



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

August 21, 2025

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on August 21, 2025, at Castaneda Building Conference Room - 1501 E. Hadley Ave.

Members Present:

- Jeremy Williams – At large member
- Charles Beard – District 2
- Alana Bradley - District 4
- Aracely Tellez – District 3

Members Absent:

- Laura Haas - District 6
- Miley Sarah Grandjean - District 1
- Kylie Aleja Jenkins - District 5

Others Present:

- Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
- Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks and Recreation
- Franco Granillo, Parks Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
- Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Planning and Construction Administrator, P&R
- Jake Gutierrez, Aquatics Administrator, Parks & Recreation
- Josh Clevenger, Deputy Director of Recreation, Parks & Recreation
- Zach Hernandez, Recreation Facility Manager Meerscheidt, Parks & Recreation

1. Call to Order:

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of August 21, 2025, was brought to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. by Alana Bradley and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

2. Introductions:

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

3. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

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

2
3 Board Member Tellez moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
4 Meeting Agenda for August 21, 2025, seconded by Board Member Beard. Motion
5 passed unanimously.
6

7 **5. Approval of the Minutes April 17, 2025:**

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9 Board Member Tellez moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
10 Meeting Minutes August 15, 2024 with amendments proposed, seconded by Board
11 Member Beard. Motion passed unanimously.
12

13 **6. Public Participation:**

14
15 None.
16

17 **7. Action Items:**

18
19 None
20

21 **8. Discussion Items:**

22
23 **8.1 PIF Status - Katherine Harrison-Rogers:**
24

25 Katherine Harrison-Rogers discussed the impact fee study that was recently
26 approved at City Council. She passed out the report. Chapter 33 of the
27 municipal code requires that the park impact fees, land use assumptions, and
28 the capital improvements plan are reviewed/updated every five years. Impact
29 fees are to offset growth impacts. As we grow and people utilize the system
30 the City can maintain that same level of service. There are x number of park
31 acres per 1,000 people. Cost escalations. Shifting policies and priorities with
32 the elected officials. Park impact fees are collected at the time of the lien
33 permit, when the permit to build is given. The park impact fees have been
34 historically low. The City has never adopted the full, legal maximum amount
35 of fees that they could adopt. What that means over time is the level of service,
36 the facilities in the City go down based on the population.
37

38 The study is done by TischlerBise. They look at the legal maximum allowable
39 fee could be. For which Council can lower, but cannot exceed the
40 recommended amount. The study looks at the land use assumptions. The
41 capital improvement plan is a facility type, looks at type of facilities that they
42 look at that the fee can be assessed towards. The impact fees are broken into
43 two types, housing type and unit size. Housing would be single-family home,
44 apartment complex. Unit size, under 1,300 sq. feet, housing from 1,301 to
45 2,100 sq. feet, and 2,101 sq. feet and above. Also looks at revenues and short

1 falls. What would the City be taking in with the maximum amount over the
2 course of time? And what would need to fill the gaps?
3

4 There were several public meetings. The CIAC is the recommending body to
5 City Council for park impact fees. The CIAC recommendation has increases
6 and decreases across the board. Recommended to go with by square footage
7 and that was ultimately adopted by City Council. TischlerBise assumed for an
8 acre of parkland it cost the City \$438,000 to construct. CIAC thought that was
9 more in the \$306,000 range. Based on the Parks assessment and what Parks
10 does, that is not accurate. City Council supported staff and the analysis that
11 was done by the professionals. CIAC had good commentary. Neighborhood
12 parks were looked at, but the speciality parks do cost more. Developers can
13 build parks cheaper than the City can, due to procurement laws, wage rates,
14 etc.
15

16 Facility types recommended are community parks, community parks athletic,
17 special use parks, trails, recreation centers, indoor aquatics, and outdoor
18 aquatics. Neighborhood parts was not included as Realize Las Cruces, but
19 were added as a requirement for people who are subdividing and who are
20 developing.
21

22 The fees for the smaller units went down 22% from \$2,600 to \$2,029. These
23 were implemented July 7th. \$3,600, a 42% increase for the larger homes. The
24 really large homes up to \$5,600. These will be paid by home builder or
25 homeowner or person building the apartments.
26

27 **8.2 Playground Replacement - Katherine Harrison-Rogers:**

28 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated they have had an exciting year. Lucky to
29 get a lot of funding to replace some of the older playgrounds. There were
30 many playgrounds constructed in 2004, 2006 and are coming to the end of
31 their life. Four playgrounds have been replaced over the last fiscal year. One
32 at Pioneer Women's Park, one at East Mesa Recreation Center Park, one at
33 Valley View Park, and one at Gus Vlachakis Park. September 9th, 9:30 a.m.
34 at Valley View Park for ribbon cutting.
35

