

COUNTY OF CURRY)
CITY OF CLOVIS) ss.

The Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 19, 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 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
Thomas Martin, District 4
Bob Aucutt, Member of an organization utilizing parks

ABSENT: Jamaal Williams, District 2
Philip Frazee, County Resident

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT: Russell Hooper, Parks & Recreation Director

EX-OFFICIO ABSENT: Justin Howalt, City Manager
Lonnie Baca, Clovis Municipal Schools

ALSO PRESENT: Claire Burroughes, Assistant City Manager
Vicki Reyes, Assistant City Clerk
DaNiece Burris, Recreation Administrator
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 – Approval of minutes of April 17, 2023

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023; Commissioner Casaus seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Introduction of DaNiece Burris, Recreation Director

Mr. Hooper introduced Ms. DaNiece Burris. He advised she served 20 years in the Air Force and is the new Recreation Administrator.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Discussion regarding walking trails at entrance to Hillcrest Park

Ms. Erinn Burch, 2301 Northglenn, advised a lot of people use Hillcrest Park and she wanted them to think about making the entrances to the park more neighborhood friendly. 7th Street and Norris Street are one car avenues so individuals have to walk on the roadway. She suggested making the entrances more inviting. She also suggested a walking path through the gate to the

new Senior Center so that citizens don't have to walk all the way to the Aquatics Center to get there.

Mr. Aucutt asked if there were enough residences to enter on 7th. Ms. Burch advised there were a lot of homes on 7th so it makes more sense to walk across the street.

Regarding the entrance from 7th Street to the Aquatic Center and Senior Center, Commissioner Palla advised if there is a car coming out onto 7th it is a one-way entry/exit. They may be able to put a better entrance into the Aquatic Center and Senior Center.

Commissioner Casaus asked where the money would come from. Ms. Burroughes advised there was a parking area off 7th street identified in the Parks Master Plan, but funding has been the challenge. They could look for funding to make these changes. She advised this was the golf course originally so that is why there was only one entrance originally into the area.

Agenda Item No. 6 – Update regarding Ned Houk Park Master Plan

Ms. Burroughes advised they met with Consensus Planning a month ago regarding the Ned Houk Park Master Plan. They have created a survey that has gone live and she invited the public to take this survey. The address is cityofclovis.org/nedhouksurvey. This will be up until July 31st.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Discussion regarding field rental fees

Mr. Hooper advised he has had multiple requests from groups about renting fields. He had a group that wanted to rent fields for a summer soccer camp and one that wanted to rent the field at Lockwood. They can do a zero fee or he could set up something on Rec Desk. Commissioner Palla advised she thought they couldn't sublease the field if it was exclusive. Mr. Hooper advised they can't sublease unless they have permission and Guy Leeder has been given that permission.

Mr. Aucutt asked if it would be certain fields. Mr. Hooper advised Lockwood, CYSA, Par 3 and anywhere there is no agreement. Mr. Aucutt advised he would be in favor of establishing some type of fee.

Commissioner Casaus asked if they have started collecting user fees. Mr. Hooper advised they are still working on that. They have collected for spring volleyball. Commissioner Casaus advised she wasn't sure if they would have problems collecting if they can't even get the user fees paid. Mr. Hooper advised these were individuals and not leagues that want to rent fields.

Commissioner Palla asked if someone needed four fields, would it take more man power to reserve an area. Mr. Hooper advised if they set up something on Rec Desk then it would be similar to the pavilions, so there would be no signs put up which is how the pavilions at Ned Houk are set up.

Mr. Aucutt asked Mr. Hooper if he had any recommendations. Mr. Hooper advised there were a lot of variables so he didn't really have anything set. Commissioner Jones asked if someone hasn't paid for a field does that mean they can't use it. Mr. Hooper advised he would treat them the same as pavilions and it would be first come first served, which is why it would be better to

reserve a spot. Ms. Burroughes asked how much they charge for pavilions. Mr. Hooper advised anywhere from \$50-\$150 a day.

Mr. Aucutt asked if little leagues would want to use the facilities. Mr. Hooper advised it was possible. Mr. Martin asked if they need signs at each field that doesn't have exclusivity stating they need to be reserved with contact information. Mr. Hooper advised signs aren't that expensive and they can put information on the website.

Commissioner Palla asked Mr. Hooper to come back with recommendations. If people are calling about reserving then they need to look into it. Mr. Hooper advised he would bring recommendations to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8 - Updates

Parks Update

1. Capital Outlay Update

Mr. Hooper advised they had a change order for Rierson Park playground equipment of \$19,000. He cancelled the \$25,000 they were going to use for the stones at Rierson to pay for the change order.

2. RecDesk

Rec Desk has gone live and being used for the Recreation Department and Aquatics. They have the youth basketball ready to go as well. It has been working well so far. A person will create an account, add their family members and then it will allow them to sign up for programming. There are waivers on the program and it also will send a receipt with the website information to submit payment.

