

**METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of December 3, 2013**

**Location:** Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1801 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW

**Members Present:** Dan Wilkinson, Chair; John Myers, Vice-Chair; Lou Romero, Carmen Garcia, Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington

**Members Excused/Absent:** N/A

**City Staff Present:** Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

**Visitors:** N/A

**Call to Order:** Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:37 PM

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Mr. Wilkinson requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Jan Harrington moved approval; John Myers seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Wilkinson requested a motion to approve the November 2013 Minutes. John Myers moved approval; the board unanimously approved the motion.

**Announcements:** Janet Harrington Inquired about nomination of a new Chair for the Board. She made a motion to nominate Dan Wilkinson for Chair. John Myers seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Wilkinson inquired if any Board Members were interested in being nominated for the Vice-Chair position. John Myers indicated that he was interested. Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to nominate John Myers for Vice-Chair. Janet Harrington seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion.

**General Public Testimony:** None

**Items for Discussion:**

- Naming of El Rancho Grande 17 Park to Sierra Sunset Park – Barbara mentioned that this park has not yet been built. Funds are available to build the park. The Westgate Heights Neighborhood Association President, Paul Fredrickson, submitted a letter on behalf of the neighborhood requesting that the park be named Sierra Sunset Park. El Rancho Grande is the name of the subdivision and was used as a name for this park until funds were available for construction. Planning and Design staff asked the neighborhood if they had a name preference for the park and after much neighborhood involvement, they indicated they would like Sierra Sunset Park. Board Members discussed this matter and decided they should modify their Policy to include these types of park naming. Board Members will review the policy and propose language for the modification.

**Reports:**

- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, thanked Board Members for volunteering and for attending monthly Board meetings and City Council meetings. She distributed the PRD Mission Statement and Strategic Plan for viewing and indicated that this information would be forwarded to Board Members via email. Barbara attended City Council

meeting last evening with the new Council. They did not assign Sub-Committee Chairs. They did name Dan Lewis as head of the Committee of the Whole. Ken Sanchez was named President and Trudy Jones, Vice-President of City Council. A bill on the City Council Agenda was for appropriating \$1.4M from the Water Utility Authority to Open Space for habitat restoration in the Bosque. It includes 100 acres to be restored south of Paseo del Norte on both sides of the river. This restoration project needs to begin before nesting season in April. They Resolution by Councilor Sanchez on Mayor Berry's plan for the RGVSP has been deferred until January 6, 2014. Barbara provided information to the Board on status of vacant positions in the Department that really affect us. The Forester position has been re-advertised and will close on Thursday. The Median and Trails Supervisor position has been filled from within the Department. The CIP Construction Superintendent is retiring after 25 years with the City and interviews to fill this position will begin soon. Interviews will be held to fill a vacant Program Manager position in the Planning and Design Division.

- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that she is compiling information for each City Council District. She and Barbara will be meeting with each City Councilor to discuss priorities. Janet Harrington suggested that each City Councilor be made aware of the MPRAB and the importance of City Councilors appointing a representative from their District to this Board. Christina distributed pictures of the artwork for the Los Altos Skate Park renovation. ADA Audits are progressing. Team training has been completed and they are currently completing audits in Park Management Area 1 in the northeast quadrant of Albuquerque. The consultant will return to Albuquerque after the first of the year to evaluate work that has been completed. Christina received a phone call from Mr. Morrison of the Rancho Caballero Neighborhood. He attended a recent meeting on behalf of the neighborhood and requested that the basketball courts be removed. Christina distributed a copy of his request and a draft response for Board Member review and possible action at next month's meeting.
- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department mentioned that he has had the opportunity to meet with representatives from FEMA and Homeland Security regarding the July 26, 2013, storm that went through Albuquerque and caused damage at many of our facilities. We may be able to recover up to 85% of various costs associated with clean-up of these facilities. Garry provided additional information including the number of downed trees at various sites and miscellaneous damage caused at facilities.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, mentioned that it has been quiet at Balloon Fiesta Park after the recent event. He stated that attendance at this year's event was the second best, with 856K attending this year. The best attendance year was 2007. The Balloon Museum had an attendance of 19K during the Balloon Fiesta event this year. The park did have some damage requiring approximately a pallet of sod for repairs. He will have information for spring events for the February meeting.
- Sub-Committee reports – Dan Wilkinson discussed a bill, SM97, concerning Youth Sports Commissions. One item they are reviewing is concussions. Christina mentioned that she had attended one of the larger meetings. The Commission is looking at how other states handle this matter. The goal is to have legislation regarding concussions ready by 2015 Legislative Session. There is support from the medical community and sports community for this type of legislation. Christina provided additional information and the Board discussed this matter further. Dan Wilkinson and Bill Nordin provided additional input.

- **Members' Roundtable** – John Myers inquired about Movies in the Park this past summer and the neighborhood conflict. Garry Wolfe and Christina Sandoval provided information on this matter and indicated that they are working on a vending policy that they are hoping to have in place by spring. Janet Harrington inquired about APD Chief's Overtime for events that are held in Albuquerque. Board Members discussed this matter further.
- **Unfinished Business** – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Garry Wolfe discussed sending an email to volunteers and organizations that have adopted medians concerning vacant positions on the Board.
- **New Business** – None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.