



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 16, 2025

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on January 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Members Present:

- Fred Raish – At large member
- Laura Haas - District 6
- Charles Beard – District 2
- Alana Bradley - District 4
- Miley Sarah Grandjean - District 1
- Kylie Aleja Jenkins - District 5

Members Absent:

- Aracely Tellez – District 3

Others Present:

- Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Parks Planning and Construction Administrator
- Jake Gutierrez, Aquatics Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Catrina Godinez, Community Outreach Manager
- Ryan Steinmetz, Youth Services Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Charles Ochotorena, Public
- Greg Shervanick, Public

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of January 16, 2025, at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair Raish and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

1. Introductions:

Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Attending staff and public introduced themselves.

2. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

1 **3. Approval of the Agenda:**

2
3 Board Member Beard moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
4 Meeting Agenda for January 16, 2025, seconded by Vice-Chair Haas. Motion
5 passed unanimously.
6

7 **4. Approval of the Minutes November 21, 2024 cancelled meeting; December 19,**
8 **2024 draft minutes:**

9
10 Board Member Beard moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
11 Meeting Minutes November 21, 2024, seconded by Vice-Chair Haas. Motion
12 passed unanimously.
13

14 Chair Raish had changes: item 6.1 should be 7.1; item 7.1 should be 6.1; item 7.2
15 should be 6.2; item 7.3 should be 6.3; and item 7.4 should be 6.4. Then under 7.1
16 under verbiage states it should be noted in the final statement of Realize Las Cruces
17 endorsement, Vice-Chair Haas proposed endorsing the Parks section of Realize
18 Las Cruces as is; seconded by Board Member Tellez. And it says the motion passed
19 unanimously, and should further state "that the motion passed unanimously by each
20 Board Member individually stating name and vote." And in 10, adjournment, Vice-
21 Chair Haas moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Beard Haas, remove
22 "Haas" after Beard.
23

24 Vice-Chair Haas moved to approve with amended changes the Parks and
25 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes December 19, 2024, seconded by
26 Board Member Grandjean. Motion passed unanimously.
27

28 **5. Public Participation:**

29
30 Charles Ochotorena stated that pickleball has gotten quite popular the last few
31 years. There are people can only participate on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays
32 and there are only 44 people that can play, but there is room for at least six more.
33 Other days there are less people participating. The facility he is discussion is
34 Meerscheidt. There is a line, like most places. There are kids hanging out in the
35 lobby area. People get in line and do not know if they are going to get in until the
36 end. He believes they should extend the attendance of people to participate to play
37 a bit more. He believes the limitation should be about 50 people. He has been
38 attending Meerscheidt almost nine years. Now there are issues with people lining
39 up and waiting to get in, unlike before. He wants first come, first serve. Pickleball
40 has helped his health. Capacity is not an issue. There are six courts total. Towards
41 the end of the game people start to leave and then only two people can play because
42 there is not than many people left.
43

44 **6. Discussion Items:**

1 **6.1 Disc golf Update - Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Parks Planning and**
2 **Construction Administrator:**

3
4 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated that the disc golf was constructed in 2024.
5 It is completed, sans signs. The signs have been delayed due to negotiations
6 with trademarks and branding, which at this time have been worked out. The
7 signs have been delivered. Next week they will begin installing the signs, and
8 hopefully completed by the end of February. This has no fees, first come, first
9 serve.

10
11 **6.2 Dog Park Rules/Survey Final Update - Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy**
12 **Director:**

13
14 Franco Granillo stated he has been working on this for a couple of years now.
15 He has had feedback from two administrations of the Dog Park Coalition, and
16 are currently pleased. The City has gone through two legal administrations
17 and two reviews by legal. Also went through the community constituent for the
18 survey. They received 196 responses from the survey. A 163 were for the
19 changes and 33 were not for the changes, which is 83% for and 17% against.
20 There are three dog park facilities and need to all have the same rules. A lot
21 of the comments referred to the age of the participants. Children should have
22 parents to help them and take care of them when young. Many comments
23 about food and treats, but when you have something in your hand dogs are
24 see it and fight over it. Behavior was commented about dogs in certain
25 situations. They can suggest vaccinations of dogs, but cannot mandate it.
26 Dogs need to be on a leash before and as they are getting into the dog park.
27 Some comments about parking and they are working on that. There were
28 some comments about the water bowls but you just have to push really hard.
29 There were 59 comments and 11 agreed, and several that had issues that the
30 City cannot oversee. These are more than guidelines but are actual rules.
31 The reason for the rules is you can implement and see how it goes and if not
32 working they can be changed. He will document feedback. He is ready to
33 make the signs and put them. Dogs in heat, non-neutered males dogs,
34 aggressive dogs were mentioned as possible issues, so exclude dogs in heat,
35 intact male dogs, and aggressive dogs of any gender.. Also putting SNAP
36 (Spay Neuter Action Program) information on the rules too. Animal control
37 number is on the rules and should be called with issues. Codes enforcement
38 will help if needs be. Eventually staff would like to have an ordinance
39 concerning the dog park rules. Staff will move forward with signage and
40 placement of the rules.

