MINUTES
of the Silver City Parks & Recreation Board
December 8, 2010 6PM
1st-floor Conference Room, Town Hall Annex

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 6PM by Chair Mary Ann Finn.

Members Present
Cameron Martin
Mary Ann Finn
member
Cindy Neely
Gail Stanford
Jesse Hargrave (arrived at 6:15p)
Jim McIntosh (arrived heroically late)
Councilor Jamie Thomson, ex officio member

Members Absent
Elizabeth Baxter
Alex Brown, ex officio

Town Staff, Members of the Public Present
none

Approval of October 13, 2010 Minutes
One correction was made -- Cindy Neely is no longer Chair. Chair Finn temporarily left her position and moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Mr. Martin seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements
Chair Finn submitted to Alex Brown, Town Manager, the recommendation that the town council change the ordinance regarding Parks and Recreation Board so that it states that meetings are to be held at least quarterly (i.e., eliminate the conflicting statement that it meet monthly) and remove the location requirement. These are mere administrative changes to eliminate contradictions and inaccuracies. Chair Finn requested of the Board that we recommence having monthly meetings, as it will soon be time for budget hearings, updating the parks and rec brochure, etc. and we will need to gear up. The Board agreed and the **next meeting** will be **Thursday, January 13th, 2011 at 5:30 pm.** Thursday turns out to be a day more convenient for all our members. Chairman Finn will look into using the library meeting room for our future meetings; Thursday the library is open late, it is more public, and there is no need to obtain and return a key.

Report from Chair

Chair Finn spoke with Rebecca Summer and Michelle Geise about a meeting with the DOT of NM: the bike lanes on 180 will be fixed before the Tour of the Gila bike race, and there are two intersections of concern, that Dist. 1 DOT is looking at: Little Walnut and 180, and Swan and 180. The BAG WAGG will have input on design of these items with the engineers.

[Because of computer incompatibility, the chair's report about the meeting with Alex Brown is attached as a pdf file

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There was some discussion of items in the Chair's report:
re: Penny Park, if Engineers, Inc. is designing, does it make sense for a volunteer effort? The public will not have input into the design. The dollar amount from the insurance company was brought up again; Ms. Neely had the figures: the city gets $93,000 if volunteers are used; $180,000 if contractor is used. If sealing of the treated wood is kept up, arsenic should not be a problem.

Sam Costello of The Wellness Coalition met with Chair Finn, and the following is a summary of their meeting, mostly having to do with Penny Park, but also regarding Recreational Trails Program funding.

There is still potential for a volunteer effort. There are many names on a list but the effort would need to start from scratch again.
CCA concerns / toxicity exposure - There should be further testing - swabbing of equipment and evaluation of the safety of the park. (objective measures) It is not unheard of to test park equipment. Needs to be a larger effort to ease the minds of those with concerns about the safety of the park. Safety issues - any sanding in the rebuild that might impact the old CCA components should be done by paid contractors with appropriate safety gear. An effort by the city to show concern could be good public image building. Expressed concerns about environmental factors - wind spread of toxic materials.
Need a clearer message from the town. Plan from the city would need to be in place for the building plan and the materials to be used (the volunteer effort should not be asked to submit a proposal at this level.)
Thinks a public hearing could be good - if the city had done additional testing and had the full plan in place, it would look very good for the city in addressing community concerns. Set the town up for success.
RTP funding - recreational trails program - TWC has had good luck in obtaining

these funds, but the land needs to be available for the work before the funds are applied for. TWC would just like to focus on doing the trail work, but it is confusing to know the status of the trail land and where they can work. Sam recommends purchase of available land – Rydeski and behind BAMH and working outward from those foot holds.

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Ms. Stanford expressed concern about one of the parcels of land, which appears to be Allen Springs. Selling this was a big issue in the past and should not be slipped through without closer look.

There was a discussion of how projects can be prioritized, viz., golf course, ball fields, golf course. A strategy was not settled on.

Unfinished Business

Penny Park Update: There will be a place on the Town web site if Mr. Brown approves. Our role in this is public relations and information dissemination.

March is the beginning of the ICIP (Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan) process.

