in the summer doesn't get used because soccer is a spring and fall sport. Some other sports have reached out but they are in the fall season as well.

Mr. Howalt asked if they wanted to continue to work with AYSO or are they going to look for other potential programming.

Commissioner Casaus advised Jim Hill football is very big and there are always teams there. Commissioner Palla advised they have given AYSO a chance, but could they put something out to see if any other organizations are interested. Mr. Howalt advised they were approached from Upward regarding flag football but the city is not advertising open space. They can discuss this with Mr. Curry since he's the new recreation coordinator. Until they know how they want to move forward they can't advertise that.

Mr. Williams asked if the master plan stated that it was the intent to move AYSO. Mr. Howalt advised the intent was to have the southern part as soccer fields and the potential to build softball or football fields. They have been looking at the location of the sand volleyball area and that is something that could be repurposed in this area.

Mr. Martin asked when the last time AYSO had a season. Commissioner Casaus advised pre covid. Mr. Martin asked if CYSA was active. Mr. Howalt advised they were. Mr. Martin advised he was never a big fan of having two leagues and they should look at another organization utilizing the space.

Commissioner Palla advised they would extend the contract to June.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8 – Updates on parks projects**

Mr. Hooper introduced Mr. Damian Lechner, Zoo Director, who has come from the LA Zoo.

##### **a. Great American Cleanup**

Ms. Reyes advised they had the Great American Cleanup last Saturday. There were 206 volunteers and they collected 238 bags of trash. The landfill received 71 tires and 78.15 tons of trash. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team was the 27<sup>th</sup> SOLRS/27<sup>th</sup> SOMXS who had 15 volunteers and picked up 56 bags of trash on MLK from Grand to Llano Estacado. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place team was from Walmart who had 9 volunteers and picked up 48 bags of trash on Llano Estacado from MLK to Prince Street. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place team was the ALS from Cannon who had 47 volunteers and picked up 45 bags of trash on US 60/84 from Norris to Sugarbeet. She advised they had donuts from Daylight Donuts and Der Wienerschnitzel donated hot dogs for lunch. Mr. Hooper thanked the city employees that assisted. Ms. Burroughes thanked Commissioner Rowley, Commissioner Casaus and Mayor Pro Tem Bryant for coming out.

##### **b. Potter Pool resurfacing**

Mr. Hooper advised they found a local company to do the resurfacing and they are working on it now. It should be open in time for Memorial Day. The final cost was \$86,000.

##### **c. Summer Youth Program**

Mr. Curry advised they were originally going to have 25 kids and are now expecting at least 100 kids for the Summer Youth Program. Parents have asked if they plan to do this every year. The program coordinator will start next week. Commissioner Casuas asked if they would take donations from organizations. Ms. Burroughes advised La Casa was going to provide breakfast and lunch. Albertsons will provide snacks, but they would gladly receive donations.

d. Hillcrest Park restrooms

Mr. Hooper advised they hope to put in stainless steel which is more durable. This is an ongoing battle. Commissioner Palla asked when they were open during the summer. Mr. Hooper advised 24 hours a day. He spoke with an electrical contractor about putting in lighting to decrease some of their vulnerability.

f. Playground updates

Mr. Hooper has been touring the parks with Justin and Claire. They are looking at how to maximize the grant money they are going to receive. They have looked at inclusive swings. Mr. Howalt advised they have three different sets of swing sets at Hillcrest Park and three playgrounds at Potter Park. They are asking if they need all of these. A lot of the equipment isn't in bad shape so they're discussing just doing surfacing at some of the parks. Commissioner Palla asked if all the swing sets had swings. Mr. Hooper advised they don't. They put up swings and they get taken.

Commissioner Casaus asked if they were still looking at the handicap swings. Mr. Hooper advised they are looking into it and making sure they pick the right location as well.

Commissioner Palla asked about the pickleball grants. Ms. Burroughes advised she has been working with a gentleman from Cannon regarding pickleball. He sent a quote from a company in Amarillo to redo the courts at Greene Acres and put in four courts and restripe for basketball. They are working on the grant and should have it sent out next week.

**Agenda Item No.9 – For the good of the order**

Mr. Howalt advised they received the Recreation Trails Grant, which was through the NMDOT. They applied to develop a trail system from Bob Spencer Park to Greene Acres Park, utilize wayfinding signage to bring them to Main Street and interconnect Main Street to Hillcrest Park. They are trying to create connectivity between the parks systems.

Commissioner Palla advised their next meeting would be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Janella Bocanegra advised she was there to speak about the condition of Harris Baseball Field, located on MLK across from the hospital. She read a list of 12 different concerns for the field. She reached out to Mr. Hooper and her main concern was the water spicket and lack of water on the field. She learned that an agreement/contract is not in place between the city and the schools. She received an update from Mayor Pro Tem Bryant that an agreement was in the

process between the city and schools, but hasn't been finalized. The other concern was the netting on the field. She asked to have the people involved in implementing the agreement to make sure the right people are involved in the process. She doesn't want this to be a money issue and as long as they come to an agreement this could be a win-win for everyone. Mr. Howalt advised they are working on this with the schools. Not only for this field, but all of the facilities that the schools utilize. The city would be responsible for maintaining all of the grass and the schools would have the capability based off a per season usage on a fee. They have submitted a draft of the agreement to the schools

**Agenda Item No. 10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.