41
42 Greg Shervanick, a member of the public, asked about safety concerning
43 aggression/users of the park and the numbers listed that both go to the 911
44 call center. Would action be different at the dog park than other types of calls?
45 Animal control did have input to the dog park and rules. The City does know
46 when people are using the parks.

1
2 **6.3 NMDOT I-25/Lohman Ave. Landscape Improvement - Katherine Harrison-**
3 **Rogers, Parks Planning and Construction Administrator:**
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5 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated this was a collaborative project with
6 NMDOT. This was paid for and constructed by NMDOT. City will take over
7 maintenance of that landscaping. It was finalized September 2024. The goal
8 is to try to beautify the gateways and major interchanges. Possible expect to
9 see more in the future.
10

11 **7. Action Items:**
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13 **7.1 Villa Mora Dam Park Design Concept - Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Parks**
14 **Planning and Construction Administrator:**
15

16 Katherine Harrison-Rogers shared the Villa Mora Dame Park conceptual plan.
17 The history behind this was it was a series of check dams and this used to be
18 a dam that was utilized by the City before the giant Las Cruces Dam was built.
19 This site does not retain or collect water the way it used to. There is interest
20 for this to be a more usable site. City is interested in developing a true
21 neighborhood park. This park will have turf area, play areas, and areas for
22 socialization, etc. They had a public engagement event in December that was
23 well attended. Although it is a neighborhood park it is in a key location and so
24 parking is needed. A trail that circles the park with some native species, some
25 signage. At some time a concrete slide would be nice when budgeting allows
26 in the future.
27

28 Question if being so close to Apodaca would be an issue. Apodaca is
29 approximately three-quarters of a mile or more away. Apodaca is a community
30 park and intended to serve a larger area, and this park is really intended as a
31 neighborhood park.
32

33 Vice-Chair Haas moved to approve the Villa Mora Dam Park Design Concept,
34 seconded by Board Member Bradley. Motion passed unanimously.
35

36 **8. Staff Member Comments:**
37

38 Jake Gutierrez stated pickleball has been at Meerscheidt since 2009. He also gave
39 some background on the process of pickleball within the community at Meerscheidt.
40 He stated one concern is if more people, from 44 to 50, then possibly less play time
41 per person. The games vary from 6-12 minutes with 12 people playing. He stated
42 all facilities are gearing up and offer daily services. Ready for spring. They hosted
43 an aquatics tournament with at least 14 major universities.
44

45 Franco Granillo stated they have a community forester on staff that educates the
46 public, visits possible hazardous trees, checks tree health, and maintenance of the

1 trees. He will bring the community forester to a meeting in the near future. They
2 are establishing volunteer tree stewards again but have a low number. His staff
3 spends a large amount of time decorating in the plaza for Christmas, and then also
4 to put it all away. The staff are removing unwanted vegetation and detailing within
5 the parks. Athletics, they are prepping the fields. They have 57 tournaments
6 already planned, various sports.

7
8 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated there are several projects they will be finishing in
9 the next couple of months; High Noon concession, Veterans Park parking lot,
10 Highland Park. Starting new projects, playground replacement, finishing
11 construction design documents for a new skate park, Chandler Tank trying to get
12 under contract. She is working on getting a consultant for the Young Park master
13 plan.

14
15 Ryan Steinmetz stated he is sitting in for Robert Nunez. Their Out of School Time
16 programs all came back to start the spring semester with lots of kids. The Weed
17 and Seed program over at A. Fielder Safe Haven is at capacity with 60 participants.
18 There are water fountains going in at that facility and hopefully a shade structure
19 outside over the basketball courts. After school programs are in seven different
20 schools. Gearing up for spring break the folks in the schools go to Meerscheidt and
21 another facility to have spring break camp for full day. Fairacres elementary will be
22 on sites for spring break and hoping to get another site soon. Teen Connection
23 program has 60 signed up, but regularly have 30 show up. The challenge with the
24 Teen Connection is they have to pick up the kids to bring them to Frank O'Brien
25 Papen Center. This program is still growing. The Youth Development and Diversion
26 programs are going very well. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful program is gearing up for
27 a busy spring. Earth Day celebration on April 19th. Great American Clean Up on
28 April 26th. Mention of the schools doing just one week and that would of course still
29 be covered as the City did that before.

30
31 Steve Bingham stated there have been a lot of exciting things. He greatly
32 appreciates all feedback.

33
34 **9. Board Member Comments:**

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36 Board Member Bradley asked if parks are finished are there ribbon cuttings.
37 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated it has been an intermittent practice but they are
38 trying to establish some standards for that. Hopefully some this spring.

39
40 Board Member Charles Beard stated when the staff puts together the pickleball
41 presentation to please include all of the pickleball courts. And also include tennis
42 on how that is going.

43
44 Vice-Chair Haas gave thanks and kudos for the events through the busy holiday
45 season.
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1 Chair Raish spoke with Steve and they would like to propose a field trip for the board
2 in place of the February 20th meeting. This would be a tour of some of the parks.

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10. Adjournment:

Board Member Bradley moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Grandjean.
Motion passed unanimously.



Chairperson