

COUNTY OF CURRY            )  
CITY OF CLOVIS            )        ss.

The Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 17, 2023, in the North Annex of the 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 Helen Casaus, Vice Chairperson, District 3  
Commissioner George Jones, District 1  
Commissioner Gene Porter, District 2  
Sabra Smith, District 1  
Jamaal Williams, District 2  
Thomas Martin, District 4  
Philip Frazee, County Resident  
Bob Aucutt, Member of an organization utilizing parks

ABSENT:                               Commissioner Megan Palla, Chairperson, District 4  
  Gilbert Salguero, District 3

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

EX-OFFICIO ABSENT:                Justin Howalt, City Manager

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

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

**Agenda Item No. 3 – Approval of minutes of March 27, 2023**

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2023 as presented; Mr. Aucutt seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

**Agenda Item No. 4 – Discussion and recommendation regarding a memorandum of understanding between the Hillcrest Park Zoo and ZDR3 for Disaster Relief Collaborative for Exotic Animals**

Mr. Lechner advised Zoological Disaster Relief Response and Recovery is an organization that the zoo would like to join. There are 120 facilities who are affiliates in 29 states. If Clovis had a significant weather incident they would receive a lot of manpower, equipment and assistance from

other zoos under this agreement. The animals can also be transported to a safer area. This is a free program, but the city would have to sign an MOU. Under this agreement, if Amarillo had a natural disaster and the Clovis zoo chose to provide assistance, the cost of the trip would be up to Clovis. If Clovis received a call and were not able to go it would be okay.

Mr. Frazee asked if the city would sign the MOU. Mr. Lechner advised the zoo director. Mr. Aucutt asked if Amarillo was part of this group. Mr. Lechner advised Alamogordo, Amarillo, Roswell and Albuquerque are all looking into his. Mr. Aucutt asked if he would be able to transfer animals if they had to. Mr. Lechner advised they would. He had already reached out to Amarillo and Roswell before finding this program. Mr. Aucutt asked if only zoo employees could travel to help. Mr. Lechner advised they would have to be a Park's employee.

Mr. Martin asked if they had empty stalls to hold other zoo animals. Mr. Lechner advised they have some empty habitats currently. They do have a lot of crates, so if there was a disaster they would be able to move them. Mr. Aucutt moved for approval; Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Discussion and recommendation regarding Land Water Conservation funding previously awarded for improvements at Goodwin Lake Trails**

Ms. Burroughes advised in 2021 the City of Clovis submitted an application to the Land Water Conservation fund for \$150,000 for a \$300,000 project for improvements to the Goodwin Lake Trails. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, Megan Darrow, Grants Coordinator and herself met with Robin Stokes, Program Support Bureau Chief, to have a site visit. He advised this piece of land will have to be kept as is in perpetuity. This is part of a drainage channel and there may be a need to excavate. She asked if they should not move forward with this grant. They were going to use the grant for playground equipment. They could continue with the parking lot and walking trail, but maybe not the playground.

Commissioner Casaus asked if that land was still available for sale if they don't approve this. Ms. Burroughes advised the area on Prince Street is not part of this project. If this committee decides to continue with this grant then it would be kept in perpetuity. They couldn't sell any of the land.

Commissioner Jones agreed that it wasn't a good idea to move forward. Ms. Burroughes advised if they wanted to do a playa education program with a building they would have to go through the feds. Commissioner Jones made a motion to not move forward with the grant; Mr. Frazee seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

**Agenda Item No. 6 - Discussion and recommendation regarding capital improvement projects**

Mr. Hooper advised they started with \$375,000 in capital improvements and currently they have \$38,923.48 left from that. Their list included adding rock bolders at Rierson Park at a cost of \$25,000. The bid for playground equipment was short on mulch so he will need \$10,500 to pay for that. They also have a possibility for bleacher and shade structures which would be \$15,000 at Beachum.

Mr. Aucutt asked if another dog park was something they could consider. Mr. Hooper advised there wasn't enough money. They were looking at Rierson, Potter and Greene Acres. Mr. Aucutt asked what the rocks at Rierson would be. Mr. Hooper advised they would remove the fence and put rocks around similar to what they have at Hillcrest Park.

Mr. Williams advised the concrete pads and the covers behind the backstops were installed. Mr. Hooper advised the bleachers should be in this week. Mr. Williams advised everything looks good but they could use more.

Mirna Valdez, 509 W. 17<sup>th</sup>, advised she was a board member with Western Little League. Beachum is one of the oldest fields in Clovis. They asked for safety nets between the fields, a scoreboard, access to water, a concession stand, lighting, sidewalks to connect the fields and possibly turf if it's not too expensive. They would also like another shade structure and a batting cage. Mr. Hooper advised if they would like for him to start getting prices on any of these he could. Commissioner Casaus advised she wished they had enough money to update all of the fields. They can apply for capital outlay for next year for Beachum field. She advised they already designated and had Rierson on their list. Mr. Martin advised the rock at Rierson eliminates future maintenance and expenses.

