

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 23, 2013

Location: Esperanza Community Bike Shop, 5600 Esperanza NW

Members Present: William Kraemer, Chair; Janet Harrington; Dan Wilkinson; Jerry Worrall

Members Excused/Absent: Amy Lahti, Vice-Chair; Rebecca L. Tays; Kelly Gossett; Carmen Garcia

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; James Lewis, Trails Planner; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Bob and Myra Irwin; Louis Romero; Petra Morris; Marylou Kraemer; Linda Thorne; Lanny Tanning

Call to Order: Mr. Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:46 PM

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Kraemer approved the Agenda as distributed via email.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Kraemer approved the Minutes as distributed via email with no objection from Board Members that were present.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: All visitors introduced themselves.

Announcements: Amy Lahti sent an email notifying that she is resigning from the Board effective immediately.

General Public Testimony: Linda Thorne and Lanny Tanning spoke about "Bike in Zoning", which promotes commercial zoning accessibility by bike trails. Their property is located at the Old Town Farms. It is a working farm located west of Old Town. It has direct access to the I-40 bike path. It is in the County, but is surrounded by properties that are within the City. They have run this 12 acre farm for 35 years. They grow organic vegetables. Ms. Thorne provided history on how their business has progressed over time. They are currently serving their vegetables to the public to familiarize patrons with a variety of greens. Barbara mentioned the Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan and would like Bike in Zoning to be included in this. Mr. Kraemer believes we have a great trails system and we need to take advantage of it. The property owned by Ms. Thorne and Mr. Tanning is currently zoned as agricultural. They would like to work with the City to rezone the property as commercial.

Bob and Myra Irwin submitted a request to rename Sunrise Terrace Park. They will be attending the May 2013 meeting, but wanted to sit in and familiarize themselves with the Board.

Action Items

- Confirm Park Naming Policies – Mr. Kraemer mentioned that as there is no quorum, we are unable to confirm the Park Naming Policies that were adopted at the April 2013 meeting. He requested that the Board Secretary forward the policy to all Board Members and inquire if there are any objections to the Policy as written.

Reports:

- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is now on the same day and time as the Open Space Advisory Board meeting. It is very important that she be able to attend both meetings, so she will have to leave early today in an attempt to try and attend the Open Space Advisory Board meeting. One big issue she wants to bring to the attention of the Board is that the Budget Hearing before City Council is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2013. She mentioned the possible cuts of the Forester and Median Crew Supervisor positions. The parks system continues to increase and it is tough to continue with the loss of positions. Mr. Kraemer invited Board Members to attend the meeting on Thursday to express their opinions. Mr. Kraemer will be in attendance and he will forward information to Board Members prior to the Budget Hearing on Thursday. Barbara mentioned that due to a negotiation on fuel prices, the City was able to save \$1M. This money will be used to fill in gaps. She expressed that Parks and Recreation can't afford to lose more positions.
- Members Roundtable – Mr. Worrall mentioned that January marked 50 years of volunteering for him. Effective immediately, he is resigning from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Kraemer thanked Mr. Worrall for his leadership on the Board. He has been a good friend and a gracious leader.

Mr. Kraemer mentioned how Esperanza Community Bike Shop is a monument to Richard Rivas.

Adjourn: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 1:41 PM.