

**CITY OF AZTEC
COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday June 24, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the workshop to order at 5:05 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

Members Present: Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.; Mayor Pro-Tem Ken George; Commissioner Colby King; and Commissioner Austin Randall; Commissioner Jim Crowley

Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Jeff Blackburn; City Clerk Karla Sayler

A. Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Padilla opened the workshop and handed it over to City Manager Jeff Blackburn, who then turned it over to Special Projects Manager Ed Kotyk. Ed introduced Katrina Arndt from Pland Collaborative, who is working with the city on a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

Ed gave a brief history of the NMED Outdoor Recreation Trails Grant, which was awarded to the city in 2023. He also noted that the grant has been extended through December 2025. Mayor Padilla mentioned the installation of automatic sprinklers at the parks, which was completed in 2024.

Katrina explained that she and Ed are working together on a plan to identify the vision, goals, and priorities for the City's parks, and how to put them into action. As part of the planning process, they've reviewed all the parks and looked at ways to build on what the city already has. She pointed out that the city has more parks than many similar-sized cities, and this plan will help the department make the best use of its resources and choose the right projects to focus on.

The plan will also build on existing planning efforts. Katrina mentioned that they've met with both park staff and local schools to explore ways to share resources.

Katrina asked the Commission to share any concerns or challenges they'd like to see addressed as the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan is developed.

The Commission shared ideas and concerns related to the following topics:

- The motocross park

- The potential closure of Aztec Ruins
- Upgrading playground equipment
- Community feedback from the surveys
- Distributing surveys through store windows and utility bills

Katrina noted that they have not yet received survey results but mentioned that the schools plan to send them out to all families. Once a summary of the responses is available, it will be shared with the Commission. Based on the community feedback, they will provide recommendations on priorities that align with what the community wants and what the Parks Department can realistically manage.

Commissioner King questioned what the current strengths and weaknesses were identified in the parks. Katrina responded that they are still gathering feedback but noted a clear challenge so far: not enough staff to properly maintain all the parks. She added that in similar cases, cities typically either reduce the number of features that require maintenance or look for ways to make maintenance more efficient.

City Manager Jeff Blackburn mentioned the existing Parks Enhancement Plan available on KIVA and offered to print copies for the Commission.

Additional topics brought up during the discussion included:

- Paving at Riverside Park
- Improving safety measures in City parks
- An OHV, ATV, and outdoor recreation study
- Coordinating events more closely with the police department
- Parks restroom improvements
- Pedestrian bypasses near Tiger Pond, Zia Street, and North Main
- Maintenance of sports fields
- Expanding recreational opportunities for children
- Streamlining the event permitting process
- Adding DOT-approved signage for events ahead of time


Katrina said she would like to include contact information for Pland Collaborative through social media. She noted that once survey results are in and reviewed, they will return to the Commission with recommendations based on the community's feedback.

ADJOURNMENT

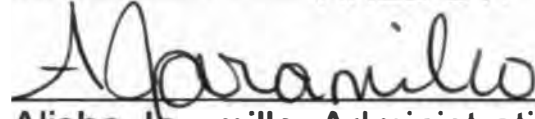
Moved by Mayor Padilla to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m.



ATTEST:


Karla Sayler, City Clerk

MINUTES PREPARED BY:


Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant



Michael A. Padilla Sr., Mayor