Commissioner Jones asked if they could get prices for this list so they can address it when/if they have the funds. Ms. Burroughes advised they would get prices.

Ashley Marquez, 1521 Westchester advised they have one bathroom at Beachum Field and it's a mens bathroom. She advised the women's bathroom has an issue with the door so it can't be used. Mr. Hooper advised he wasn't aware of the women's restroom. Mr. Williams advised they have tried to repair it. Mr. Hooper advised toiletries is on the league. The other restroom near concession should be completed soon. He advised he would have someone look at the door tomorrow.

Mr. Martin advised this was the second time he's heard about the bathrooms at Beachum. He drove by twice and thought a sign pointing people towards the porta-stalls would help. Commissioner Casaus advised with the next capital outlay they could add Beachum restrooms to the list. She asked if they could put more porta-stalls if they were having a tournament.

Mr. Frazee made a motion to purchase the rocks at Rierson and mulch for the playgrounds; Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item No. 7 - Updates**

#### **Parks and Recreation Update**

Mr. Hoper introduced Alura Milne, Recreation Administrator. Ms. Milne advised she has been working for the child youth programs with the Air Force for 12 years. She loves working with children and teens.

Mr. Hooper advised they have started working on Rec Desk and have a planned go live date of May 1. The summer youth program will all be run through this program. He is working with finance to setup payments online also.

They have two parent and child swim classes full. They had their eater eggstravaganza with 189 children. The zoo brought in \$20,000 for the month of April between the gate entrances and the gift shop. They are going to plant four trees around the dog park on April 28<sup>th</sup> which is Arbor Day. Cummins will plant trees on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Hillcrest Park.

### Zoo Update

Mr. Damian Lechner advised he went to Albuquerque two weeks ago to meet with other local zoos. On Saturday, ENMU will build enrichment items and Wells Fargo is going to replant all of the empty planters. Michael Fish started his mural work this weekend which will take 2 ½ weeks to complete.

The USDA permit was good for a year. They are now on a 3-year cycle and the inspection is a lot more involved than it has been. One thing that came up was the perimeter fence which is no longer acceptable. As long as they have a contract with a company the USDA is okay with that. He has three bids for this work and is going to move forward with that. He advised they have a curator starting next Monday. She worked at the San Antonio and El Paso zoos.

Commissioner Casaus asked if they could come up with a fundraiser for the fence. Ms. Burroughes advised she would work with Ms. Darrow and Mr. Lechner on coming up with something.

Mr. Aucutt asked how long they have to repair the fence. Mr. Lechner advised their permit expires in July but they have an inspection May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Smith asked if they could get a breakdown of the zoo budget to help find more money for the fence. Mr. Lechner advised he has the funds in the zoo improvement fund, but it would hurt his budget for any other projects. Mr. Hooper advised there is a fund that is mostly gate fees and giftshop funds. They don't want to deplete the fund in case USDA comes up with something else they would need to repair.

Commissioner Casaus advised she thought the citizens of Clovis love the zoo enough to help with this financially. Commissioner Porter asked how long the fence was. Mr. Hooper advised 3,200 feet. Mr. Lechner advised there is a portion by the softball field that has to be repaired over and over. He will have to pay to fix that for the time being. They have to have a contract in place showing they are moving forward.

### Great American Cleanup, May 6, 2023

Ms. Burroughes advised the Great American Cleanup will be from 8-noon on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The landfill will offer free tipping from Friday-Monday. They will provide donuts, lunch and the top 3 teams will be awarded a trophy.

### **Agenda Item No. 8 – For the good of the order**

#### ATA Shoot

Mr. Steve Coffin advised the shooting range has been open for 6 months. The ATA had 50 people in attendance at their event. It took 3-4 weeks of admin preparation and the ATA representatives did most of the legwork. The competitors shot three different disciplines from all over Texas and

New Mexico. They brought in \$4,000 for this two-day event. 60% of the competitors were from out of town. He advised they had a great youth turnout. They heard a lot of great comments about the facility. They need a second dumpster, had no advertising from the city, and will address the missing parts that they need. The trap machines have sat for a long time unused and they are finding problems with them. They have another event in two weeks so they are working on the machines to get them where they need to be. Commissioner Casaus asked for him to contact the Chamber regarding advertising. Ms. Burroughes advised she would be at the air show this weekend promoting the shooting range.

Commissioner Porter asked if they had a marketing budget for these facilities. Mr. Hooper advised they do have marketing budgets for different departments. There was confusion on his part on whether the city would promote their event. They are still playing with some of the budget for the shooting range. Ms. Burroughes advised they are going through the budget now. She advised she would work with Mr. Coffin on advertising. Commissioner Porter advised those events are responsible for their own marketing but the city should market the facility.

Mr. Martin asked if lodger's tax could help with this. Ms. Burroughes advised the organization could apply for lodger's tax.

Mr. Martin asked why they limit tires. Ms. Burroughes advised to keep from companies disposing of too many tires. They brought a tire shredder in through a grant but there is no where that takes them locally.

Commissioner Casaus advised the next meeting would be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 15

**Agenda Item No. 9 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.