

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry  
Advisory Board  
April 16, 2021 Minutes

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

No guests were in attendance.

Chairperson Tom Rennick brought the meeting to order at 7:06 AM and welcomed everyone to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

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

Old Business

**A. Update on Urban Forestry Program – Tabled.**

**B. Update on Bandshell Project** – Dean mentioned that the Friends of the Bandshell Committee presented at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop. The Council instructed the Friends of the Bandshell Committee to take the bandshell project plans before the City Planning and Zoning Department for their review and approval, as the next step in their process.

**C. Update on 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 and asked if everyone had a chance to look over all the information that was sent out. 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. Dean stated that two neighborhood meetings were held on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, to solicit input from the neighborhood residents for support or opposition to the community garden being added to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park. Dean shared that over 80% of the neighborhood residents who attended the neighborhood meetings were in favor of the community garden project. Some other residents in opposition were needing more information before making their final determination about the community garden project, such as the specific location within the park. After a thorough discussion, Alan Klein made the motion to support moving forward with the community garden project at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park site with the following stipulations to have a contained compost area in reducing any foul odors and the maximum height of the community garden fence being six foot high. George Tripp seconded the motion and the vote carried with a three to one vote supporting the

community garden project at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pocket Park with Alan, George, and Lucia voting in favor and Tom voting opposed.

**D. Discuss Arbor Day Celebration Implementation** – Dean shared that the plans are moving forward with having a video taping of the “Ask an Arborist a Question” with Roman Jefferson agreeing to serve in that capacity and Ryan Cox, our area State Forester representative. Dean mentioned that Rosa Dimon will be ordering water bottles to give out to the school children around Arbor Day. The advisory board members asked if we needed help with distribution of the water bottles to the schools. George and Lucia agreed to help out. Dean said that he would forward their email information to Rosa and that she would follow up with them on the logistics when the time came to distribute the water bottles. Dean shared that there will still be an Arbor Day poster activity that will be posted on-line and at the recreation center art wall for those students interested in doing it.

**E. Other Old Business** – None.

New Business

**A. Discuss Reopening of the Outdoor Swimming Pool** – Dean shared that Aquatics Supervisor Michelle Devall and he will be bringing forth the discussion to reopen the outdoor swimming pool before the City Council at their April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop in a limited capacity, as there may be a shortage of lifeguards for guarding the outdoor swimming pool and the recreation center indoor swimming pools. Alan asked Dean if the advisory board needs to be at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop to support the reopening of the outdoor swimming pool. Dean suggested that the advisory board members may want to listen in and follow up with support, if the Council did not show support for the reopening of the outdoor swimming pool at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop. Dean stated that he will follow up with the advisory board members, following the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop discussion.

**B. Discuss Displaying Native American Art Panels in the Park** – Dean briefly shared about the art panel idea and will follow up with more details at the next advisory board meeting.

**C. Other New Business** – None.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021, at 7:00 AM at either Veterans Park or Centennial Park.

Adjournment—8:18 AM