

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of June 3, 2014

Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1801 4th Street NW

Members Present: Dan Wilkinson, Chair; John Myers, Vice-Chair; Roxanne Turley, Susan Michie-Maitlen; Carmen Garcia; Janet Harrington

Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative for the MPRAB: Bill Nordin

Members Excused/Absent: Lou Romero

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

Visitors: Carrie Barkhurst, Planning Department

Call to Order: Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:33 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 May 2014 meeting as written; the board unanimously approved the May 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.

Announcements: N/A

General Public Testimony: None

Items for Discussion:

- Memorial for Rebecca Tays – Mr. Wilkinson requested that this item be deferred until the July 2014 meeting so that Alicia Quinones from the El Oso Grande Neighborhood could attend and discuss this matter further with the Board.

Action Item:

- Bikeway and Trails Facility Plan – Endorsement by the Board – Carrie Barkhurst provided a presentation and reviewed the plan with the Board. Carrie will provide the website link for the plan and her contact information, which will be forwarded to the Board. She requested that they contact her if they have any questions. The Board requested that this item be placed on the agenda of a future meeting so they may discuss preparing a letter of endorsement.

Reports:

- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that the FY15 Budget is being wrapped up. The end result for the Parks and Recreation Department is that the Planning and Design staff will be retained; however, the Class II Construction Crews will be transferred to DMD effective July 1, 2014. We will be adding four positions, 2 in Park Management Division, a Rangemaster for the Archery Range in Open Space Division, and a supervisor in the Aquatics Division for the Highland Cluster. Park Management Division is being reorganized. Crews will go to each park and complete most all maintenance at parks. This will result in a reduction in the amount of specialized crews in this Division. The last in a series of four Bosque Educational Forums will be held tonight at the Natural History Museum beginning at 6:00 PM. Matt Schmader will be speaking about the future of the Bosque. A ribbon cutting will be held at Jerry Cline Park on June 11, 2014, 5:00 PM. They have widened an access door at this facility to 42", making it wide enough for sports chairs. National Trails Day is Saturday, June 7, 2014, 8:00 AM, out of Elena Gallegos Picnic Area. They will also hold an event out of Old Town Farms for a clean-up of the I-40 Trail between Rio Grande and the River. Our seven outdoor pools opened this week. Aquatics is also having a Ditch the Ditches campaign and distributing approximately 50,000 free swim passes. They are also being distributed by APD and AFD. An 81 acre parcel of land was purchased on the west mesa on 118th Street, next to the new APS facility. We have some money for planning, but no funding for development at this time. Christina provided additional information in response to Board Member inquiries.
- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, distributed Park books to Board Members. It contains maps and locations of all parks in the City of Albuquerque. She mentioned that in the new budget, maintenance of medians will be transferred to the Solid Waste Department. She spoke about the recent re-opening of Robinson Park. The park was recently renovated and has been opened in time for the Growers Market, which is held there annually. Unfortunately, we are already seeing a decline in the turf due to the heavy use. She provided additional details. Two projects currently taking place include the development of 12 tennis courts, a soccer field and two sand volleyball courts at Ventana Ranch Park, and the development of a six acre park on the southwest mesa. This should be out for bid in the next couple of weeks. She informed Board Members of the many summer programs offered through our department. On June 14, 2014, Summerfest will be held at North Domingo Baca Park. There will be music, food and many fun activities.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, mentioned that this is a busy time at Balloon Fiesta Park. Recent events include the Celtic Festival, the Wine Festival, and Music in the Park at the Balloon Museum. They are preparing for the second largest event held at Balloon Fiesta Park, Freedom 4th. He discussed construction of a building at the Park which will be similar to the Manuel Lujan Building at the State Fair Grounds. He discussed how Verizon is working to make the Park a "Hot Spot" which will allow internet access. Bike Crits start tonight at the Park. A crit is a bike race where riders complete multiple laps, following each other

very closely. A big soccer tournament will begin at the Park on June 16, 2014. They are expecting over 240 teams to participate. Rugby and lacrosse are also being held at the Park. The Folk Festival will be held at the Balloon Museum on June 7, 2014. A Board Member inquired about the construction taking place at Vista del Norte and Osuna. Christina indicated that this facility is designated for balloon landings. They are currently in the first phase, developing 7 to 10 acres of the 23 acre parcel. They are currently excavating. An irrigation system will be installed soon. This should be completed for Balloon Fiesta in October. Since this parcel is designated as a balloon landing area, there are specific guidelines they must follow in the design of this park. They will be installing soccer fields. The next phase depends on funding from other sources.

- 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, July 1, 2014, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4th Street NW.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Myers moved approval; Jan Harrington seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 2:03 PM.