

Truth or Consequences Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
of regular meeting held at the Recreation Department Building, 2800 S. Broadway, Truth
or Consequences, New Mexico, January 6, 2014, 6:00 pm.

Pledge of allegiance: Greg D'Amour, Chairman

Roll call: members in attendance

Greg D'Amour

Millie McLeod

Carole Wheeler

Pat Freemyer

Also present: Juan Fuentes, Peter Baca, Chuck Wentworth

Approval of Agenda: motion made by Carole Wheeler, seconded by Pat Freemyer,
passed by ayes of members of board

Approval of Minutes for regular meeting-December 2, 2013, motion made by Carole
Wheeler, seconded by Pat Freemyer and passed by ayes of members of the board

Comments from the public: No comments from the public

Recreation Department Needs Assessment/Update:

Peter Baca gave his monthly report:

We are getting ready for thatching of the fields after putting up seasonal decorations, and
we are working on new grass for the ball field. I contacted some nurseries for prices for
new Afghan trees to replace those that have been lost. Trees are not planted near fields,
only on the highway frontage at the entry to the park.

Softball practice has begun. The Game and Fish Department has tested the pond water
and has stated it has the best water, as far as temperature, for ponds, in the state. They
stock it with 150 fish every week. Beavers have made a dam in the outflow pipe, the one
that is 14" around.

Backboard at the tennis courts: The company that is to give a bid will have to be
contacted again. Perhaps the city could build a backboard of cheaper materials. I will
contact Jimmy and see if they can get prices to build it.

Juan Fuentes states that the landscaping of this parks area will be tied in with the 3rd and
Date project, of landscaping of the old filling station land.

The Sierra County Youth Soccer association will give a presentation to the city
commission about needing to have the city support their proposal, in order to apply for
grants.

The gazebo building permit has been received, the project will be finished in April,
before Fiesta. Electricity in the park will be upgraded by 2015.

As a long term project, the city will work with Main Street so that the backyard of the old
firehouse will be incorporated into the pond park, enlarging that park area.

The pool has several items that still have to be inspected and certified as correct before
the pool can open.

Discussion/Other business: Carole Wheeler stated that she felt that she should not have
been up for election for another term and the date she first began serving was wrong. She
was advised to check with the city clerk for any questions, as the listing of members and
their terms was obtained from the city clerk.

Adjournment: Motion made by Pat Freemyer, seconded by Carole Wheeler, motion
carried by ayes of members.

Approved:
3/3/14
Next Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held on February 3, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Chairman 

Truth or Consequences Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
of regular meeting held at the Recreation Department Building, 2800 S. Broadway, Truth
or Consequences, New Mexico, February 3, 2014, 6:00 pm.

Pledge of allegiance: Carole Wheeler, Vice-Chairman

Roll call: members in attendance

Millie McLeod

Carole Wheeler

Pat Freemyer

Destiny Mitchell

Also present: Juan Fuentes, Peter Baca, Chuck Wentworth, Amy Claesson, Randle Lawson, Collysue Lawson,

Approval of Agenda: motion made by Pat Freemyer, seconded by Destiny Mitchell, passed by ayes of members of board

Approval of Minutes for regular meeting-January 6, 2014, motion made by Destiny Mitchell, seconded by Pat Freemyer, and passed by ayes of members of the board

Comments from the public: Amy Claesson, vice-president of the Sierra County swim team and the Tiger Sharks board. Thanks to this board and past boards that have supported a covered pool. We request that the city consider a reduction of fees for the swim team. We understand that the city needs revenue for the pool to pay for the expenses the new cover causes. In the past, the city has allowed the swim team practises and meets to be free for the participants. We request that the pool usage fees for the swim team be reduced and that the members be certified as lifeguards so that city employees won't be needed during practices and meets. We have given you a suggested fee schedule (enclosed in minutes). Thank you for letting us speak. We would still like to contribute, but we would like to pay a reduced fee for the members of the swim team. The teams usually practice 10x a week. We have 80 active members of the teams. The president of the swim team, Dana Berkstresser, also spoke, saying that she has three children needing the use of the pool and about the need for the year round pool and her children, who participate in the triathlons needing a covered pool. There are people interested in buying passes for pool usage.

Randal Lawson spoke, asking the city manager if the pool manager was a certified lifeguard and asked if there is a set date for the pool opening. Juan Fuentes stated that the pool manager was a certified lifeguard.

Collysue Lawson asked Juan Fuentes if there is a list of applicants interested in serving as lifeguards.

Recreation Department Needs Assessment/Update:

Peter Baca gave his monthly report: Soccer, Little league baseball, and peewee basketball have had their registration and all had a good turnout and will start playing soon.

All new systems are in the fish pond, new water lines and picnic tables for the new park area behind where the old fire house used to be. After landscaping, that park will be ready for use. 150 trout were put into the pond by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. The temperature of our pond is superior to the NM fisheries' ponds.

A new thatching machine will be in next week.

Vandalism has stopped for time being.

We received new bags for the doggie bag dispensers in the park. We only put ½ a roll of plastic bags in the dispensers, since they disappear. Most of the problems are at Ralph Edwards Park.

The project now is trimming trees in the parks.

We have to hang the backboards at the tennis courts. The wind barriers are held by zip tie holders which are inexpensive to replace.

Juan Fuentes: Emergency lighting and audible alarm have been installed and tomorrow we will have a formal walk-through and the state will be called to give a final inspection, to give a final approval. The entrance to the pool will be heated. Two or three board members should be helping the city to plan for honoring those who worked on the pool cover, for the grand opening.

Staff for the pool: We are starting off with part-time staff, because pool will only be open part-time. Most of the lifeguards are certified or being certified. We are working with Goodwill to staff the front office. I would have to check with our insurance carrier to see if we could use volunteers in the pool. The opening date depends on when the state will come and approve of the pool so it can be opened. The occupancy will change because of it being an enclosed structure. Amy Claesson wanted to know if the hours will include times after the close of business days. A suggestion of closing the pool during the middle of the day and opened after people get off work to utilize that time of the day, and to maximize the fees collected, since those who work will be able to swim at that time.

Gazebo: Our facilities department is working on having the gazebo finished with an approved plan to finish by the middle of March. There will be a public auction at Ralph Edwards Park and one of the items will be the mobile home at the park, to make that part of the park available for the beautiful views. A dog park was suggested as usage of the park.

Cameras are outdated and not functioning well, so cannot be counted on. Cameras cannot be repaired. We will hope to rely on the public to report vandalism in all of the parks.

Adjournment: Motion made by Millie McLeod, seconded by Pat Freemyer, motion carried by ayes of members.

Next Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held on March 3, 2014 at 6:00 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Fuentes', located in the bottom right corner of the page.