

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry  
Advisory Board  
May 17, 2019 Minutes

Members in attendance were Chairperson Rachel Medina, Clarissa Dukeminier, Roman Jefferson, Kenneth Quigley, Tom Rennick, Sawyer Dietrich, Councilmember Mike Lavey, and Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist.

Airport Manager Russ Machen and James Alexander were guests in attendance.

Chairperson Rachel Medina brought the meeting to order at 7:03 AM and welcomed everyone to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Minutes from the April 19, 2019, advisory board meeting were approved.

Old Business

- A. 2019 Arbor Day Celebration** – Overall good comments were made regarding how the Arbor Day Celebration went this year and acknowledgment that Rosa Dimon did a wonderful job. One of the comments for improvement was giving better direction to the teachers at the start of the event.
- B. South Neighborhood Park Project Status** – Dean shared that the City is applying for approximately one million dollars through a Colorado Health Foundation grant which is due on June 15, 2019. Also, the City has sent out a Request For Proposal for the South Neighborhood Park project regarding Professional Design Services which has a proposal deadline on June 6, 2019.
- C. Tree Inventory Action Plan** – Roman Jefferson and Dean presented about the status of the tree work by the City of Cortez within the park system and golf course and with the street trees. In the last tree inventory conducted in 2009, the City of Cortez had a public tree population of 2,454 trees. Dean shared that the park system and golf course are fairly well taken care of regarding tree pruning, removal, and planting. Dean and Roman shared that the street tree maintenance of pruning, removal, and planting is the area lagging behind in the City not being able to keep up with the maintenance, and the City being reactive instead of proactive to what maintenance is being done to the street trees. Dean and Roman stated that the City Arborist is under the control of the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department help fund forty percent of the City Arborist position and get use of the City Arborist on a per request basis. Discussion ensued and a proposal was made to see if the City would be willing to dedicate at least forty percent of the City Arborist's time to tree assessment and maintenance by that position in having at least two days per week going to that purpose. A motion and a second was made from the advisory board for Dean to draft a memo to City Management for the City Arborist's time to be utilized at least forty percent of their time for tree assessment and maintenance. The advisory board members

unanimously supported the motion, and Dean is tasked with drafting up a memo to be reviewed by Chairperson Rachel Medina before submitting it to the City Manager.

- D. Other Old Business** – Dean gave a brief update about the native plant signage happening at Carpenter Natural Area and Hawkins Preserve and that fourteen additional signs have been added at Carpenter Natural Area. Ken Quigley shared that he is going to help map out where the native plant signs are located within those natural areas.

#### New Business

- A. Drone Usage in City Parks and Natural Areas Discussion** – Dean introduced Airport Manager Russ Machen and handed out a document generated by Russ Machen regarding commercial and recreational use of drones. Russ brought up some key points to consider in allowing or not allowing use of drones in the park system and natural areas. Dean shared that the advisory board will go through several more advisory board meetings with additional input from other agencies and community members before making a recommendation regarding drone use.
- B. Facility Naming and Memorials for City Parks and Other Facilities** – Dean shared with the advisory board members that the naming of the new south neighborhood park needs some consideration in the coming months, as the park project moves forward and having a name by late next year when the first phase of the project is completed. Also, Dean said that he would like the advisory board members to be looking at the park system, as a whole, to determine any areas which may have some naming possibilities, especially when considering honoring military soldiers killed in the line of duty or other community members that may deserve recognition for their service to their community.
- C. Other New Business** – Dean shared that a group of high school students were doing a school project on the prospects of ball field lights at the McAndrews Ball Field. Dean mentioned that the dog park area will be expanded within the next couple of months for options of having small and large dogs separated from one another, if needed. Also, there was a mention of having a mural with trees.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 7:00 AM, meeting at the Carpenter Natural Area west parking lot.

Adjournment—8:27 AM