



Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025

Committee Members:

- Position #1 ☒ Jay Ego
Position #2 ☒ Mary Mejia-Weaver
Position #3 ☒ Hunter Tibbals
Position #4 ☒ Carlisle Harrison
Position #5 ☐ Erica Juarez
Position #6 ☒ Angel Aguilar
Position #7 ☒ Doug Minton

City Representatives:

- ☒ Jackie Myers, *Council Representative*
☒ Maria Duron, *Council Representative*
☒ Brandon Artz, *Parks & Recreation, Director*
☒ Kasia Robbins, *Parks & Recreation, Rec Manager*
☐ Kelly Schwirase, *Parks & Recreation, Admin*
☐ Yaneisy Perez, *Youth Advisor*

Members of the Public:

No members of the public present.

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Hunter Tibbals, confirming a quorum.
- March minutes reviewed and approved with a motion and vote.

Cimarron Park Renaming Discussion

- **Led by:** Brandon Artz
- **Update:** No significant progress on playground construction; bidding planned for fall or early winter due to seasonal pricing concerns.
- **Naming Proposals:**
 - Considered names: Sherman Park, Studebaker Park, Jackrabbit Flat.
 - Community survey indicated preference for naming after a person, with Sherman and Studebaker as top contenders.
 - **Sherman Park Advocacy:** Carlisle Harrison highlighted Rick Sherman's 50+ years of community service, including Christmas Express, Shriners Hospital support for 300+ children, and 20+ years as fire board chairman (pro bono).
 - **Studebaker Park:** Suggested by the police chief due to Randy Studebaker's popularity, but not strongly pushed. Concerns raised about eligibility under park naming criteria (long-term, pro bono contribution).
 - **Criteria Discussion:** Policy allows naming after living persons if they meet contribution standards or donate significantly to the park. Studebaker deemed ineligible by some due to his 10-year paid employment.
 - **Concerns:** Jackie Myers suggested avoiding naming after recent or living persons to prevent contention. Some resistance to re-surveying the community, as prior input favored a person's name.
 - **Outcome:** Motion by Carlisle Harrison, seconded by Doug Minton, to nominate Sherman Park. Committee voted in favor of Sherman Park, to be forwarded to City Council for final approval.

Forestry Grant and Tree Inventory

- **Update by:** Brandon Artz
- Funding uncertainty with USDA grant through River Network; some pass-through partners cut off.
- Plan to maximize fund use with Arbor Pro for tree inventory and urban forest plan (~\$100,000 contract, 10% of \$1M grant).
- Invoicing every two weeks to secure reimbursements; conservative approach to avoid financial risk if funds are cut.



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Community Center Issues

- **Reported by:** Brandon Artz
- Mold found in offices due to water seepage; remediation completed, final painting underway, staff to return by Monday.
- Flooding in women's restroom and kitchen during a quinceañera due to sewer system dip; bidding planned to fix sewer issue.

Pickleball Complex Progress

- **Update by:** Brandon Artz
- All 10 courts poured, lights installed, fence mesh to be added. Painting scheduled for mid-May after curing.
- Named Good Shepherd Pickleball Complex due to donation. Ribbon cutting planned for June 14, 2025.

Other Project Updates

- **Harrison Park:** Security cameras installed, awaiting US Cellular connection (~\$75/month, cost-effective).
- **Horizon Park:** Construction delayed due to other priorities and pool prep.
- **Harkenreider Landscaping:** Budget-dependent, awaiting allocation.
- **Cimarron Park:** Installation ongoing.
- **Pool Prep:** Operational by May 10 for second-grade swim lessons.

Events and Programs

- **Past Events:**
 - **Enchanted Daddy Daughter Dance:** Sold out (370 tickets), successful with waterfall decoration.
 - **Cast and Catch Kids Fishing Derby:** Revamped with high school soccer team support, new prizes for fish weight/length.
 - **Arbor Day Tree Giveaway:** Poor turnout despite ideal weather, possibly due to lack of advertising.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Easter Carnival and Egg Dash (April 18):** Revamped with multiple rounds, glued eggs for sustainability, supported by New Hope Church donation.
 - **Spring Bazaar (May 3):** Planning underway.
 - **Swim Lesson Registration (May 9):** Two-week courses.
 - **I Love My City Day (May 17):** Recycling and hazardous waste events, volunteers needed.
 - **AWS/Arbor Day Planting (May 3):** 57 trees at EOTEC/fairgrounds, \$23,000 donated by AWS.

Other Business

- **Riverfront Park Equipment:** Removed due to flooding and vandalism; usable parts donated to Echo.
- **McKenzie Park Clock:** Electrical issues being addressed, reprogrammed, awaiting sync check.
- **Volunteer Needs:** Requested for I Love My City Day and AWS planting event.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned with no further discussion items.
- Next meeting: Thursday, May 8th at 5:30pm