36 East Mesa was a really good project. Engineered wood fiber for surfacing,
37 built in shade structures, and playground is more exciting for the kids. Gus
38 Vlachakis Park, larger structure, more shade. Pioneer Women's Park with
39 really improved shade structures, much better playground. Valley View Park,
40 this one the next ribbon cutting. More shade structures, lots of added play
41 value. This park is in a "lift up area" where the City is trying to put a lot of
42 projects.
43

44 Question on what the park impact fees can be spent on. Katherine Harrison-
45 Rogers stated you cannot spend on maintenance or replacement. You can if
46

1 you are adding a level of service that never existed in that park before. For
2 Valley View funding there was some capital outlay, some active transportation
3 funds, and some other funds. The other parks got Telshor Fund, for which the
4 interest is the only thing used. Seating for adults at the parks is included. The
5 parking lot improvements are planned for later in the fall for Valley View Park.
6 They also rehabilitated turf, added benches, replaced old trash cans and old
7 benches, added shelters, painted bollards, but will replace those with boulders.
8

9 **8.3 Recreation Update: Jake and Zach:**

10
11 **a. Overall Pool Summer Presentation 2025:**

12
13 Jake Gutierrez stated the East Mesa Pool was shut down for five weeks.
14 Initially it was thought that one pipe was broken. There ended up being a
15 second major break that was in the slide. They make the major repairs,
16 but one more repair to be done. The contractor will there the week after
17 Labor Day. The second break is at the kiddy features and will repaired in
18 the off season. They opened July 4th, and will get nine weeks of the
19 summer. Because of the repairs the original contractor was not available,
20 a second contractor had to be secured. Steve Bingham stated there are
21 five City staff for maintenance of the pools year round and a certain range
22 of things that they do. There is a facilities team that services the entire City
23 and City buildings etc. There are also some contracts set up. And then
24 some things require special contractors. Some questions on if the pool
25 could have been open during repairs. But the slide was a major features,
26 and the broken pipes could leak under the pool causing other damage.
27

28 For all of the pools from May 24th through now there were just under
29 51,000 served with the aquatics. There are two outdoor pools and two
30 indoor pools, and the splash pad. They are open seven days a week. Hit
31 capacity at 200 per session. Question of needing more pools. Per the park
32 impact fee study we have excess capacity which is shown in the numbers.
33 Question of if it is really hot can the outdoor pools remain open longer. The
34 outdoor pools are open until Labor Day. The splash pads stay open
35 through September, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Once school starts,
36 the numbers drop off, even on the weekends. The natatorium has had one
37 tournament. But have now been asked to host first swim team meet,
38 invitational. They have partnered with Alameda Elementary and provided
39 swim lessons. And it was amazing. They hope to do more schools. A
40 concern about the showers running cold regularly. The tank system has a
41 timer, twice a year for the time change if it is not updated right away. The
42 other part is how the system is set up.
43

44 **b. Pickleball Update - waiting time/online registration:**
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1 Zach Hernandez stated they began online registration for pickleball
2 participants. There is a current remodel of the facility. Shortly they will
3 take all of the registrations for youth programming, etc. offline for
4 Meerscheidt. It has worked out, with a few gripes and groans. They are
5 able to register one day in advance. Staff can help with that also. Wrist
6 bands are handed out 15 minutes in advance to the session start time.
7 Currently sessions have 40 participants and if there is space, there will then
8 be five drop-ins available. Only one day in advance is because it is
9 extremely popular and more consistency of people showing up. For groups
10 you can do two to three months in advance. Tuesday and Thursday have
11 two sessions, 8:15 to 10:15, and 10:30 to 12:30. Fridays 8:00 to 9:30 and
12 two gyms 10:30 to 12:30. Monday and Wednesday 10:30 to 12:30.
13

14 The multipurpose room they do have morning slots available and evening
15 to like bring in the family to play for \$10 an hour. Charles Beard was
16 impressed with Meerscheidt pickleball. He stated the East Mesa the
17 biggest complaint was it was being played by college kids and they get on
18 the court and stay for hours. Rules have been added to all locations to
19 address those issues. Wayfinding signs are being discussed at Parks and
20 Rec as there are two East Mesa recreation areas. Staff will see if they can
21 have a quick sign done in the meantime.
22

