



Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee

~ Minutes ~

701 N. Main
Clovis, NM 88101
www.cityofclovis.org

September 25, 2023

5:30 p.m.

North Annex, Clovis-Carver Library

I) CALL TO ORDER

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

II) ROLL CALL

Present: Jamaal Williams
Thomas Martin
Megan Palla
Helen Casaus
Gene Porter
George Jones
Sabra Smith
Philip Frazee
Bryan Davis

Absent: Bob Aucutt

Others Justin Howalt, City Manager
Present: Claire Burroughes, Assistant City Manager
Russel Hooper, Parks Director
Stephanie Chavez, Interim Zoo Director

III) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III.1) Approval of minutes of August 21, 2023

[Cover Page](#)

[August 21 2023 Parks Recreation Beautification Committee minutes.docx](#)

RESULT: ADOPTED
MOVER: Helen Casaus
SECONDER: George Jones

AYES: Jamaal Williams, Megan Palla, Helen Casaus, Gene Porter, George Jones, Sabra Smith, Bob Aucutt, Philip Frazee, Bryan Davis
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Thomas Martin

IV) NEW BUSINESS

IV.1 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding the Ned Houk Park Master Plan Projects, Jackie Fishman.

Cover Page

Ms. Jackie Fishman with Consensus Planning thanked the committee for having her again. At the meeting last month they discussed the survey. They have two programming efforts (not concepts yet) which she could email to Claire to provide to the Commission. They have looked at expanding motorsports as part of this. There are trail system areas. Disk golf and more walking trails was what they heard from the survey. They have a campground and potential RV area in the south side of the park. There could be a wild animal area. They do not show a lot of programmed areas. They have an amphitheater there. Upgraded picnic facilities and group shelter, and to establish the botanic area as well as improve the restroom areas. They tried to reach out to the people who use the model airplane area but no one called back. Ms. Fishman said it would make sense to have separate trails for pedestrian, equestrian and motorbikes. Wayfinding signage would be a huge improvement.

Ms. Fishman showed a second diagram. There is a wildlife viewing area and equestrian area on the west side. They have an expanded motorsports area. There is expanded disk golf to the south of the existing disk golf. She advised this was what they had for programming. Ms. Fishman said the survey took a time to do and they are a little behind on the project. Commissioner Palla said the black dotted lines were trails but not any particular type of trails. At the last meeting she brought this to Jackie's attention.

Motorsports are very popular in Clovis and there is an expanded motorsports area in the plan. She advised there are a lot of people in the audience who she suspected were interested in motorsports. The plan is not for a specific plan for detailed activities in each area. Mr. Howalt asked if the quieter design on the west side to the noisier sports on the west side lends itself better. Commissioner Jones liked the second concept better than the first concept. Commissioner Palla liked the concept of a botanic garden but could not see this in Clovis. Commissioner Porter said the area for the motorsports was a bigger area. Ms. Fishman said the area would be over 300 acres. Commissioner Palla asked if they could move the ATV trails to the motorsports area. Ms. Fishman wanted to make sure if they were clear of the shooting range section. Ms. Burroughes asked about the area and if the topography would allow for the drag strip. Commissioner Porter said the drag strip could be at the circle strip. 1/8th mile is the track and you need twice that length for shutdown. The track needs to be flat but the shutdown can be uphill. Mr. Howalt asked if there could be additional trails into the RV area. There would be connection from the RV park to the main park area. Ms. Fishman said they used lydar data and a slope analysis. The area is relatively flat except for certain areas. She will provide the slope analysis to the committee. Commissioner Jones said you could put the grandstand on the slope on one side if it was on a slope. Regarding separating the trails; would the motocross trails stay in the green areas. Ms. Fishman said the access would be for the shooting range and motorsports area. As they develop the real concept they would show how it would fit in the area. They would break out the areas in the next stage. Pedestrian and equestrian trails could be incorporated together. Ms. Fishman thought the ATV area should be isolated into that side of the park. There needed to be quiet areas for families.

