

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board

March 11, 2010

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held in the first floor conference room of the Town's Annex building on Thursday, March 11, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Cindy Neely, Chair.

Members Present

Cindy Neely
Mary Ann Finn
Gail Stanford
Elizabeth Baxter
Cameron Martin
Jesse Hargrave

Members Absent

Jim McIntosh
Alex Brown, ex officio member
Councilor Cynthia Bettison, ex officio member

Town Staff Present

Luan Mitchell

Members of the Public Present

Shelby Cox, Silver City Community Gardens
Aaron Swatzell, Silver City Community Gardens
Patty Reed, Silver City Community Tennis Association

Approval of February 10, 2010, Minutes

Ms. Stanford moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Hargrave seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Announcements

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be Thursday, April 15, 2010, at 5:30 pm. There was discussion about whether to hold the meetings on a particular Thursday each month. It was decided to set the meeting dates monthly rather than set a permanent schedule.

Public Input

Shelby Cox of the Silver City Community Gardens group spoke. He said they have one community garden so far at 707 Hudson Street. It is a raised bed garden and had a good crop of vegetables for the first year. This year the group will be participating with the Juvenile Probation and Parole Office in managing the vegetable garden at Penny Park. Six beds have been prepped for this season. Last year they got \$600 in grants and with donations from other people it paid for everything they needed, except water, which was provided by the Town. Ms. Neely asked how the board could help them. Mr. Cox said they are not asking for money, but have a need for wood chips. They were hoping to get about ½ cubic yard from the same supplier that the Town gets them from so they are consistent in size and color. Ms. Neeley said she would be meeting with the town manager on Monday and would ask him about that.

Ms. Stanford introduced Patty Reed of the Silver City Community Tennis Association. She said Ms. Reed's visit may be premature because everything is still in the talking stage, but she felt it was important for the board to know what's going on. There are six tennis courts in town jointly owned by the Silver Consolidated School District and the Town. She said Silver City has, in the past, paid no attention to the tennis courts. They are public courts and must be opened and available to the public and cannot be locked to protect them from vandalism and they are in poor shape. The school district has had them resurfaced, but the cracks came back within a year because the foundation is bad. It is dangerous

to play on them because the cracks can cause trips and falls. The cost of completely redoing the courts from the foundation up would be \$30,000 per court. She said there are some grants available but only for programs that are already in place. In order to build the program, they need to fix the courts, which they can't do because there is no money. Ms. Neely said Alex Brown said the tennis courts are on the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) but she did not know for which year. Ms. Reed said they were looking for some feedback from the board, what possibility of money might be available and when that might be. Ms. Neely said the board doesn't have any say in financial matters but she would suggest getting members and experts together with the school superintendent and the town manager to brainstorm with them. The board would support them once there's a plan. Ms. Stanford said that's what happened with the swimming pool. A group of people noticed that it was going downhill and they started lobbying for repairs. It takes a kind of groundswell from the public to get something done. Ms. Neely suggested maybe starting with just four courts instead of all six. Ms. Baxter suggested raising money along the lines of the "Adopt a Median" program. It was also suggested to try getting some money from the county as well.

Member Reports

Ms. Baxter said there were two editorials in the newspaper that pertained to parks and recreation. One was regarding an indoor sports complex. She said she would try to bring them to the next meeting.

Mr. Hargrave said he had looked over the large binder of information that had been put together some time ago. He said there was a lot of good information, but it was not organized well and difficult to find what you're looking for. He said it would be good to keep this one in mind when preparing the board's directory so that it will be easier to use.

Ms. Neely reported on her meeting with Alex Brown. Mr. Hargrave was at the meeting with her.

- She said there was money from a PS tax and the town will be hiring four new police officers. The surveillance cameras in Penny Park are not up yet.
- There are cracks in the skate park surface. The one-year warranty is up but company that built the park is coming in April or May to do some warranty work and they will have them document the minimum standard to maintain and the cracking will be taken care of.
- Alex still wants to do the mural when possible. Cecilia Stanford told Ms. Neely when the time comes if she can do it, she will.
- There is some money from a cigarette tax which will be used for parks that are heavily used such as Virginia Street Park.
- The insurance company has paid \$93,000 for Penny Park. Engineers Inc. is doing some design work.
- Alex said to give him the worthy projects list when it is ready. No budget meetings have been set yet.
- The planned kids' splash pool will cost \$34,000 so will not be done this year, but there will be a new roof put on the pool building.
- Parks and Rec is welcome to have a booth at any of the upcoming park events, if desired.

Ms. Finn said

- The 5-2-1-0 program is finishing up at the end of the month.
- She spoke to Rachel Kutcher and her directory is specifically for young people and ours will be targeted to all age groups. Mr. Hargrave asked if there were specific written goals for the directory. Ms. Finn said she had gone through the Alamogordo one and made notes, including some things she thought were missing from theirs that should be included in ours, and passed out the list. She asked if the Town had a Consent to Photograph form to be used for pictures that would be included.

Ms. Stanford reported

- She had gotten copies of the Alamogordo directory and also copies of the flyer “Great Places to Walk in Grant County,” which needs to be updated. Mr. Martin suggested a similar brochure about parks.
- Ms. Stanford said she found out that the reason the Town had chosen Virginia Street Park as their first park project was that they put in a sand volley ball court and it has increased the use of that park tremendously. They wanted one park to use as a pilot to show the council what needed to be done and what can be done. They weren’t aware that Parks and Rec might be consulted.
- She reported that she and Ms. Neely had gone to Peter Pena representing FISSCH with a list of things needed for the pool such as better toilet paper dispensers, shower curtains and rubberized floor mats. Public Works is getting these things. Most of the things on the FISSCH list were also on the Public Works list.
- There is a cement walkway from the Public Service building to the ditch where a bridge needs to be built. She tried to reach Tony Ramirez about that but hadn’t heard back from him. She doesn’t know if that project has been abandoned or just postponed.
- The Town and Country Garden Club has an official application process, but the dying trees in Gough Park are definitely something they could be involved in. Ms. Stanford talked with Peter Pena about nurseries and will be going to one in Anthony, NM, to find out the biggest native, shade trees that they have. Ms. Neely suggested that if it becomes necessary, the Parks and Rec board could go on record as saying the trees are definitely something we want.

Mr. Martin suggested moving the unfinished business and new business items that were on the agenda to the next meeting’s agenda. Ms. Finn seconded. Ms. Stanford wanted to give her list of worthy projects so everyone can be thinking about them. Her list included, Bruce McKinney’s land to connect two parts of the San Vicente trail, Cece’s wall at Penny Park, the public meeting about Penny Park, adjusting the first step at the pool, and the kiddie pool. She hoped everyone will bring their ideas to the next meeting. It was agreed that goals for 2010 were determined at the previous meeting and they were the Worthy Projects List and the directory. Regarding the Worthy Projects List, Mr. Hargrave suggested we also discuss the process for doing it and finalizing it. Ms. Neely said she will be out of town and unreachable for a couple of weeks and asked Ms. Finn to prepare the agenda for the next meeting. The motion to move this month’s agenda items under old business and new business, with the exception of goals for 2010, to old business for the next meeting was passed unanimously.

Old Business

Postponed to next meeting

New Business

Postponed to next meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Hargrave moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Stanford seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Luan Mitchell

Approved by Cindy Neely, Chair, on _____ 2010
