

City of Alamosa
Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
4/11/2017
11:30am

I. Roll Call

Present: Heather Brooks, Jon Brownell, Kristina Daniel, Justin Davis, Paul Duarte, Josef Lucero, David Mize. Staff: Heinz Bergann and Andy Rice. Absent: Cesar Mejia and Mark Pittman.

II. Agenda Approval

Heinz wanted to amend the agenda to include the Eagle Scout Project in Programs/Items. David moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Heather; vote was unanimous.

III. Approval of Minutes

David moved to approve the minutes from February, seconded by Jon; vote was unanimous.

IV. Public Comment (none)

V. Presentations

a. SLVDGA-Expansion of the Alamosa DG Course

Justin Davis presented the board with a proposed expansion to the Disc Golf Course. The added 9 holes would be to the north of the existing course and be available for more advanced skill levels. He reported that he worked with a Soil Geologist from the Department of Agriculture to determine the layout and have the least amount of impact on the ecosystem. He expressed how a larger course could bring in PDGA sanctioned tournaments and create a more efficient flow of players. In addition, he plans on leaving the existing trails and sites for birdwatchers alone.

Andy added that the area is a sensitive habitat and he appreciated how the Disc Golf Association communicated with him over the past year. Justin explained that the course would flow in a circle to allow players to walk back out and they designed it to maintain 75ft from the parking lot. Kristina asked if it was a more difficult course and Justin stated that it was designed for beginners but it would be a little more advanced. This would also allow players to be closer to the Rio Grande and see the river from where they are playing. Andy suggested using the term “enthusiasts” instead of “professionals” to encourage more participants. Justin showed the board league counts that are taken every Sunday. As this is the 7th open year, they have seen 12-18 people on Sundays and as many as 53 people in a tournament. Other than the land, they would need 9 additional baskets which will come to about \$3,000. They already have half that amount in their budget from collecting on tournament fees that they were saving for the expansion.

Additionally, they have volunteers that are willing to do brush cleanup and anything else that would be needed to move forward. David inquired if they had more land to where they can expand in the future and Heinz stated that there are fence lines, but they could move in different directions. The board liked that they thoroughly researched the area before expanding and Josef liked that they would use the non-grazing property.

Jon asked if they had discussed redesigning the current course first, instead of the expanding. Justin said they did talk about it but the infrastructure, which lasts for 40 years, is already complete. Heather motioned to bring to City Council the proposal of allocating land for an additional 9 holes to be added to the Disc Golf Course. David seconded the motion; vote was unanimous. Heinz reported that the next step would be to propose to City Council for approval. Justin asked if parks would be able to provide some recycling bins to the existing course for glass, aluminum, and plastic containers.

VI. Programs/Items

a. Dog park #2 (*forum & update*)

Heinz reported that since the last meeting in October, they have decided on option A, the north end of Blanca Vista Park. Parks already has all the fencing needed, but they will require trees for shade. The area chosen is much larger with access to water and it is already mowed, making no drastic change to the habitat. There will be a public forum tomorrow (April 12th) at 6:30pm to get community input. Paul liked the location and Jon expressed that now it is just unutilized space. Josef asked if option B had water and if they were still planning on expanding the area. Heinz said that it does but they are going to expand the middle. He added that they could expand the parking lot to the north and use the east side of North River Rd. to accommodate more parking. Heather noted that they would need to add drainage in regards to habitat.

b. Kids to Parks Proclamation

Heather disclosed the Alamosa Kids to Parks Day that would take place on May 20th. She stated that it is basically a “fluff” project that talks about coordinating efforts to get kids out on a certain day. She asked the board if they would like to do more promotion on the project and make it a big event. Josef recommended not doing something formally, since kids are already busy with youth programs. Paul suggested adding other activities to the proclamation/promotion like the fishing day, to show that they can do activities on not only one official day. Heinz said they would modify the proclamation for the May 3rd meeting.

c. Eagle Scout Project-Archery Range

Heinz presented the board with a map of a proposed area at the archery range by the Oxbow recreation area. He stated they can propose the area to City Council and may have to modify city ordinance, but will have to wait for the Eagle Scouts

to move forward. Kristina commented about the possibility of hitting the cows on the other side of the fence, but Heinz assured them that he put a large buffing area between the range and the ranch. Jon inquired if the parking lot would have to increase and Heinz said they could move to the north or the southeast. David motioned to move forward to propose the area to City Council and modify the ordinance to allow the use of bows in city limits for recreational purposes, if needed. Heather seconded the motion; vote was unanimous. Josef asked about the targets and Heinz disclosed it was up to the Eagle Scouts to choose the materials, but they could modify it later.

VII. Policy Discussion (none)

VIII. Staff Report/Announcements

a. Activity/Program Updates

Andy announced that the spring season of youth soccer begins Saturday, April 15th and has a total of 283 kids, which does not include the 200-250 kids from Conejos County. The USATF has discontinued the Future Stars Program, however, we will be moving forward with the All Valley Youth Track Meet on May 3rd at 9am at the AHS Stadium. Four new art programs have been added this year's itinerary in addition to the usual spring/summer activities and we are working on promoting the Junior Golf program at the Golf Course. Adult Volleyball is still underway and has seen an increase of 24%, 7 teams more than last year. He added that they are working on a youth program survey and youth/adult sand volleyball clinics and/or leagues for the summer.

June is going to be busy with upcoming events like the annual Gog for Geoffrey, Summerfest on the Rio, the grand Art Unveiling, Ride the Rockies/Great Northern Carnival, and the CPW Youth Fishing Day at Blanca Vista Park.

b. ADA compliance work (Rec Center)

Dave Jessen, a Parks worker, has been working to improve the ADA specs on the recreation's locker room benches. The upgraded benches were extended out 5" to provide a comfortable change area for all users in at least 1 of the nooks per locker room. He has been able to fabricate the new benches with raw materials, saving the City significantly on costs.

c. Ice Rink & parks Building Bid Update

Andy announced that the multi-use facility is out to bid and the pre-bid meeting will take place on April 24th. In Regards to the Parks Building, the lowest bid comes from Alcon for \$352,000. They have decided to use a "stick built" building instead of metal and will move forward with the construction this summer.

Heather added that \$200,000 of that comes from a grant. Kristina suggested using "multi-use" instead of "ice rink" when including it in the paperwork.

IX. Board Comment

Heather announced that the city did not receive the grant from Inspire to pay property easements. However, they encouraged the City to reapply for 2 parts: a trail underneath the 160 Bridge and/or find a location, that wouldn't be expensive, for an additional bridge. She added that they would have to conclude what the needs are and what the community needs first. They will resubmit for the grant on July 6th.

Heather also disclosed that Heinz is back in the office and has decided to extend his retirement date for a couple months. They will still be moving forward with the hiring process and have narrowed down the applicants to 6 finalists that are in the process of doing phone interviews, since most live out of state.

Josef requested the status of the expansion to the Blanca Vista parking lot and Heinz shared they haven't done anything yet, but they are looking to the north side.

Jon asked how the Golf Course was doing financially and Heinz reported that they are getting good feedback on the food and the course is doing much better without having to worry about the restaurant. They have almost "wiped out" their line of credit but still have their long term loans. Recently, they have decided to drop their corporate memberships, which accounts for a difference in income from previous years. Josef suggested helping them promote the course but several board members shared that they are reluctant to ask or promote themselves. Heather added that they wanted to start watering the course, but it is not feasible at this time. She noted that they would have to put that in the future agreements.

X. Adjournment

Paul moved to adjourn; vote was unanimous.

Next meeting: June 13, 2017