3. Pool maintenance & lifeguard staffing

They are having problems getting the chemicals balanced in the pools. Potter Pool is going through 55 gallons of chlorine a week. They are only open when they are at the proper levels and this is why they have had to shut down a few days. They are ordering new sand and filters and wastewater will bring in a vacuum truck to get the old sand out and new in.

Commissioner Palla asked if the sand was all that needed to be replaced. Mr. Hooper advised that was correct. Mr. Aucutt asked how long it has been since this process has been done. Mr. Hooper advised at least 20 years.

Mr. Hooper advised they are supposed to have 6 part time lifeguards and they have two. There is a national shortage. The next class can't be until August because they can't shut down to start another class.

Commissioner Palla asked if the Splash Pad was open 6 days a week. Mr. Hooper advised they are. The splash pad is closed on Mondays, Potter Pool is closed on Tuesdays, and the Aquatic Center is closed on Sundays.

Mr. Hooper advised he has had three businesses contact him that are on state contract. They have over 500 trees that need to be removed, 300 of those are at Ned Houk Park. The zoo has over 50 trees and Hillcrest has 150 trees. Some could be saved. Commissioner Palla asked if the trees were dead or diseased. Mr. Hooper advised both.

Mr. Aucutt advised they need to look at saving a lot of the trees. Mr. Hooper advised it is always a possibility but it will come down to numbers. Mr. Aucutt advised he has met with a person based out of Santa Fe and toured the parks with him. He went into a lot of detail and he thought it would be worth another visit.

Ms. Burroughes asked how many trees they have planted this year. Mr. Hooper advised around 20. They have a tree replacement policy in place now. Commissioner Jones advised saving some of the trees is something they should look into.

Commissioner Porter advised he would like for them to have someone confirm the count that needs to be taken down. Mr. Hooper advised they will have to have someone give an accurate count even if the city does it themselves. He advised this was a several month process.

Commissioner Palla asked when they last trimmed trees at Hillcrest Park. Ms. Burroughes advised she thought it was around 5 years ago and also at Colonial Golf Course.

Recreation Update

1. Summer Youth Program

Ms. Burris advised the summer youth program is going great. Their biggest complaint is the gym not being open during the day to the general public, but it is open from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This week is Wind Week so they are making kites tomorrow and made pinwheels today. All of the snacks are provided by Albertsons and food is from La Casa. She advised they have around 65 children a week. Ms. Burroughes advised she and Megan Darrow helped on Friday. It is hard work and they are doing a great job.

Ms. Burris advised June 3rd was her official 20th year in the Air Force and she will be fully retired July 1.

Mr. Hooper advised he did not have enough information to get costs for Beachum Field, which were discussed at the last meeting. If he gets a more formal request then he can check prices. They mentioned problems with one of the bathroom doors and that has been repaired. The city has cleaned it several times, but it is not a public bathroom. It is controlled by the leagues and they are responsible for cleaning and stocking it. The city had a call about the bathrooms at Mike Harris field and that is also the responsibility of the league. He advised Potter Park has one bathroom in the front that is open to the public and is open 24 hours. The leagues are responsible for their own restrooms and have their own keys. Beachum has two functioning bathrooms.

Zoo Update

1. Peafowl removal/sale

Mr. Hooper advised the USDA said the peafowl either need to be contained or they need to get them out of the zoo. They have sold some, but they could incur fines if they roam outside of the zoo. The USDA's new regulations change the way they are handled. Commissioner Palla advised even if they clipped their wings they would have to house them at night. Mr. Hooper advised that was correct.

Mr. Martin asked if they just have to have access do they have to lock them up at night. Mr. Hooper advised it would depend on the inspector. Mr. Aucutt advised the normal peacock is not going to stay on grounds. Mr. Hooper advised there are a lot of questions so they felt it was best to eliminate the problem. Commissioner Jones advised he would be afraid it could ruin their accreditation as well.

USDA also changed to 3 year inspections and is more stern. They did pass the inspection and are USDA approved. They passed on their first try.

The zoo has received a capybara from the Roswell zoo. They also have a new mining machine.

Agenda Item No. 9 -For the good of the order

Communication from Jessy Kidd, Clovis Swim Team

Ms. Kidd advised she was the administrator for the Swim Club. She thanked the city for the new equipment. Swim Team practices all summer and are offering lessons to the community. All sessions are full so they will have 300 children by the time lessons are over. She advised they have been worried about the lifeguard situation. The college and base aren't lacking lifeguards. Mr. Hooper advised the base is paying \$18 an hour so they took a lot of the city's lifeguards.

CYSA

Mr. Todd Ulses advised the goals belong to CYSA so they can either be moved or rented. There are no city owned goals on the fields. Mr. Hooper advised there were goals left by AYSO, but they are not trying to rent CYSA's goals. Mr. Ulses advised he spoke with the director of Carlsbad Youth Soccer and the city gives their youth soccer leagues money. He asked why they are able to do this and Clovis can't.

Commissioner Palla advised the next meeting would be at 8:30 a.m., Monday, July 17th.

Agenda Item No. 10 – Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.