

## ITF Report from KokHeong McNaughton (July)

- **7/10/25 Parks and Rec Board.** There were three presentations.
  1. County Staff presented Revisions to Policy 1735: Use and Rental of County Facilities/Land, and asked for motion to proceed. Motion did not pass. More work is needed.
  2. Celeste Raffin from Open Space and Trails Working Group (OSTWG) presented a proposal for Adopt-a-Trail program. It was a great presentation, with well thought out ideas, and many options for how a person or group can adopt a trail or part of a trail for regular clean-up and maintenance. These options range from small, one-time only commitment, to longer and more serious commitments. The Board unanimously approved the proposal. No action was taken until Parks and Rec staff and OSTWG have met and discussed administrative options.
  3. Library manager Gwen Kalavaza gave the same Open Classroom presentation she did at the Library Board meeting a few days ago. No official action was taken but all Board members present spoke in support of the project. The next steps are to get a soil study done and then the architects can finalize the design including costs.
- **7/11/25 Accessibility Working Group.** James and KokHeong made use of one of the County's booths to distribute a short survey, and talk to people who were attending the Summer Concert Series. We collected data both at the concert and online using a googledoc form with a QR code that Rachel Cazier helped us develop. (Thank you, Rachel!) We only had 5 in-person responses on Friday night, but by the next morning, we had 25 online responses. These have been summarized and shared with the working group. Responses are still trickling in slowly. Meanwhile Karen is organizing small Focus Groups that would be meeting in person to further obtain more data through interviews and direct interactions. She has also taken on the responsibility of our Ambassador Extraordinaire by following up with people who have given us their contact information which is an optional field in the survey they took. Leslie Bucklin is designing a handy survey card for us to hand out at other public events, distribute to friends, co-workers, acquaintances, and other interest group members. Our next venue for outreach is at the Farmer's Market on July 24<sup>th</sup>, which is when County Council will be hosting a booth and we have their permission to use it. A few more tours are in the planning stages.
- **7/17/25 Environmental Sustainability Board.** Heidi Honegger Rogers gave a presentation on Planetary Health. The health of planet earth is intricately linked to the health of all living things on earth. For example, air pollution causes increased asthma cases, especially in children. There's correlation between higher temperatures and higher crime rates, and higher emergency room admittance. The Planetary Health Alliance (PHA) is a global consortium committed to understanding and addressing the impact of global environmental change on human health. Its objective is to create a livable future for humanity and all life on earth. The Plastic Bag working group gave an update of their findings. They summarized previous local efforts for banning or imposing fees on single-

use plastic bags since 2015. Smith's in WR at one point charged 3c per bag. The effort did not help reduce bag use. People either paid and/or complained about it. The complains caused higher level Kroger administration to put a stop to it. The group also collected data from nearby communities with Plastic Bag ordinances. No action was taken at this meeting. The Board didn't feel they are ready to make a recommendation to County Council at this point of their study and research. Their next step is community engagement and getting feedbacks from residents and businesses.

- **7/21/25 Neurodivergent Focus Group.** We met for Coffee at Wolf & Mermaid and went over data collected so far. We settled on our three low-hanging fruits. Each member of the group was assigned further research into different aspects of the three items. Current members are myself, Lisa Reader, Lindsey Reader, Elizabeth Portillos (my daughter), Megan Cole, and Anthony Alaniz. We welcome new people to join us.
- **7/24/25 Farmers Market.** I attended the Farmer's Market, talked to people, and handed out survey cards to direct people to our online survey.
- **7/24/25 Senior Center Lunch and Learn.** July 26th marks the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In recognition of this anniversary, the Senior Center organized a "Lunch and Learn" program by Bernadine Chavez, Director of Program Services of Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM). Karen and I attended this event to learn about the services DRNM provides to New Mexicans with disabilities and their strategies to improve disability service systems.