

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of March 26, 2013

Location: Jerry Cline Recreation and Tennis Center, 7205 Constitution NE

Members Present: William Kraemer, Chair; Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington; Kelly Gossett; Carmen Garcia; Amy Lahti, Vice Chairman; Dan Wilkinson

Members Excused/Absent: Jerry Worrall

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Daphany Martin, Board Secretary

Visitors: Kathy Leyendecker, Mark Twain Neighborhood Association; Ethel Ferguson, Mark Twain Neighborhood Association

Call to Order: Mr. Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:50 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Amy Lahti moved approval; Janet Harrington seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the February 2013 Minutes. Janet Harrington moved approval; Amy Lahti seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Everyone present introduced themselves.

Announcements: Barbara brought up the e-mail that was provided by Delaney Woodward for the Open Meetings Act Training. She welcomed Board Members to sign up for this optional training. Mr. Kraemer thinks this training would be good for those interested in serving on the Board. He stated he almost got Lou Romero to attend this meeting, as he is interested in joining the Board. Hopefully he will be able to get Mr. Romero and another individual that has shown interest to attend next months meeting.

General Public Testimony: Kathie Leyendecker, previous President of Mark Twain Neighborhood Association, provided handouts to the Board of previous correspondence regarding Tom Bolack Park. She reviewed history of the park such as installation of fence between San Pedro and Louisiana, freeway widened, and the first sound wall in Albuquerque placed at the park. Over the past 15 years the drip system at the park has been deteriorating. Graffiti clean up is done with a paint that does not match. Mr. Kraemer informed Ms. Leyendecker that Graffiti cleanup is entirely a different department. Trees are dying and the park is maintained only twice a year. She would like to see improvements in the maintenance of the trees, xeriscape that is drought tolerant as a focal point, regular maintenance, and is asking for a better entrance to the park. Mr. Kraemer commented that there are other parks with the same problems across the city that are suffering and feels this is not just Park Management, but ever increasing park land and minimal growth in budget and resources. Christina said her

Division Manager, David Flores, would be happy to attend a neighborhood meeting regarding design. Mr. Kraemer pointed out that Jerry Cline is such a gem, and having this park close by with these needs is not so good. Dan expressed concern that this has been ongoing for the neighborhood since 2004. Ethel asked at the bare minimum the drip system be repaired as trees are dying. Barbara said Parks and Recreation will take action as there is money and design in effect for these items. She appreciates Kathy bringing this to the table. Over the last 10 years Parks has not been able to keep up with the growth of the Park System to include medians, trail systems and it is not intentional neglect of Tom Bolack Park. Barbara would like to ideally be at a preventative rather than crisis mode as it has been. Parks is working at correcting these problems, but it will not repair overnight. She will talk to Park Management regarding maintenance techniques of the park and apologizes for the problems they have had. Mr. Kraemer proposed that Kathy and the new association speak about issues at Tom Bolack Park at the upcoming Budget Hearings.

Action Items

- Update Guidelines for Renaming Park – Mr. Kraemer started the conversation regarding the Proposed Park Naming Policy. The Board discussed guidelines for renaming parks and alternative ways of recognizing someone without having to rename a park. Barbara provided information on the Memorial Tree Program, where people can purchase a tree or bench in memory of someone. Dan started discussion on donations and requests for name changes. Mr. Kraemer does not want to move towards naming parks after people, but rather other improvements, benches, etc. Amy agrees that no matter the donation, there are greater considerations. Mr. Kraemer wants to encourage donations to offset the items that are going to be supported such as trees and benches. Barbara referenced the four pending request name changes at Carlos Rey Park after Benny Aragon; Sunrise Terrace Park after Kyle Robert Irwin; Bel-Air Miramontes Park after Lee Julian; The Trails Park after Hailey Ratliff. She would like to send correspondence to individuals that submit request for a memorial of some sort to memorialize their individual. Barbara informed the Board that Park Management oversees memorials, which is called the "Memorial Tree Program". Foresters are coming to a point where we are running out of areas to put trees; therefore looking at memorializing through benches and plaques. Barbara proposed that they come and present to the Board. It is a mini version of what they are trying to do with the Foundation. Opportunities to get people to donate money. Money is currently put in a revenue account which does not mingle with the general fund, approximately \$80,000, still not sure where we are going with this. Looking at tweaking the processes so people can come directly to Park Management verses coming to the Board. Amy would still like to see requests come in with an application. She feels it would be good public relations to at least talk about it in a meeting and then direct to individuals Park Management. This shows respect to their request. Discussion on notices being sent out, as to whose responsibility that will be. Number F1 & 3 Applicants responsibility, and F2 Parks responsibility. Signs will be issued by Parks and Recreation and posting the sign will be the applicant's responsibility. Mr. Kraemer brought up charging a \$50 fee. Jan brought up attaching a fee on the policies could possibly lock us in. Mr. Kraemer said this could be adjusted later. Amy thought the fee of \$50 coming in with the application is a wonderful idea. Amy agreed that this process is a better structure for