Mr. Davis asked if there was any other direction they needed at this time. Ms. Fishman asked if there were other locations for the amphitheater or other areas. Ms. Burroughes asked if Ms. Fishman could send

her the two plans for the group to look at and for them to go back out in the next couple of weeks to look at the area. The location of the RV area(s) need to be looked at as well.

Mr. Howalt advised the major differences between the two concepts were the RV Park and amphitheater and she expanded the motocross area in the second option versus the first option. The dedicated equestrian on the second option versus the first option. Ms. Fishman advised the first concept shows an extended motorsports area and it is more rectangular. The second concept goes beyond that. They will put a scale to it in the second round when they do the concepts.

IV.2 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Adding Motorsports to the Ned Houk Master Plan, Commissioner Porter.

Commissioner Palla advised this plan they are working on is not a specific plan with specific details in each area. There is no funding available for anything on the map other than what they currently have.

Commissioner Porter advised he received a letter from Colonel Greer at CAFB which he read to the committee.

Subject: Quality of Life for Cannon Air Force Base Airmen

1. I am writing in support of the Airmen at Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB). As the CAFB Deputy Commander, I recognize the profound impact local amenities can have, not only for our service members, but for the entire CAFB community. Our Airmen are an incredibly diverse team, and that is reflected in their interests and hobbies. I have witnessed first-hand the passion many of our young Airmen have for motorsports, however, I am unaware if sufficient and safe motorsport activities exist within the local community. I recognize the opportunity of connecting safe motorsports activities with CAFB's motorsport enthusiasts.

2. The value I see in bringing a motorsports activity to the Clovis community:

a. Retention and Recruitment: A dynamic recreational activity like motorsports at our doorstep could serve as a significant incentive for retaining our talented active duty Airmen, civilians, and contract personnel. Furthermore, it makes Cannon a more appealing destination for Airmen.

b. Morale and Community Integration: Motorsports can enhance morale as an avenue for recreation and connection. It provides an opportunity for our base personnel to integrate more deeply with the Clovis community, fostering mutual respect and camaraderie.

c. Safety and Regulation: A dedicated motorsport space in the community promises a controlled and safe environment, away from potentially illegal activities. It ensures our service members have a safe space to engage in their passion, reinforcing the values of discipline and respect for rules.

d. Economic and Public Relations Synergy: An activity like motorsports would not only bolster local businesses but also strengthen our public relations. Such attractions that enhance a sense of community and further cement our commitment to Clovis.

3. I urge the esteemed Commissioners to consider the important impact of investing in the well-being of our Airmen as it further integrates CAFB personnel with the broader Clovis community. Investments in motorsports or similar leisure attractions means more than simply providing recreational outlet; it is an investment in the personnel of Cannon Air Force Base. Let us collectively work towards fortifying the

bond between CAFB and Clovis and ensuring mutual growth and prosperity. It will make Clovis not just a place of assignment, but a desired home.

*Brent A. Greer, Colonel, USAF
Deputy Commander*

Commissioner Porter advised they were 100 miles from the nearest race track and 200 miles to the nearest nice drag strip. Roswell has old runways on their airport that they use for the track. Amarillo used to be an NHRA national events location. He believed Clovis would draw from Midland, Odessa, Hobbs, Albuquerque, Amarillo. It would be a tremendous tax revenue, and the weather would allow them to run 9-10 months a year. Commissioner Palla asked if he was wanting to change something from Ms. Fishman's plan.

Commissioner Palla said either of the plans would give the motorsports 300+ extra space for motorsports. They are not doing any more detail than which area would be used for what. They are not here tonight to design specific things within the motorsports area.

Brian Hernandez, 1100 S. Tennessee, advised they would like a drag strip here and it is a long way to go to the nearest one. They spend \$300.00 to \$400.00 for octane mixers to use. There is room to grow in the community. They have big car supporters here. Draggin Main is a huge event.

Charles Burns, 1519 W. 7th Street, Portales, advised one of the big concerns for the area was street racing. Having a track would alleviate this. He suggested a ¼ mile track.

