

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry  
Advisory Board  
June 18, 2021 Minutes

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

James Alexander, City Manager Drew Sanders, and Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Rich Landreth were guests in attendance.

Board Member Alan Klein brought the meeting to order at 7:01 AM and welcomed everyone to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Minutes from the May 21, 2021, advisory board meeting were tabled.

Old Business

- A. Update on Urban Forestry Program** – The next step will be to move forward with an appropriate budget proposal before the City Management and Council for next year’s budget with contractual services. Also, enough members need to be willing to serve in order to establish a Tree Commission.
- B. Update on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park Community Garden Project** - Dean shared that the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park community garden project is delayed until the middle of July, due to the labor shortage and not having the parks maintenance division fully staffed.
- C. Reopening of the Outdoor Swimming Pool** – Dean shared that the outdoor swimming pool opened this past Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and has lap swimming available from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM and public swimming from 1:00 – 4:50 PM. Dean mentioned that the outdoor swimming pool will open on the weekends, starting on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Dean stated that this has been a difficult year in getting lifeguards trained with several being laid off due to COVID-19 and the availability of a lifeguard instructor.
- D. Other Old Business** – Roman Jefferson brought up about having a tennis wall at the Parque de Vida tennis courts, and it was discussed from the prior meeting about having a “Friends of the Tennis” group formed to help defray the tennis court improvements being requested. Also, the advisory board members discussed about having a sponsorship policy in the future for local business and civic club support with these type of improvement projects, including a timing system at the South Softball Complex.

## New Business

- A. Debrief on Art In the Park Days at the Parque de Vida Skate Park** – Dean shared that 8 local artists showed up on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, & Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, to paint their artwork on the west side of the PDV Skate Park. Dean expressed his appreciation with the City’s Art Committee involvement, as well as P.A. Jackson’s and Councilmember Arlina Yazzie’s participation. Dean stated there was some really good artwork done and encouraged advisory board members to check it out. Also, City Employee Jon Brooks did a nice job of promoting the artwork and the event.
- B. Tour a Potential Veterans Park Memorial Walk Area** – Dean took advisory board members on a quick tour of an approximate location of where a future memorial walk may go within Veterans Park, depending on what the local Veteran groups come up with. Dean said that more information will be forthcoming, as he works more with the Veterans groups, as he stated that the memorial walk is really their project moving forward.
- C. Other New Business** – Dean shared information about how the “Ride the Rockies” event went at Parque de Vida with between 1,800 to 2,000 bicycle riders. Then, Dean introduced the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Rich Landreth to the advisory board members and shared that he would be discussing upcoming water restrictions that are forthcoming, due to the drought conditions we are presently in. Rich shared that 5 million gallons of treated water go through the Water Treatment Plant on a daily basis. Rich mentioned that there is a City Water Assessment Committee that is meeting on a regular basis to determine next steps with water restrictions and helping to educate the public on the importance of saving water where possible. Rich shared that the Parks and Recreation Department are well represented on the committee and have developed initial plans to reduce water use, if the same weather pattern continues to move forward without much precipitation. Dean handed out a Water Management and Conservation Plan produced by Park Superintendent Mark Boblitt for the advisory board members to review and discuss at the next advisory board meeting. Roman brought up the importance about keeping the City trees alive and suggested that the City taper its watering of trees to better condition them to a drought situation with less water moving forward. It was suggested to contact David Temple regarding the tapering off of watering trees to get his input. Rich shared that the City is working hard to get a firm plan established on next steps, if the drought worsens. Dean shared that the advisory board can be a good advocacy group to help educate the public on what we are doing for water restrictions regarding parks and recreation.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, July 16, 2021, at 7:00 AM at the Parque de Vida Playground Shelter.

Adjournment—8:18 AM