the applicant in taking steps to their request verses letter bombing Parks and Recreation. Discussion on how to handle the four requests to change name. Mr. Kraemer feels we should schedule their request without application this time. Anything in the future will require application and fee. Mr. Kraemer said the Ideas will be incorporated into the policy that has been discussed. Dan motioned that we approve the proposed Park Naming Policy with such amendments as have been proposed today, March 26, 2013, passed unanimously.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Report, Barbara Baca, Director - Barbara reported that the Mayor signed off on capital budget in the amount of \$115M that Council approved. It will be going to voters in October. Parks and Recreation budget did increase for the capital program for 2013. Amendment by Councilor Louis and Councilor Harris which took almost \$3.5M out of the Mayor's proposed capital program. Impact for Parks and Recreation is that those monies were for river and bosque trail improvements. Over \$2M was added for Westside parks, new development and Four Hills Park development. An additional \$250K for Open Space Acquisition, \$1.5M for Balloon Fiesta and the Pavilion. Sid Cutter Memorial got \$175K. The initial Parks and Recreation CIP proposal was \$10.75M and we received approximately \$14M. \$2.9M earmarked in Council Resolution coming from operating budget to capital program to do the Mayors priority: river and bosque trail improvements, which is part of his ABQ the Plan.

Operating Budget goes to Council April 1, 2013. (Please see attached). Barbara will send the budget to the entire Board. Barbara encouraged members to speak at the Council Meeting. She will notify the Board when the Council Meeting is scheduled.

She reported the New Mexico Recreation Parks Association (NMRPA) was held in Albuquerque and was a success with over 250 people in attendance. The City partnered with Bernalillo County to host this event. She recognized Mr. Nordin for receiving an award for his volunteer service, as well as Parks and Recreation receiving several awards state wide. There was positive feedback from the event. Barbara recently attended the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) in DC for a Legislative Forum which discussed national issues and priorities for Parks and Recreation. The meeting captured the message that the benefits of parks and recreation are not just fun and games. It is about community revitalization, health and wellness on our trails, economic development, and social equity. Barbara was able to meet with Senators Udall and Heinrich and Congresswoman Michelle Lujan-Grisham. It was a really good experience.

Christina asked for participation from the Board on evaluation of parks ADA compliance for federal requirements to meet expectation. Looking for volunteers to help as this will take a lot of man hours. Esperanza the newly opened bike shop has opportunity for volunteerism for those that have a love for biking. She also reported that the Median Program - Parks and Recreation would like to work with other departments to establish city ordinances and policies pertaining to the development and maintenance of landscaping the right of way.

- Balloon Fiesta Park Commission Representative for MPRAB, Bill Nordin - Mr. Nordin reported that the BFP has been working on revising and updating their policies and discussed the various changes made. The Banquet Room is booked weekends through the end of June 2013. Advertising is done by word of mouth, as there are no monies for advertising. Two upcoming events at the park; 5K Color Run on April 21, 2013, and the Warrior Dash on April 27, 2013. Not often do events get turned down. BFP had to deny an event for Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department as there was a possibility of damage to the field.

New Business: A Board Retreat will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 9:00 AM To 1:00 PM. The location of the Retreat is yet to be determined.

The next MPRAB Meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2013, 12:30 to 2:30 PM, at the Esperanza Community Bike Shop.

Adjourn: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.