Barry Fisher, 1200 N. Oak advised if they do this right there is high potential for a lot of revenue. If they could have sanctioned events there are people that would come from around the states. Street Outlaws is a program that shows about this. Everyone is moving north. If they put a track out there, homes come and complain about the noise. They would like a motorsport to have motocross, enduro racing as well as a drag strip. The area needed for a ¼ mile is ½ to one mile.

Commissioner Palla hoped that one day they would get the money to do these things and take the plans and put them into action.

Chris Lueras, 2205 Duckworth, advised racing was not a hobby, it is a lifestyle and he travels all over the region and they spend \$2500 to \$3000 each time. Commissioner Porter said the drag strip is on the City of Clovis' ICIP. They do want a partnership with the City as it has the land and they are looking to provide the land. His end goal was to take the ICIP request money and get it moved to the first page.

Allahna Awad, 1629 N. Lea Street. She drifts and not drags. Drifting is a new thing in America and a lot of the airmen have been in Japan. Her first drift car was \$800.00. It is very affordable, but wild. Hydroplaning on purpose but you don't go over triple digits. The closest drift competition is in Albuquerque. There is nowhere close to here. It is popular with youth because it looks so pretty. They need a skid pad for this. They should not just be focused on drag strips.

Donald Garcia, 2504 Hammond Blvd. He trained a gentleman who is now a colonel and he taught him how to paint cars and do bodywork as he was so bored and near suicidal. He said they needed something for the airmen to do. They need more for the Clovis people to do.

Louie Julip, 1036 York. The first step is deciding where to put it. If they could put a road grader and let people race it. They have sand tracks in Amarillo. They could build up from there.

Mr. Williams asked if there as an opportunity for a group to work on the circle track now. Mr. Howalt advised from a liability standpoint they couldn't allow anyone to operate heavy equipment. They are researching how to move forward with the existing facility and putting out an RFP.

[Cover Page](#)

[IV.3 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Eddy the Donkey, Russell Hooper.](#)

[Cover Page](#)

[City of Clovis, NM Mail - \[EXTERNAL\] RE_ Donkey at Ned Houck Park.pdf](#)

Mr. Hooper said Eddy is 20 years old and by himself. A lot of people bring him food. A month ago a lady called and she is concerned because Eddy is lonely. She suggested finding a partner to play with or donate him.

Commissioner Porter said Mr. Pettigrew called him about this. The shelter roof had fallen down and was not providing shade or shelter and he had gone there and put some tires and corrugated metal to hold it in place. Commissioner Casaus said the donkey needs a partner or needs to be rehomed.

Ms. Chavez said donkeys can be solitarily. There are a lot of animals at the zoo that are solitary. Daily enrichment could be added to Eddy's schedule. Commissioner Casaus suggested building him a home. There is a winter home and summer shelter. Mr. Frazee suggested putting a goat there.

Commissioner Palla said they needed to do some research as to what donkeys like. Mr. Howalt said the expense would come from buying another donkey. Commissioner Jones said this would be nice to know. Ms. Chavez said the donkeys at the zoo lives with ponies and goats. They could bring the donkeys to Eddy. Commissioner Porter said there is a rescue in Texas who has 16,000 donkeys who would take Eddy for free. Commissioner Palla suggested going to visit Eddy when they go out to Ned Houk Park. Commissioner Casaus said Eddy has a home.

Ms. Smith made a motion that Eddy will stay at his home, that will be made appropriate to his needs and if it is not they will fix it; Commissioner Casaus seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Megan Palla
SECONDER:	Helen Casaus
AYES:	Thomas Martin, Megan Palla, Helen Casaus, Gene Porter, George Jones, Sabra Smith, Bob Aucutt, Philip Frazee, Bryan Davis
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Jamaal Williams

[IV.4 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding the Soccer Goals at Hillcrest Park, Russell Hooper.](#)

[Cover Page](#)

