

**JOINT MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
And
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of September 25, 2012**

Location: Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors NW

MPRAB Members Present: William Kraemer, Chair; Janet Harrington, Dan Wilkinson, Rebecca L. Tays

Members Excused/Absent: Amy Lahti, Carmen Garcia, Jerry Worrall, Kelly Gossett

OSAB Members Present: Jerrold Widdison, David Horine, Richard Ortiz; Griffin Lechner

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, Strategic Planning and Design Division; Matthew Schmader, Superintendent, Open Space Division; Jay Lee Evans, Open Space Division; Kent Swanson, Open Space Division; Nicole Trujillo, Open Space Division; Lisa Gutierrez, Real Property Division; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: None

Call to Order: Mr. Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:53 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Kraemer mentioned that the original agenda was lengthy, so he provided a Proposed Revised Agenda for review. As there was no quorum on either Board, and no objections to the use of the Revised Agenda, Mr. Kraemer moved forward.

Approval of MPRAB Minutes: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the August 2012 MPRAB Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; Rebecca Tays seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of OSAB Minutes: Mr. Kraemer inquired if there were any OSAB minutes available for approval. There were not.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: None

Matt Schmader, Superintendent of Open Space Division, welcomed both Boards to the Open Space Visitor Center. He mentioned how proud they are of the facility, which is very well run and a nice place to visit. Barbara Baca, Director of Parks and Recreation Department, thanked all Board Members for volunteering. She introduced Mr. Kraemer, Chair of the MPRAB, and Mr. Widdison, Chair of the OSAB.

Items for Discussion:

- Overall Mission of each Board: Barbara Baca and Matt Schmader discussed the mission of each Board. The OSAB was established in 1982. There was a distinct need for both Boards. The downside to having two Boards is they do not communicate enough. Mr. Kraemer mentioned that the MPRAB meetings are about individual parks and issues at those parks. Meetings are held at various sites and focus on maintenance and usage issues for individual parks. Matt mentioned that the OSAB was formed prior to the Open Space Division. The OSAB looks at global issues, recommendations and acquisition more than maintenance. Matt discussed the enabling legislation for the OSAB. Mr. Widdison stated that the OSAB provides advice and

comment to Open Space and the City. Matt discussed the priority acquisition list. Mr. Kraemer mentioned that when there is an imminent threat, such as with the property located at Coors and Montano, the MPRAB will act. Barbara mentioned a recent study completed by the Trust for Public Lands. Albuquerque was listed as #11 nationally relative to amount of acres and accessibility of parks, open space and trails. She explained how Albuquerque achieved this level and explained how our trails system weaves our parks and open space areas together.

- Parks and Recreation and Open Space Foundation: Barbara mentioned the Foundation Sub-Committee for the MPRAB and how they are working to create another funding source for our parks system. A Foundation will provide a way for the community to give back monetarily if they wish. The Sub-Committee is currently doing research. For example, the City of Austin collects \$500K annually. Barbara would like Board Members to consider assisting with the creation of a Parks and Open Space Foundation, as the same people will be making donations. These donated funds could be used to fund capital projects or operations and programs. Mr. Kraemer mentioned that the benefit of a foundation is that a foundation is able to accept bequeath after death. It is more flexible. Board Members provided input and suggestions. Jay Evans mentioned the Albuquerque Museum Foundation and thought it may be a good example to follow. Board Members discussed acquiring and managing donations and channeling public interest. Barbara mentioned that Bernalillo County is involved in the Foundation meetings. Barbara wanted to put the idea out of having a volunteer from the OSAB sit in on the Foundation meetings. She requested that they discuss this at their next meeting. Barbara mentioned that the beauty of a foundation is that money can be spent where it is needed.
- Mr. Lechner inquired about location of MPRAB meetings. MPRAB meetings are held at various locations throughout Albuquerque. He also asked about the challenge of getting law enforcement support for parks. Barbara mentioned that park calls are a lower priority as police officers are dealing with other issues. We do have a good relationship with the unit that was previously part of the Open Space Division, but moved to APD. Board Members discussed volunteer programs. Barbara mentioned that Open Space has the best volunteer program. Volunteers are the "eyes and ears" for parks and open space areas.

Reports:

- Barbara Baca, Director for Parks and Recreation Department, distributed information on the current bond funds for parks, open space and trails. She also distributed the proposed 2013 GO Bond program. Barbara and Christina reviewed the handouts with Board Members and explained the process for the GO Bond Program. The GO Bond information goes first to EPC and then to City Council for approval. We are currently focusing more on renovation rather than new development. The GO Bond has been reduced from \$26M in 2011 to \$11M in 2013. We have a big system of parks and open space areas to maintain, build and acquire, with a limited amount of money. They expressed the importance of volunteers contacting their City Councilors to support parks and open space. Matt mentioned that representatives must step up and urge support of the GO Bond package and he would like to keep Board Members informed on the schedule of events. Mr. Kraemer inquired about expending funds for past GO Bonds. Christina mentioned that we have done well expending funds for the past five years. Mr. Kraemer inquired if we are actively obtaining grants. Christina mentioned that we are not currently seeking grants.

Adjourn: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 12:30.