



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 15, 2026

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on January 15, 2026, at Castaneda Building Conference Room - 1501 E. Hadley Ave.

Members Present:

Laura Haas - District 6
Charles Beard – District 2
Alana Bradley - District 4
Stephanie Genelle Hofacket - District 5
Miley Sarah Grandjean - District 1
Aracely Tellez – District 3

Members Absent:

Jeremy Williams – At large member

Others Present:

Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
Eddie Padron, Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation
Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks & Recreation
Franco Granillo, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Parks Planning and Construction Administrator
Josh Clevenger, Deputy Director of Recreation, Parks & Recreation
Christine Rivera, City Clerk

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of January 15, 2026, at Castaneda Building, Conference Room, 1501 E. Hadley Ave.

1. Call to Order:

Laura Haas called the meeting to order at 6:00.

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
2 **4. Approval of the Agenda:**
3

4 Board Member Alana Bradley moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory
5 Board meeting Agenda for January 15, 2026, seconded by Board Member Miley
6 Grandjean. Motion passed unanimously.
7

8 **5. Approval of the Minutes December 11, 2026:**
9

10 There a problem with the link to read the minutes, it was suggested to postpone.
11 Board Member Miley Grandjean moved to postpone the Parks and Recreation
12 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2025, seconded by Board Member
13 Charles Beard. Motion passed unanimously.
14

15 **6. Public Participation:**
16

17 None.
18

19 **7. Action Items:**
20

21 None.
22

23 **8. Discussion Items:**
24

25 **8.1 City Clerk Presentation - Review of Board Scope of Duties and**
26 **Responsibilities:**
27

28 Christine Rivera described what the municipal code says about the boards and
29 committees. There are different types, first is a standard board, which PRAB
30 is, that means that each board member is appointed by a City Councilor. A
31 nonstandard board, the membership is made of different types of seats for
32 which they are appointed Mayor with Council consent. Also ad hoc
33 committees, but none right now. Those are created to deal with a specific
34 issues and then when that issue is completed, the board is done. There is one
35 operational board in the city and that is the Utilities Board that is because they
36 have their own funding source and they are regarding the operations of the
37 city.
38

39 All the boards and committees advise and make recommendations. Park
40 plans and fees. The code requires this board meet quarterly. Board Members
41 have to attend 75% of all the meetings. If there are three absences in a row
42 that Board Member can be referred to the Council for removal. These are
43 unexcused absences. Excused are different. All boards and committees are
44 run by Robert's Rules of Order and by the Open Meetings Act and the Code
45 of Ethics. Conduct as a Board Member, be respectful, never mislead or
46 obstruct, lead with integrity and competence, abstain from making offensive

1 comments. Refrain from addressing Council for or against board decisions.
2 She encourages Board Members to keep in touch with their Councilors. Board
3 Member terms are four years and can serve up to eight years.
4

5 Open Meetings Act is how all the meetings are governed. It promotes
6 transparency in a public body. Someone can come and record the meeting
7 via their phone. Agendas need to have specific agenda items, not just general
8 items, and also include date, time, location, and should be posted 72 hours
9 prior to the meeting. Items cannot be added to the agenda once posted, but
10 some can be removed. City Council has an Open Meetings Resolution that
11 they pass every year and so agendas will be posted throughout the city in
12 conspicuous places. They are required to have minutes in draft form 10 days
13 after the meeting. Minutes have to have date, time, location, members
14 present, members absent, and brief summary of any actions that were taken
15 at the meeting. Rolling quorums are to be avoided, happens frequently in e-
16 mail. So when e-mailing blind copy so that it is responded just to one person
17 and no one sees the other responses.
18

19 Rules of Procedure, Robert's Rules of Order. This has been passed by City
20 Council on how the meetings would be run. Tabling an item is date specific.
21 Postpone means that item is killed entirely. She advises instead of postpone
22 just vote it down. Point of Order, when the topic gets off track. For tabling,
23 can say table for six months.
24

25 Inspection of Public Records Act, (IPRA). She is the records custodian for the
26 city. There were 7,301 requests last year. Everybody has the right to inspect
27 records. Be careful what you put in e-mails. They do not release date of birth,
28 social security numbers, account numbers, credit card numbers, employee
29 addresses.
30

31 **8.2 Status of Playgrounds - Katherine Harrison-Rogers:**

32
33 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated a proposal a couple of years ago for a
34 playground replacement program and Council liked the idea. Playgrounds are
35 good 15-20 years. The manufacturers recommend even less time than that.
36 There are some that are older than the 20 years. The parts are only
37 manufactured for a finite amount of time, about 15 years, which is a problem
38 for the city. Diminished use and safety concerns with parts broken, etc. There
39 are currently 67 playgrounds, and growing. There are currently five
40 playgrounds that are from 26-31 years of age. They got some big grant awards
41 and installed a number of playgrounds from 2004-2006 and they are getting
42 old and many have been replaced this year. Some were 2008-2009, and the
43 remainder from 2015 on. So 55% of the playgrounds are 20-plus years old.
44 Funding is a problem too. Sun damage degrades plastics over time. Coatings
45 on wood or metal tend to peel, crack, and deteriorate over time. And also rust
46 is a problem. Also the rubberized surfacing can have issues. They have

1 some construction people at the city to do minor repairs but they do hire out
2 for the installation of playgrounds.

