

COUNTY OF CURRY            )  
CITY OF CLOVIS            )        ss.

The Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 27, 2023, in the North Annex, Clovis-Carver Library, 701 N. Main Street, 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 Megan Palla, Chairperson, District 4  
Commissioner Helen Casaus, Vice Chairperson, District 3  
Commissioner George Jones, District 1  
Commissioner Gene Porter, District 2  
Sabra Smith, District 1  
Jamaal Williams, District 2  
Gilbert Salguero, District 3  
Philip Frazee, County Resident  
Bob Aucutt, Member organization utilizing parks

ABSENT:                                Thomas Martin, District 4

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT:                Russell Hooper, Parks & Recreation Director  
Justin Howalt, City Manager

EX-OFFICIO ABSENT:                 Lonnie Baca, Clovis Municipal Schools

ALSO PRESENT:                        Claire Burroughes, Assistant City Manager  
Vicki Reyes, Assistant City Clerk  
Members of the public

Commissioner Palla called the meeting to order and established the presence of a quorum.

**Agenda Item No. 3 – Approval of minutes of February 21, 2023**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023; Commissioner Casaus seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

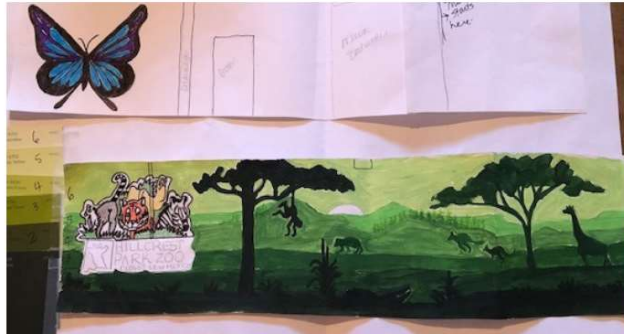
**Agenda Item No. 4 - Discussion and recommendation regarding mural design at the zoo**

Mr. Lechner advised they have worked hard to bring in more patrons and the one thing they are lacking is external appeal. They are bringing in a lot of people from Lubbock and Amarillo. They considered construction projects to change the front but the price kept going up so they decided on beautification instead. They have two candidates that would like to participate by painting a mural and funds are available for either of the candidates.

The first is a local artist and is established within the community. Her vision is a safari theme. This candidate has countless murals throughout the city. It would take one week to complete this mural.

## MURAL PROJECT

Candidate 1: Rendering



The second candidate would be a Welcome to Clovis Hillcrest Park Zoo. He grew up in Clovis and visits monthly. He has done murals across quite a few towns in New Mexico. His design could be put on post cards and t-shirts. The left hand side would be a mural of the animals that are currently in the zoo.

## MURAL PROJECT

Candidate 2: Examples of Previous Work



They are bringing in more people that coming to spend the day in Clovis. The zoo is more of a travel destination which is a change.

Mr. Frazee asked what the difference was in cost. Mr. Howalt advised for art they don't have to get bids and go with the low bidder. They have enough in the budget for either of these.

Commissioner Casaus advised she was all for shopping local. She asked if the first candidate could do something similar to the second candidates design. Mr. Lechner advised either way it will be a huge improvement and they plan to have more murals around the zoo. Commissioner Palla advised she likes having Instagram worthy art with the words Hillcrest Park Zoo.

Commissioner Porter advised he loves to shop local but this needs to be something exciting. It's exciting to see how vivid the second candidates artwork is. Commissioner Palla agreed. Ms. Smith asked if they would be able to use the artwork from candidate two on merchandise. Mr. Lechner advised other communities did use the artwork he did for them to make tshirts, postcards and magnets.

Commissioner Jones agreed with Commissioner Porter. He made a motion to move forward with mural project #2; Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Discussion and recommendation regarding purchasing recreation programming software**

Mr. Hooper advised they narrowed it down to two companies and both are around \$7,000 a year for programming. One is web based and one is server based, one is all inclusive and one will have additional fees, one will take 4 weeks to get running and one will take 6 months. They can have programming online to sign up for activities, can add money to a membership, and can allow signup for classes. With Rec Desk, if they decided not to use the program there is no penalty for cancellation.

Mr. Aucutt asked if this was the program that he spoke about last time. Mr. Hooper advised this was only for recreational programming. Commissioner Jones advised he liked this idea because this was a significant force multiplier.

Commissioner Palla asked if this was a continual fee. Mr. Hooper advised it was.

Commissioner Porter asked if this was web based. Mr. Hooper advised it was and all inclusive. He advised there was a small credit card fee for any sign ups.

Mr. Williams asked if they checked into the Blue Sombrero Program. Mr. Hooper advised they did but it didn't seem to work for what they needed and the cost was more. Mr. Williams asked who would build the programming. Mr. Hooper advised it would all be internal. Mr. Williams advised he recommended the program Blue Sombrero Program and it is a \$3 user fee. It would be cheaper to use a different program. Mr. Howalt advised this would come out of the IT budget and not the parks budget.

Commissioner Porter asked if there was a cost analysis. Mr. Hooper advised they didn't know what the memberships would be. He advised regarding the Blue Sombrero Program, it would charge people that sign up for the program.

Commissioner Casaus advised people are already not happy with the \$5 fee so a \$3 fee wouldn't help matters any. She made a motion to move forward with Mr. Hooper's recommendation; Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Commissioner Palla asked if this program would allow citizens to scan into a facility. Mr. Hooper advised they would buy scanners on Amazon to allow this. The motion passed by acclamation with the exception of Mr. Williams who voted against.