23 **9. Staff Member Comments:**
24

25 Robert Nunez stated they just wrapped up summer. They offer day camps for ages
26 kinder to 12th grade. Had just under 9,000 visits from all participants. At A. Fielder
27 they average about 45 teens from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m. There were over 50 fieldtrips
28 throughout the community and down towards El Paso, Wet and Wild, Western
29 Playland. Kinder through 5th grade did a lot of local fieldtrips. They are in 10
30 locations for after school programs now that school has started. Seven of those
31 locations are at capacity. They are working close with Las Cruces Public Schools
32 on an MOU to expand the after school programs but also in regards to the 3rd grade
33 swimming opportunities. Keep Las Cruces Beautiful had over 45 events.
34 Neighborhood dump days free of charge. Worked closely with New Mexico
35 Department of Transportation and able to offer free dumping at the transfer station
36 off Motel Blvd. They will do this each month and rotate through all the council
37 districts. They have the Youth Development and Diversion program. This is for
38 youth that a referred from juvenile probation office formally. Also have an
39 agreement with the middle schools for informal referrals from the student resource
40 officers as well as the administration at each middle school, to allow youth if they
41 are looking at going down the wrong path, try to redirect them with the Positive
42 Action Program, life skills programs, and also community outreach and community
43 service throughout the City. This goes to Chaparral, Anthony, Santa Teresa to offer
44 the program. And also go to Hatch.
45

1 Franco Granillo stated they are starting to gear up the fall projects. End of August
2 for maintenance. And September start gearing down the irrigation. Working on
3 some pickleball issues at Apodaca next week. The light project was completed on
4 Hadley. Continue to support events citywide.
5

6 Josh Clevenger stated they had basketball sign up and in person on Saturday.
7 Soccer league is going on right now also. Concerts are going in the park, two more
8 left on Sundays. There were 18 concerts between Young and Amador Live. Candy
9 drop at Hadley and then tree lighting. Wellness program, tonight is the
10 championship volleyball game. Continue to offer a lot with therapeutic and taking a
11 lot of mobile rec to different events.
12

13 Steven Bingham stated there are a lot of things to discuss tonight and appreciated
14 the staff who came and reported. Appreciates the Board Members who bring
15 concerns and questions, and pushing them to be better and provide better
16 understanding. They want to be constantly better every day. He believe the park
17 impact fee and Realize will provide an opportunity for this community to move
18 forward in quality of life. This coming Monday there is an important City Council, a
19 work session. Last November residents were asked if they were willing to increase
20 their GRT tax to address public safety, streets, parks, and critical infrastructure. In
21 that work session there is going to be a laundry list of items presented to City Council
22 and some approximate costs for the different things. The intent of the City is that
23 they will go forward and bond against the GRT increase for a 20 year period. The
24 intent is to do incremental steps, every four years, bond against it for the next 20
25 years. Total amount is \$192 million. Does not do any good to put the whole amount
26 through as the projects cannot get done that fast, so they going to these increments
27 to bond a portion of the funds and work on those projects. Parks will share their list
28 of projects with the board. There are two things going on, the GRT and the GO
29 Bonds. The proposed GO Bond is lower than the other one in the past but they are
30 going for is that the 2018 GO Bond is now going to be paid off and keep the same
31 rate.
32

33 **10. Board Member Comments:**
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35 Board Member Charles Beard, the Fourth of July, he lives in District 2. This time he
36 knew about it more than ever before. He was headed home and got railroaded into
37 the university and took him 30 minutes to get out of it. He would like in the future
38 for the board to be informed of what is being done before the Fourth of July to have
39 input. And also the light parade. And the summer food program.
40

41 Board Member Jeremy Williams thanked the Parks and Rec staff for all they do.
42

43 Board Member Alana Bradley thanks the new Board Member. She reached out to
44 Parks and Rec as she wanted them to show up. Her kids go to school at Ceasar,
45 Sunrise, Mesa, the "resource desert." As the only thing that is available to them is
46 the library, the fire station, the pool, it is very brief, and a few other things scattered.

1 And lots of neighborhood parks, and unless you are looking for them they are hard
2 to find. She invited Parks and Rec hoping they would do something for one of the
3 back to school events so people knew what their options were and that there is after
4 school available, and here are some things that we can work with you, like not just
5 in town. Parks and Rec did come and it was a great hit. Parents could sign their
6 kids up right then and there. Also, Music in the Park, she asked what is the
7 attendance like. An approximate is 600 people at Young Park.
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9 **11. Adjournment:**

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11 Board Member Tellez moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Beard.
12 Motion passed unanimously.
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Chairperson