Mr. Hooper advised a league from Muleshoe said they would like to buy some of the extra goal posts. There are 15-16 goals at the facility that AYSO is no longer in existence. Commissioner Jones moved to sell goals; Mr. Frazee seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	George Jones

SECONDER: Philip Frazee
AYES: Thomas Martin, Megan Palla, Helen Casaus, Gene Porter, George Jones, Sabra Smith, Bob Aucutt, Philip Frazee, Bryan Davis
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Jamaal Williams

[IV.5 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Complaints at the Dog Park, Russell Hooper.](#)

[Cover Page](#)

Mr. Hooper advised there is a large and small dog park at Hillcrest. He received complaints that people are bringing large dogs into the small dog area. There is no enforceable action. Commissioner Palla said anyone could call the police for anything. Mr. Howalt said there were rules at the dog park. Commissioner Casaus suggested taking the signs down. Mr. Howalt said there could be enforcement for large and small animal. Mr. Martin suggested talking with local vets to see about separating large from small animals.

Commissioner Porter agreed with Mr. Frazee to appeal to the person to be respectful. Commissioner Jones did not want the police responding to the dog park when there are other things that they need to do. He did not know if it was worth their effort to go to the commission regarding that.

Commissioner Jones moved not to recommend an ordinance to control a large and small dog area; Mr. Davis seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: George Jones
SECONDER: Bryan Davis
AYES: Jamaal Williams, Thomas Martin, Megan Palla, Helen Casaus, Gene Porter, George Jones, Sabra Smith, Bob Aucutt, Philip Frazee, Bryan Davis
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

[IV.6 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding the City of Clovis Starting a Pickleball League, Russell Hooper.](#)

[Cover Page](#)

Mr. Hooper advised recently they cancelled the fall youth basketball as they could not get enough volunteers. They have a good schedule opening for Roy Walker. Adult volleyball has started. They were looking at doing more programming and thought they should put out a schedule and suggested doing this.

Commissioner Palla said she was approached by the pickleball group. They suggested an amateur pickleball league. They thought they would get people from the base. They will help set it up. They will be happy to be put wherever there is room, and there is no particular season for pickleball, or days of the week to play.

Mr. Howalt said if they would like them to do more programming they could set up a fee for playing. Commissioner Palla was disheartened that basketball did not work. They are playing little league baseball and flag football and others. She asked if it was possible to try the basketball in November again.

It may be a shorter season if they play basketball during the usual season basketball is played. Mr. Howalt said he will pull the calendar so they can look at the overall programming.

Commissioner Palla said she did not want to put pickleball on top of basketball. She made the motion to start a pickleball league. Commissioner Casaus seconded the motion. There is not coaching or officials. They will have a set time to play and anyone can join the league. The city would have to provide the nets etc. The city would charge a league fee. The motion carried by acclamation.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Megan Palla
SECONDER: Helen Casaus
AYES: Jamaal Williams, Thomas Martin, Megan Palla, Helen Casaus, Gene Porter, George Jones, Sabra Smith, Bob Aucutt, Philip Frazee, Bryan Davis
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

IV.7 Discussion Regarding Top 10 Capital Projects, Russell Hooper.

[Cover Page](#)
[Top 10 list.pdf](#)