3
4 In 2024 Parks and Rec requested \$1.5 million for fiscal year 2025. That was
5 granted by City Council using the Telshor funds. In 2025 the same request
6 was made but not granted. There was a GRT increase and they are hoping
7 some of that will be granted to Parks and Rec. A playground replacement is
8 considered almost maintenance/repair, therefore not a new level of service to
9 use PIF (park impact fees). There are still two playgrounds in design with that
10 \$1.5 million. Young Park and Apodaca. The parks targeted in 2025 were
11 Apodaca Park, Gus Vlachakis, Young Park, Pioneer Women's Park, East
12 Mesa Rec Center Park. Valley View was replaced using a different funding
13 source. Upcoming parks for the next year, Country Club Estates, College
14 Manor, Sunset Terrace, Jason Jiron, Sunset Hills, on rotation District 6. La
15 Llorona is being done right now.

16
17 Franco Granillo and his group help to guide what playgrounds need to be next
18 on the list. Parks and Rec explore all the options in terms of playgrounds, if
19 they are used or not used, and what other options there are. The city does
20 have a say in what goes into parks, i.e., playgrounds, etc. The city of Las
21 Cruces is almost double the amount of playgrounds per capita. They do
22 studies based on census data. Finding replacement play value is good also.
23 Suggestion of more benches, adult playground. Other funding opportunities
24 include state, DFA, capital outlay, GRT. The national park service funds - Land
25 and Water Conservation Fund have several opportunities for park renovations
26 and rehabilitation and improvements, but with these have to have a one-to-
27 one match. State funding sources the matches can be less than one-to-one,
28 but not always.

29
30 Steven Bingham stated they did an analysis on doing five a year to get caught
31 up and this would take 13 consecutive years. He stated Katherine Harrison-
32 Rogers and her team purchased some equipment that was still with the
33 manufacturer but was being sold discount due to clearance for new upgraded
34 equipment. With playgrounds they like to see a mix of ages, not just directed
35 at specific age groups only. The ages of 5-11 serve the broadest level. Parks
36 and Rec tries to use elements that will serve the neighborhood as a whole and
37 all age groups and interests. A standard playground is about \$300,000, and
38 that is for install, surfacing, and the equipment.

39
40 **9. Board Member Comments:**

41
42 Board Member Alana Bradley discussed the East Mesa Park and the shade, and
43 that it is a fun place.

44
45 Board Member Miley Grandjean also thinks that more seating would be good. It is
46 concerning no funding from City Council this year.

1
2 Board Member Stephanie Genelle Hofacket appreciated the presentations.

3
4 Vice-Chair Laura Haas thanked for all the analysis and work and compilations. She
5 would like for everyone to remember they are members of the public. Now is the
6 time to get the needs known.
7

8 **10. Staff Member Comments:**
9

10 Franco Granillo stated the right aways and median staff have finished removing the
11 holiday lights of downtown mall, city hall and the plaza. Construction maintenance
12 have removed the holiday decorations. Also working on some repairs. They are
13 also working on leaf litter all around the city. Getting ready for spring also. They
14 are planting roughly 90 trees in the next two weeks throughout the community. Sport
15 fields, Josh is in charge of that now. Canopies were ordered and are being replaced
16 in some locations. Also mentioned the wind phone for Veterans Park.
17

18 Josh Clevenger stated there were big shakeups in the recreation division and parks
19 division, so this has prompted people moving and getting to know the new team and
20 new job duties. Working on a lot of the restrooms. Aquatics have two swim meets,
21 one for high school and one for NMSU. Indoor soccer and other athletics are starting
22 up in February.
23

24 Robert Nunez stated they are also working with new staff. They had their winter
25 camp with the afterschool program at six different locations throughout the city.
26 Spring semester has started with nine locations, of which six are already at capacity.
27 Keep Las Cruces Beautiful lost their supervisor to a promotion, but they are still
28 programming Graffiti abatement team of two, hopefully to get to four, are attacking
29 the graffiti, nine to 15 spots per day. Youth Development and Diversion Program is
30 in the community. Community recreation, new staff, new facility. E-sports has been
31 installed. Special events they will be doing 4th of July, Music in the Park, Movies in
32 the Park. The New Year Chile Drop is Visit Las Cruces and Downtown Partnership,
33 not city Parks and Rec. Aracely Tellez asked about the park rangers. They are
34 mobilizing and figuring out which areas need patrols. Also working on the level of
35 authority.
36

37 Katherine Harrison-Rogers stated Apodaca Park got the construction drawings
38 today. There are several contractors they are seeking bids from. And hope to start
39 construction in just the next couple of months. This will include an aquatic
40 playground, natural play features, walking path, improvements to parking, and
41 hopefully with finding funding, a second phase that would include improvements
42 near the pickleball courts including lighting, plaza area, a pavilion, small playground
43 for toddlers. There will be some work on some trails over the next couple of months.
44 RTD which is from University north and south.
45

1 Steve Bingham stated park rangers are to start patrolling in February. Police have
2 identified key parks that have a lot of crime, for which there are about eight to 10 of
3 those that will be focused on first. An all-abilities park has been discussed for a
4 couple of years, although it is quite price. The city would like to be able to do. The
5 East Mesa playground had more money spent than typically to be able to broaden
6 the age groups. Look at building three or four destination playgrounds in the city
7 that have the "wow" factor that have a broader age group and more inclusive. The
8 typical family visits four to six parks a year.
9

10 **11. Next Meeting Date:**

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12 **11.1 February 19, 2026**
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14 **12. Adjournment:**

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16 Board Member Bradley moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Beard.
17 Motion passed unanimously.
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23 _____
Chairperson