

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
Advisory Board
June 19, 2020 Minutes

Members in attendance were Chairperson Tom Rennick, Roman Jefferson, Kenneth Quigley, 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 7:06 AM and welcomed everyone to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Minutes from the February 21, 2020, advisory board meeting were approved.

Old Business

A. South Neighborhood Park Project Status & Park Naming Recommendation –

Dean shared the status of the south neighborhood park project with the advisory board members as follows. Dean stated that the south neighborhood park project will not start until 2022, due to the current status of the City financial audits not being completed until 2021 and the COVID-19 financial constraints that the City may be under moving forward. Dean shared that the City financial audits not being completed inhibit the City from receiving Conservation Trust Fund monies (lottery dollars), since after the first quarter of 2018. Also Dean stated that obtaining grant funding becomes problematic, due to financial audit information being required from the granting entities. Dean shared with the advisory board members that he would like to follow back up with the neighborhood community residents in letting them know that the project is being delayed until 2022 and giving them the reasons why. It was suggested to Dean by the advisory board members to send out an email blast to the neighborhood residents, use social media, and have a poster or two on-site with the current status of the project listed.

B. Veterans Park Status Report - Dean mentioned that he is waiting for the Colorado Governor to allow social gatherings larger than 10 people for when the park dedication ceremony can be held. When the Colorado Governor does, Dean will contact the Veterans' groups to see when they would like to hold the park dedication ceremony. Dean shared that he would like to hold the park dedication during a patriotic holiday, such as the 4th of July, but it all depends on when the Colorado Governor will allow it.

C. Establishing a Tree Commission – Dean asked Roman Jefferson if he had any thoughts about proceeding forward with a Tree Commission. Roman thought that the Tree Commission needs to be put on hold until after the COVID-19 pandemic has been resolved. However, Roman did make a couple of suggestions about having some safety pruning and tree treatment funding in the budget for next year and having City staff list out ten top tree tasks to be addressed in the coming year.

D. Other Old Business – None.

New Business

A. Review Recreation Center & Parks Reopening Plans – Dean handed out the Recreation Center and Parks Reopening Plans. Each plan was listed in a tier system, where each tier was triggered by what the Colorado Governor allowed and what locally the City of Cortez and the Montezuma County Health Department felt comfortable moving forward with. Dean shared that the City has been very cautious and systematic in how we have moved forward with our reopening plans. The Parks Reopening Plan is in tier II of a tier III system, and the Recreation Center Reopening Plan is in tier I of a tier IV system. The advisory board members agreed that the reopening plans were a very good idea and made sense in how the City could move forward in a cautious and well thought out approach.

B. Other New Business – None.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, July 17, 2020, at 7:00 AM at the Veterans Park Gazebo, adjacent to the Welcome Center.

Adjournment—8:30 AM