Top 10 List

Park/Field	Improvement	Cost
Hillcrest Park	Consolidate the 3 playgrounds into 1 footprint & make this a destination playground. Use \$75,000 from grant, \$56,000 from grant, \$170,000 from Capital	\$300,000.00
Hillcrest Park	Aquatic Center HVAC Replacement (WT Denton)	
Hillcrest Park	Aquatic Center HVAC Replacement (WWRC)	
Greene Acres Park	New fencing around Pickleball (Black vinyl) E. Flores	\$ 29,325.30
Greene Acres Park	New fencing around Pickleball (Galvanized) E. Flores	\$ 26,325.30
Greene Acres Park	Lights around Pickleball (\$10K per pole) Snider	\$ 40,000.00
Hillcrest Park	Improve Sand Volleyball Courts (Add sand depth and perimeter. 91 tons of sand (@ 32.30 per ton delivered) Sand only. Waide Sand & Gravel	\$ 3,000.00
Hillcrest Park	Improve Sand Volleyball Courts (Add sand depth and perimeter. 91 tons of sand @ 32.30 per ton delivered) Dig and install only. Waide Sand & Gravel	
Hillcrest Park	New tennis/pickleball/basketball courts (Griego)	
Hillcrest Park	Old sand volleyball courts lighting improvement (Snider)	\$ 12,574.13
Hillcrest Park	New sand volleyball courts	
Hillcrest Park	Replace fence behind aquatic center	\$ 13,532.03
Hillcrest/Rierson	Stones to replace rail fencing	\$ 50,000.00
Potter/Pat Sandoval	Replace picnic tables and bleachers	\$ 17,000.00
Beachum Field	Add crusher fines to middle field. Removal, leveling, disposal and installation includes labor (K and S Landscaping)	\$ 11,346.00

\$9,000 remaining from '22 capital outlay, \$75,000 from state grant, \$56,000 from Raid, \$300,000 2023 capital outlay, \$200,000 city designated funds, \$30,000 user fees

Totals \$503,102.76

Mr. Howalt said it was not an all-encompassing list. They have visited with a vendor regarding lighting and a new volleyball location. They continue to push vendors to get pricing but cannot force them to respond to the city.

Commissioner Palla said they had a lengthy discussion last time and they ranked them last time. HVAC replacement at the aquatic center was the number one. She said they made the decision last time and she did not want to keep rehashing the list over again and again. She asked them to go forward.

Ms. Smith asked about the retractable roof and the motor was out. Mr. Hooper said they needed the sky lift to look at the motor. She cannot find anyone else willing to go up there. They do not have AC in the natatorium. This should solve the fogging. If the current unit keeps freezing up it will cause fogging. Mr. Hooper said opening the roof is needed in the summer. The fogging is a winter issue.

Commissioner Palla asked if they would get a bid \$188,000 not including lights which was another \$80,000 from Griegos. Commissioner Porter did not want to just have one bid. Griegos is a pre-approved contractor and has pre-approved pricing. The advantage is going onsite and saying what they need. They don't have to put the bid documents together. If they want to go to a formal bid to the public they could. Commissioner Palla said they need another bid for this.

Commissioner Palla advised fencing for the pickleball courts would be next. Mr. Williams asked what would happen with the \$9,000. Commissioner Palla said it had been included in the total cost. Mr. Williams advised the Beachum field is unusable when it floods. The league could stop the problem with some good dirt. There are people using the facility right now. Commissioner Palla thought that was on the list also.

[IV.8 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Removing Pipe Rail and Fencing from Various Parks, Russell Hooper.](#)

[Cover Page](#)
[Rail & Fence.docx](#)

Mr. Hooper advised they talked about the piperail fencing. He provided them with a list:

Hillcrest Park – Along Sycamore and 7th. Rail.
Greene Acres – Along 21st and Main. Rail.
Potter – Along Upsilon and 84. Rail.
Bob Spencer – Along Echols. Rail.
Dennis Chavez – Along 14th, Edwards and Hull. Rail and Fence
14th St Park – Along 14th, Hickory and Fairmont. Rail.
Rierson – Along Hammett, Rierson and Howard. Rail and Fence.

The areas are pretty protected. It is not an all-inclusive list and they may come back for more recommendations. Commissioner Palla said it was hard to visualize from a list view. They would like to go and look at and she asked them to go and look at this too and bring back a recommendation at the next meeting. Mr. Hooper said Hillcrest and Greene Acres are the most time consuming. Mr. Frazee said on the 14th Street park there is no curb, there is just soil and a rise in the ground. On the Fairmont side there is no dirt. Mr. Howalt said he has looked at putting curb and gutter in that area.

