

**METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of August 5, 2014**

**Location:** Jerry Cline Recreation and Tennis Facility, 7205 Constitution NE

**Members Present:** Dan Wilkinson, Chair; John Myers, Vice-Chair; Roxanne Turley, Susan Michie-Maitlen; Janet Harrington; Lou Romero

**Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative for the MPRAB:** Bill Nordin

**Members Excused/Absent:** Carmen Garcia

**City Staff Present:** Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

**Visitors:** Carrie Barkhurst, Planning Department; Christina Joy, Alicia Quinones, Carolyn Kelly, Beth Baker, Judith Phillips, George Miller

**Call to Order:** Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:36 PM

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Mr. Wilkinson inquired if there were objections to the Agenda as written; the board unanimously approved the Agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Wilkinson inquired if there were objections to the Minutes for the June 2014 meeting as written; the board unanimously approved the June 2014 Minutes.

**Introduction of Visitors and Guests:** Mr. Wilkinson introduced Carrie Barkhurst of the Planning Department who attended to speak about the Bikeway and Trails Facility Plan. He also indicated that Alicia Quinones and visitors were in attendance to speak on the El Oso Grande Park Pollinator Habitat

**Announcements:** N/A

**General Public Testimony:** None

**Items for Discussion:**

- El Oso Grande Park Pollinator Habitat – Alicia Quinones and other members of the community attended and provided background on how this project was initiated in May 2013. She provided history on the open space area east of El Oso Grande Park and how in 2004, a small area was damaged by fire. Previously the area had been covered with vegetation. The collaboration of multiple groups resulted in establishing the Pollinator Habitat. Many volunteer hours, a PNM Grant in the amount of \$10K and contribution of materials by the City of Albuquerque in the amount of \$20K, has resulted in a project with a value, which Ms. Quinones estimates to be \$308K. She thanked various City staff members including Leroy Martinez, who assisted with providing reclaimed water to the site and Carol Dumont,

for planning and coordination efforts with several City Departments. This site has become a strong educational component that is used by biology students at CNM. The site has rock paths that make it available to walkers and dog walkers. She also discussed the long term maintenance plan for the area.

- Memorial for Rebecca Tays and Bill Kraemer – Mr. Wilkinson requested that discussion on the memorial for Bill Kraemer be deferred until the September 2014 meeting. Alicia Quinones explained how Rebecca Tays was instrumental in establishing the Pollinator Habitat project. They also mentioned that plants can be purchased at Plants of the Southwest from “Becky’s List”. The volunteers at the Pollinator Habitat will pick them up and plant them and ensure they have water. They have an area set aside to be used as a memorial for Becky. They would like to plant a tree and have a plaque installed at this site. The Board discussed this. Janet Harrington made a motion that a tree be purchased and a plaque memorializing Becky be placed at the Pollinator Habitat. John Myers seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

#### **Action Item:**

- Bikeway and Trails Facility Plan – Endorsement by the Board – Carrie Barkhurst provided and update on the Plan and Board Members asked questions, which Carrie answered. Carrie mentioned that since she last met with the Board, there has been three public meetings and media attention. The plan has been submitted to the Environmental Planning Commission and a hearing is scheduled for September 4, 2014. Board Members discussed possible bike rental, outcome of the public meetings, etc. They also discussed the draft letter of endorsement that had been prepared. Janet Harrington made a motion to approve the letter of endorsement for the Bikeway and Trails Facility Plan. John Myers seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion that the letter be signed by Chairman Dan Wilkinson.

#### **Reports:**

- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, provided the Board with an update on what has been occurring in our Divisions. Park Management Division, on June 23, 2014, implemented the use of the YARDI Software Program in one of seven areas of the city. They are now completing tasks with the use of electronic work orders. The hope is to get the other six areas implemented by December 31, 2014. Garry provided additional details on issues we are facing and hopes for this program. Park Management is also in the process of purchasing \$1M in vehicles and equipment. The hope is that staff can go to each site and complete all tasks at one time without having to call upon specialty crews. Golf Management Division has submitted an action plan to Internal Audit, the Inspector General and the State Inspector General that will tighten fiscal management of concessionaires. In 2012, Golf Management had an external auditor, REDW, conduct an audit of the POS system. As a result, Golf Management has completed the installation of a modern POS system at all City golf courses. Garry provided information on the golf course agreements with concessionaires.

Aquatics Division is wrapping up their summer season. Outdoor pools will close on Sunday, August 10, 2014, with the exception of Wilson Pool, which will stay open until mid-September. Recreation Division is wrapping up their summer tennis lessons and the Outdoor Recreation Program. However, they are starting their softball season and preparing to turn over Balloon Fiesta Park to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for the upcoming Balloon Fiesta event, which takes place October 4-12, 2014. Open Space Division will be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Open Space Visitor Center on Saturday, August 16, 2014, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Shooting Range Park will be hosting an Outdoor Expo in coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service the weekend of August 16-17, 2014. This is an educational event for kids, teaching them how to shoot and fish. Parks and Recreation Department is also hosting their summer employee picnic on August 16, 2014, 4:00 to 7:00 PM, at the Golf Training Center at Balloon Fiesta Park. Garry invited Board Members to attend and meet staff members that work behind the scenes. He mentioned that the Department is in the process of hiring a new Fiscal Division Manager and completing the hire for a Senior Labor Relations Officer to replace Sherri Hines.

- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, was excused from attendance at today's meeting.
- Sub-Committee reports – N/A.
- Members' Roundtable – N/A.
- Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2, 5 and 8.
- New Business – N/A

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2014.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 2:27 PM.