**Agenda Item No. 6 – Discussion and recommendation regarding allowing RV's at the Clovis Winged Shooting & Archery Complex**

Mr. Hooper advised there was an ATA event in mid April with 50-60 shooters and they have had 5-10 people contact them about camping for the event with RV's. They would like to park them in the parking lot, first come, first serve. As they grow, they may have to make changes. He would like to charge \$10 for dry camping. They are still confirming with NM Game & Fish that there is no conflict. Mr. Howalt advised the liability agreement has been approved by the city attorney.

Mr. Frazee advised he cooks everything outside and they have "no open flames or grilling shall be used outside recreational vehicles". He suggested allowing cook stoves. Mr. Hooper advised the intent was to not allow camp fires. Mr. Frazee advised it states "Alcohol is prohibited on all city property". He asked if recreational drugs could be added.

Commissioner Porter asked if the \$10 fee was comparable to other shooting ranges. Mr. Hooper advised he didn't find any other dry camping situations. Commissioner Porter suggested charging a \$15 fee. Mr. Frazee advised \$10 for dry camping is sufficient. He can pay \$18 at Ute Lake and get a pavilion, water and electric. Mr. Aucutt agreed that \$15 was sufficient. Mr. Howalt advised they can go back and make modifications if they see that the price isn't working.

Commissioner Casaus made a motion to change the fee to \$15, allow propane for grilling and add no recreational drugs allowed; Ms. Smith seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item No. 7 – Discussion and recommendation regarding lifeguard classes and swim lesson fees**

Ms. Pieratt would like to offer lifeguard classes and swim lessons. They would like to charge \$250 for lifeguard classes. Fees will be waived for new employees as long as they stay with the city for 6 months. Swim lessons would be \$80 per class. Commissioner Palla asked if a high school student would have to pay the \$250 and then apply to work for the city. Mr. Hooper advised they could be hired as a casual lifeguard or a summer lifeguard. Commissioner Palla advised they need to be sure to advertise that.

Mr. Howalt advised they have created a casual position so they can hire as many lifeguards as they want and then they just have to schedule them. Commissioner Palla asked what the minimum age was to work for the city. Mr. Hooper advised 16.

Commissioner Casaus asked if the fees would go back to parks. Mr. Howalt advised it would go into the parks budget. Commissioner Jones moved for approval; Mr. Aucutt seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item No. 8 – Updates**

#### **Parks & Recreation Update**

Mr. Hooper advised Tauree Curry has taken a job in Atlanta. The position has been advertised. They had 300 participants in spring basketball compared to 80 last year. The skate park is complete and they have a sign to install to finalize. They have started installing the slab and shade structure at Beachum Field.

They will have an Egg-stravaganza at the Aquatic Center on April 8<sup>th</sup> and a cardboard box race on May 6. He advised they have \$300,000 for playgrounds and \$840,000 for a roof at Roy Walker from the legislature. They also have money for the restroom at Ned Houk that was destroyed.

Commissioner Palla thanked the state legislators for the funding for the parks and new roof and hvac at Roy Walker.

### Zoo Update

Mr. Lechner advised they will have a kangaroo naming contest beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be similar to the camel naming contest, but Ms. Darrow found a program that will update in real time. They have redeveloped the wolf and hyena habitats to look more natural. They did all of this in house. They have introduced the donkeys, ponies and goats in preparation of the Australian outback area. They have done demo work in house. They have a week old eland and they will have another possibly in the next week. He is working on new signage for the animal habitats. They had a USDA inspection and was the best one since he's been there. The only issue they had was the perimeter fence. It is structurally sound but the top falls during high winds.

Fire and Police did a walk through of the zoo on request. He advised they needed a plan in case an animal escaped so they are working on more protocols. They had Ruben on the Road from News Channel 10 and it went over so well that the station wants to do more bits. There are some challenges with transporting across state line, but he is going to look into that. He was on KTQM this morning and they would like to have regular updates once a month. The assistant zoo director has transferred to another department, but they have a curator coming from El Paso with a lot of experience.

Commissioner Palla advised she was very impressed with his proactiveness and his ability to communicate with the press. Commissioner Porter advised he has been so impressed with Mr. Lechner. He advised they are so grateful for him and advised Clovis is lucky to have him.

Commissioner Casaus asked if they send anything to the newcomers on base. Mr. Lechner advised he has given flyers to the Chamber. He wants to work on brochures to put in hotels and they would be good in the welcome bags. Commissioner Jones advised the zoo is mentioned multiple times during newcomers briefing.

Mr. Aucutt asked if there were guidelines for the fence per the USDA. Mr. Lechner advised it has to be 8 feet.

Mr. Howalt advised there has been a lot of discussion regarding fees. The RV fees will stay in fund 13, which is the Ned Houk Park fund. The funds from aquatics or leagues will go into the designated cash funds and specific for parks for capital improvements. Fund 61, special parks improvements fund, will hold the GRT above the debt service payments.

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

Mr. Ulysses, CYSA, thanked parks for moving them to the old AYSO field.

Mr. Williams advised opening ceremonies for Western Little League is Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at Potter Park. They have 38 teams and 340 participants. This is their 70<sup>th</sup> year.

Commissioner Palla advised the Community Easter Egg Hunt would be at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Guy Leeder. The Great American Cleanup will be at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, May 6 at 500 Sycamore.

**Agenda Item No. 10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.