The subcommittee on new member packets reported they are working on it.

Board presence at events and a time line for development of P and R issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business

Discussion of a plan for next year -- our role in aiding communication and a development of list of projects - was briefly discussed, but will be on January's agenda, as the Board gears up for the budget process by meeting monthly again.

Board Member Reports

Ms. Neely made a list of all the Town Boards and their chairs. Chair Finn will make copies of this for us.
Mr. Brown told the Chair he will try to get ball players to come to our meetings.
Ms. Stanford will research soy ink and recycled paper for the new P and R brochure.

Adjournment

Mr. Hargrove moved, Ms. Neely seconded adjournment. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Stanford

Meeting with Alex Brown 11.29.10 with Cindy Neely

Ordinance inaccuracy: MAF to make corrections and submit to Alex.

Role of Parks and Rec to help with communication between town and public by postings on website discussed. Alex will review a submission about Penny Park for posting.

Alex is very interested in Quality of Life improvements to the town that will attract new residents.

Penny Park: 18 inches of soil was removed and testing was done of the remaining soil. Arsenic was found in negligible amounts. A weed barrier was placed and new soil put in place to mark the area below which the soil was not removed. Cost of $3000 paid by town. Alex stated that the ED had advised the town that the soil removal was not even necessary but the town decided to do it to ease public concerns about the arsenic. Still waiting on design from the engineers, hope to have it early in the new year. The design will incorporate newer and safer materials. The insurance has paid the amount thought to be needed to complete the rebuild with volunteers. The settlement is not final because the town can request more money if a contractor is used. When the design is ready, then the decision will be made by the town council on how the rebuild will happen.

Land Issues:

Bruce's land: In process. The survey is done and has been in the hands of the city for only about 2 weeks. It has been passed on the Robert Scavron, town attorney.

Hearst Mill site (Rydeski property): The mayor is negotiating a deal which may involve a land trade / a right of way for the trail through this parcel.

Land behind Border Area Mental Health - BAMH may be fencing this area off for security reasons and Alex feels that the better route for the trail may mean routing it onto the streets for this section.

The town has approached the president of the Farmers Market about using land in the Slout Farm area for community gardens. This is the area with issues with illegal ATV use and dumping activities. The town would drill the well and provide the water and the farm would be expected to provide a certain percentage of food to the community food bank. This is thought to be a positive way to increase traffic in that area so that illegal behaviors would decrease.

Pending projects: (nothing will be known until the end of the legislative session in March.)

Alex is hoping to hire personnel (asst. to Peter) who could help with updating the directory.

Tennis Courts: Holding pattern awaiting amount of budget for next year - will be able to look for financing at that time. Considering issue of a bond. Stated it was important that he talked with Patty Reed and learned more about the reasons a tennis court upgrade would be useful to the town in terms of programs and attracting competitions, as he was not well versed in tennis issues. The estimate of $600,000 is for the ultimate and certain features may need to be eliminated such as the lights. (He feels that money from the schools would be difficult to obtain with their budget cuts.)

Golf Course is requesting a pro shop. The Golf Course has paid for a design. They are stating that it could bring in some revenue with sales of food and other items, provide a place for people to socialize after golf and attract out of town visitors.

Bridge over the ditch. (pillars are in place.) Need bridge design, build and placement and this will be contracted out.

Mainstreet has obtained $25,000 to do signage downtown and will work with the town on this.

Ball Fields: There will be a property exchange with Mr. Billings who owns land next to the current ball fields at Benny Altamirano Field. Mr. Billings will get land outside the city limits but owned by the city in exchange (this land is not needed for any planned trails.) There are two parcels of 40 and 120 acres owned by the city outside the city limits.

A map of property owners along the San Vincente trail has been supplied to Jamie and the BAG WAAG group. - the city planning dept. supplied this. The town would like a list of property owners who are willing to negotiate an easement or other form or access to the land.

More sidewalk improvements are planned (various funding sources, rising in the ICIP list):
32 St.: Swan to the bypass
Little Walnut to city limits

Items of interest:
Swimming Pool ($60 to $80,000) and Golf Course (up to $500,000) are 60% subsidized by the town and are run non profit.