

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry  
Advisory Board  
March 19, 2021 Minutes

Members in attendance were Chairperson Tom Rennick, Roman Jefferson, Kenneth Quigley (excused absence), Alan Klein, George Tripp, Lucia Story, Councilmember Arlina Yazzie, and Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist.

No guests were in attendance.

Chairperson Tom Rennick brought the meeting to order at 7:04 AM and welcomed everyone to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Minutes from the February 19, 2021, advisory board meeting were approved.

Old Business

- A. Update on Urban Forestry Program** – Dean shared that Roman Jefferson, Park Superintendent Mark Boblitt, and himself held a zoom meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss an action item list that Roman had put together regarding urban forestry tasks. From that list, those tasks were assigned out to either Dean, Mark, or Roman. We will continue to follow up on progress at the next advisory board meetings.
- B. Update on Bandshell Project** – Dean gave a brief update on the status of the Bandshell Project. Dean had met with the Friends of the Bandshell Committee at the Parque de Vida Amphitheater to see if that site may be conducive for where the bandshell could be located. After reviewing the amphitheater site with the Friends of the Bandshell Committee, they were still looking at the Centennial Park proposed site, as their number one location, due to aesthetics of the park and the mature shade trees. More discussion was had on potential locations for the bandshell project and looking at the pros and cons of each park location. It was discussed to send out a google document to the advisory board members on where the best location may be for the bandshell project. Dean mentioned that the Friends of the Bandshell Committee may be presenting at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop. Discussion then ensued about getting a position from the advisory board regarding the bandshell project. Alan Klein brought a motion before the advisory board to support the bandshell concept within our park system and leave the appropriate location up to the City Council. Roman Jefferson seconded the motion and then it passed unanimously by all of the advisory board members in attendance.
- C. COVID Updates Relating to Facilities and Programs** - Dean shared that youth soccer, baseball, and softball leagues are starting next week in seeing the outdoor activities begin once again. Dean mentioned that the fitness equipment is being moved out of the gymnasium to upstairs or back in storage, if it does not fit into the upstairs floor plan. Also, he shared that the recreation center will be opening up on Saturdays, starting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**D. Other Old Business – None.**

New Business

- A. Discuss 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park Community Garden Project** – Dean reviewed the community garden information that had been sent out to the advisory board members prior to the meeting. Dean shared that the community garden group, based out of the recreation center community garden, is wanting to expand their provision of community gardens to the south side of Cortez, due to all of their garden plots filling up and then having a waiting list of gardeners. The community garden group is requesting to see if a community garden can be placed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park. One of the next steps discussed in moving forward with this location is to hold a neighborhood meeting and find out if the local neighborhood supports the idea or is against it.
- B. Discuss Arbor Day Celebration Ideas** – Dean shared that the schools are not allowing outside presentations with the school children the rest of this year. So, we are thinking of what can be provided to the school children to acknowledge Arbor Day, such as t-shirts or water bottles. The advisory board members further discussed and a great idea resulted of Ask an Arborist a Question that could be done and then videotaped with an answer back to the school children. Roman Jefferson agreed to be the local Arborist to respond back to them. Also, the advisory board members discussed about the prospects of the students doing any projects to acknowledge Arbor Day, such as the posters or poems that have been submitted by students in the past. It was discussed to do some type of recognition either through social media or in the local newspaper. Dean brought up whether the advisory board would continue to offer the event to the fourth grade students or switch to the fifth grade students, due to aligning the event with the Water Fest. Dean will follow up with more details at the next advisory board meeting.
- C. Other New Business** – Dean mentioned that he is working with Bill Teetzel and a group of interested residents who would like to place art panels in the park system with Native American artwork on them. The two prospective parks would be at Veterans Park and Parque de Vida. More information will be shared at the next advisory board meetings.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, April 16, 2021, at 7:00 AM as a Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment—8:34 AM