[IV.9 Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Hillcrest Park Restrooms, Russell Hooper.](#)

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The restrooms at Hillcrest Park by the Splash Pad have been vandalized several times this year. We had to shut them down in July and August to be repaired. The last repair cost was several thousand dollars. We have had to put port-o-lets out to make sure there were restroom during the Summer. The restrooms have been opened back up for only a couple of weeks when it was vandalized again. The damage occurred between 2:30 and 5:30 pm. This did not happen overnight, but in the early afternoon. There were 4 toilet completely destroyed along with 2 urinals and 3 sinks. This happened in both the Men's and Women's restroom.

Mr. Hooper advised regarding the vandalism at Hillcrest Park restrooms. He asked for direction. Should they upgrade and put new pipe in to make it a tankless and stainless-steel facility. Commissioner Jones said they needed to upgrade to stainless at the facility. Mr. Howalt agreed stainless steel would require upsizing the piping going into the building, and find someone to do the work in there. The stainless toilets are tankless. Commissioner Jones moved to look at having stainless toilets that are tankless and get pricing for that.

Mr. Martin asked if portapotties are working and not being vandalized, is that a solution. Commissioner Jones people would not use portapotties. Commissioner Porter said they are a recurring expense. Mr. Howalt said they could look at the cost of portapotties.

Mr. Howalt would have to look if there were internet connections to have cameras outside the building. Commissioner Jones amended his motion to consider portapotties and cameras; Mr. Frazee seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: George Jones
SECONDER: Philip Frazee
AYES: Jamaal Williams, Thomas Martin, Megan Palla, Helen Casaus, Gene Porter, George Jones, Sabra Smith, Bob Aucutt, Philip Frazee, Bryan Davis
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

[Top 10 list.pdf](#)

V) UPDATES

Parks Update

Mr. Hooper advised Greene Acres has been provided by the insurance company. The replacement is \$46,000 for a total of \$87,000 with Griegos installing it.

Shooting range – April will be out until next April. They are making sure they have adequate coverage.

Ned Houk – there will be a controlled burn tomorrow by the Clovis Fire Department.

Commissioner Palla asked if they could consider putting some grass at the dog park for the large dogs. Mr. Hooper said if they do Bermuda they would need to put it down in May. If they do cool grass they could do it now. He will provide some options at the next meeting. Mr. Howalt said they tried to build a second dog park, but have not been able to secure funding for this.

Recreation Update

Mr. Hooper advised they have around 63 people a day in Roy Walker. They cancelled youth basketball which they advertised everywhere for coaches but only found 4. 50 people tried to sign their children up. They are doing rec desk for aquatics now. The aquatics permit is October 19th for their annual inspection. Mr. Martin said comments were timing – conflicting on facebook. Seeing the calendar and what they can do there is always a reason. He said it would be good to see the calendar to see what they could do. Mr. Williams said signing up to volunteer was very difficult and was not an easy process. Mr. Hooper said they could look at streamlining it. As a coach you have to have some prerequisites.

Zoo Update

Ms. Chavez said the turkey vulture and genet passed away in the last couple of weeks. The wallabies are getting big. They will have a naming contest. It will not be something people have to pay for. They are 9 and 11 months. They will do kangaroo introductions next week with Pepper and Jack. They have three ostriches the Sanderson Sisters – Winefred, Sara and Mary and they will be housed in the zebra barn. They are little and thriving. They have a new baby bison and Coatimunidi Sisters will be picked up on Wednesday. They are going in the old eagle enclosure and it is being set up. She does not know how they will name them. They are coming from Virginia. They are part of the racoon family.

In October they have Haunting at Hillcrest on October 22nd and Boo at the Zoo on October 29th. For the giraffe expansion they are expanding to three stalls. They will open up the back for them and make it a larger yard. The plan is to send Jaelle to a giraffe sanctuary. They are training the keepers to train the animals. Mr. Howalt said they hired two groundskeepers for the zoo to just work on the zoo appearance.

Trek for Trash

Ms. Burroughes advised regarding the event, which will take place Saturday, October 7th at 8:00 a.m. at 500 Sycamore.

VI) FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Palla advised the next meeting would be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, October 16, 2023.

VII) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Chairperson

SEAL
(ATTEST)

City Clerk
