

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 1, 2014

Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1801 4th Street NW

Members Present: Dan Wilkinson, Chair; Carmen Garcia; Janet Harrington; Rebecca L. Tays; Lou Romero

Members Excused/Absent: John Myers, Vice-Chair

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Judith Wong, Senior Project Coordinator; James Lewis, Trails Planner; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Carrie Barkhurst, Planning Department; Susan Kelly, Consultant to Parks and Recreation Department

Call to Order: Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to approve the Agenda with no objection.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Wilkinson requested a motion to approve the March 2014 Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Announcements: None

General Public Testimony: None

Reports:

- Highland Park Presentation by Judith Wong – Highland Park is located in the old, historic Huning Castle area. The demographics of the area are changing, with younger families with small children moving into the area. Staff has been working on the design since 2010, and considering what type of renovation should take place at one of Albuquerque's original parks. They would like the renovation to bring back the park's Victorian splendor. Judith presented a slide show with many older pictures of the park, providing the history of the park. In 1959, during the construction of I-25, a portion of the park was utilized for the construction of the freeway. She showed more current pictures of the park and included pictures of what the park would look like with new playground equipment installed. She discussed reconfiguring the parking to an appropriate size, which will include 2 handicapped spaces and 6 or 7 regular spaces, and ADA compliant access from street parking on Locust to the top of the hill. This design decision to rejoin the northern portion of the park to the southern portion and create a picnic area in one of the most beautiful locations was made in the interest of the park-using public. She also discussed the vehement opposition by the Albuquerque Press Club who use the parks parking lot for their private club, despite the fact that they must provide 50 offsite parking spaces in order to retain their liquor license. Staff can provide next steps and the best way to move forward at the next meeting to include funding and schedule.

- Bikeways and Trails Facility Plan Presentation by James Lewis, Susan Kelly and Carrie Barkhurst – The current plan was written in 1993. In 2008, staff began working on updating the plan. They are attempting to develop an integrated system of parks, open space and trails, balancing the various needs of all users. They are aiming to submit the new plan to EPC by July and to City Council by August. They also discussed maintenance issues on our trails system. They plan to attend a Board Meeting in June to provide an update. Barbara would like to add this item to the June Agenda as an Action Item for endorsement by the Board.
- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned how she had recently discussed the Proposed Budget with the Board. The Administration will be submitting the Budget to City Council for approval. Barbara will provide a copy to the Board for their review in advance of the May meeting and it will be added to the Agenda as a discussion item. Barbara mentioned to the Board that she just returned from Washington DC where she attended the NRPA Legislative Forum. The purpose of this forum is to bring local parks and recreation officials to Congress to discuss the importance of parks. She discussed the three pillars: Conservation, Health and Wellness and Social Equity. She had the opportunity to meet with other Parks and Recreation Directors that do the same thing in their cities. She met with Martin Heinrich, Michelle Lujan Grisham and staff from Tom Udall's office. She provided information on the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She showed a booklet entitled, "2014 NRPA Legislative Platform", and will forward a copy of this booklet electronically to Board Members. She mentioned that the Department has hired 200 lifeguards and seasonal employees in the Golf Management, Open Space and Recreation Divisions. Spring preparation is currently taking place at all of our pools. Outdoor pools will open Memorial Day. A City Forester has been hired and began a week ago. Barbara mentioned that a tree planting and seedling giveaway is scheduled for April 25, 2014. She will forward a flyer to Board Members. The second Rio Grande Educational Forum is scheduled for this evening, 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at the Natural History Museum. The first forum was well received, with approximately 200 participants attending. The purpose is to elevate the dialog and speak to the community. The subject of tonight's forum is Environmental Education and Climate Change. She will provide details at future meetings. Walk and talks are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month.
- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that the grand reopening of the Los Altos Skate Park will be held April 12, 2014. She provided details about the project, the event, and a flyer with additional information. The next Brown Bag Session will be held on April 10, 2014, 11:30 AM, in our lunch room. The subject will be Irrigation in the Desert Southwest. Greg Miller of Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller Landscape Architects will be leading this session. All are welcome to attend. The GO Bond process for 2015 is starting. Parks and Recreation has a smaller budget of \$7.7M, as compared to last year's budget of \$13.6M. It will be a challenge to meet our needs and priorities, as well as those of the Mayor and City Council.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, discussed signage at Balloon Fiesta Park and the Sid Cutter Pilots Pavilion. The Commission is working on an annual report. He discussed various events and participant counts.
- Sub-Committee reports – None

- **Members' Roundtable** – Dan Wilkinson mentioned that he has visited with some of the City Councilors concerning Parks and Recreation.
- **Unfinished Business** – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Emily Larsen, the new Boards and Commissions Liaison in Mayor Berry's Office, is moving forward with filling vacancies in Districts 4, Robert Stetson, and District 6, Susan Michie Maitlen.
- **New Business** – Christina mentioned that the Golf Concessionaire for Arroyo del Oso and Puerto del Sol Golf Courses has purchased ADA accessible golf carts for these two facilities. We are moving toward access in all of our programs.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4th Street NW.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.