



CITY OF NEEDLES

City Clerk's Office
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Needles, Ca 92363
cclark@cityofneedles.com

BOARD / COMMISSION AND/OR COMMITTEE APPLICATION

Applicant Name: Dr. Mary McNeil _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Home Phone Number: NA _____ Email _____

Position(s) applied for: Commissioner for Parks and Recreation Commission

Special comments and/or interests: My interest in serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission comes from both a personal connection to the community and a strong commitment to its continued growth and quality of life. I am proud to call Needles my home and believe that parks, recreational facilities, and community activities play an important role in creating a community where people want to live, work, play, and raise their families.

As a grandparent, I regularly spend time with my family enjoying the many recreational opportunities available in Needles. The pump track, splash pad, dog park, Bob Belt Park, and other community spaces provide places where children can play, families can spend meaningful time together, and residents can connect with one another. Seeing my grandchildren enjoy these facilities has strengthened my appreciation for the importance of investing in safe, welcoming, and engaging public spaces. These high-quality facilities also create a sense of community pride and demonstrate what can be accomplished when residents, City leaders, staff, and community organizations work together.

I am particularly interested in supporting future beautification and community enhancement efforts throughout Needles. Our community has unique natural assets, including the beauty of the surrounding desert and the Colorado River, that provide opportunities to further strengthen the identity and appeal of our community. I would like to contribute to efforts that preserve and highlight these natural qualities while supporting new ideas for parks, recreation, beautification, and family-centered activities.

I also believe it is important to build upon and promote the many high-quality opportunities that already exist in Needles. Community improvement is not only about creating something new; it is also about maintaining successful programs and facilities, recognizing existing assets, and ensuring that residents and visitors are aware of the opportunities available to them. I am interested in helping continue and expand opportunities for families to gather, participate in activities, enjoy community events, and develop an even stronger connection to Needles.

I choose to live and remain actively involved in Needles because I am extremely proud to be part of a caring, growing, and vibrant community. Serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission would provide me with an opportunity to contribute to the continued improvement of the community I value. I would welcome the opportunity to listen to residents, collaborate with City staff and fellow commissioners, support thoughtful planning, and help ensure that Needles continues to provide beautiful, welcoming, and engaging spaces where people of all ages can gather, connect, play, and thrive.

Background and Qualifications: My professional leadership experience and long-standing community involvement have provided me with skills and perspectives that would support my service on the Parks and Recreation Commission. As the former superintendent of Needles Unified School District, I was responsible for leading a public organization, managing resources, improving facilities and grounds, collaborating with multiple stakeholders, and making decisions focused on improving the quality of life and opportunities available to students, families, and the broader community.

During my service as superintendent, I worked collaboratively with City staff, coaches, school personnel, and community partners to improve local athletic fields and facilities that support both school and community sports programs. This work required collaboration, long-term planning, problem solving, resource management, and an understanding of the importance of maintaining public facilities so they remain safe, attractive, functional, and sustainable. My experience overseeing the development, improvement, maintenance, and long-term sustainability of school grounds and facilities has given me practical experience that directly supports the responsibilities of a Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

Throughout my career, I have worked with diverse groups of people to identify needs, establish priorities, develop partnerships, and turn ideas into sustainable programs and improvements. As a leader, I understand the importance of listening to stakeholders, reviewing information, considering available resources, building consensus, and maintaining a long-term vision while addressing immediate community needs. I also understand that successful projects require more than a good idea; they require careful planning, collaboration, responsible use of resources, ongoing maintenance, and community support.

My experience also extends to my active involvement in local community organizations and events. Through this involvement, I have gained additional experience working with the City, local organizations, volunteers, and community partners to provide activities and events that bring residents together. My involvement with community activities has strengthened my understanding of the importance of creating opportunities that encourage participation, build relationships, and showcase the many positive experiences available in Needles.

I bring experience in leadership, public service, strategic planning, facilities improvement, budgeting, partnership development, community engagement, and collaborative decision-making. Equally important, I bring a genuine commitment to Needles and an understanding of the community developed through years of professional service, civic involvement, and personal investment. I believe this combination of experience and commitment would allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the Parks and Recreation Commission and support its work to enhance recreational opportunities, strengthen public spaces, encourage family engagement, and improve the overall quality of life for the greater community of Needles.

You must be a registered voter in the City of Needles to qualify for appointment.

Signature *Dr. Mary McNeil*

Date 07/08/2026

(Please return to the above address)