

**METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of September 16, 2014**

**Location:** Parks and Recreation Department, 1801 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW

**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, Absent

**Members Excused/Absent:** Carmen Garcia

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

**Visitors:** None

**Call to Order:** Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Mr. Myers inquired if there were objections to the Agenda as written; Lou Romero made a motion to approve the Agenda; the Board unanimously approved the Agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Myers inquired if there were objections to the Minutes for the August 2014 meeting as written; Lou Romero made a motion to approve the Minutes, Mr. Myers seconded his motion; the Board unanimously approved the August 2014 Minutes.

**Introduction of Visitors and Guests:** None

**Announcements:** N/A

**General Public Testimony:** None

**Items for Discussion:**

- Memorial for Bill Kraemer – Mr. Myers provided background information on Mr. Kraemer. He mentioned that he had received an email from Barbara suggesting a signature bike ride be implemented to honor Bill Kraemer. Christina provided background information on establishment of a Friends of Parks Foundation and how this signature bike ride could be used as a way of raising funds for the Foundation. Mr. Myers stated that Barbara would like to have the first bike ride next fall. They discussed further the establishment of the Foundation, articles of incorporation, and what still needs to be done to start the Foundation. Many Departments have foundations that are a way to raise funds. Mr. Romero recently spoke to Mary Lou Kraemer, Mr. Kraemer's wife. She provided him with information and suggestions on other ways to honor Mr. Kraemer, such as installation of bike racks or a

sculpture, such as those by Bob Dylan, made out of bike parts. In order to continue with the establishment of the Foundation, three members would be needed. Mr. Myers volunteered to be one of the members. Barbara will continue looking for volunteers.

### **Reports:**

- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department mentioned that she had a meeting with Mayor Berry to brief him on the Bosque Project. SWCA has been conducting environmental monitoring in the Bosque and are preparing a report. They will be doing a presentation at the next Open Space Advisory Board Meeting on September 23, 2014. Public discussion will be scheduled for this fall. An Open House will be held this winter. Barbara provided information on changes that were made to the Mayor's plan due to the Educational Forums that were held. No structures will be constructed inside of the levy roads. This provides more opportunity for use of the Bosque by the community. This issue had caused much controversy and people have strong opinions on how the Bosque should be used. There has been much public discussion. Barbara invited Board Members to attend the SWCA presentation next week.
- 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 is in the middle of the growing season. They are battling weeds. Area 4 is functional and online with the new software program, Yardi. They are able to do electronic work orders. Garry provided additional information on this program. Golf Management has been in the news recently. A response has been submitted to Internal Audit and Office of Inspector General. Garry provided additional information on the response and on the renovation project currently occurring at Ladera Golf Course. Aquatics Division has wrapped up the summer season and is winterizing all outdoor pools. They completed the season with no major accidents or incidents. Recreation Division is preparing for the upcoming Balloon Fiesta event. They are wrapping up the tennis season. He discussed New Mexico Games and pickleball at Los Altos. The softball season kicks off this week. The City is in the process of purchasing a league scheduling software to be shared by several departments. Leagues will be able to complete registration and scheduling online. This may be implemented by spring 2015. Planning and Design Division is in the process of completing construction of Phase I of Vista del Norte Park, which will be used as a balloon landing site. A ribbon cutting has tentatively been scheduled for October 1, 2014. Barbara provided details on how the park will be used this year, rules, etc. A grand reopening of Academy Hills Park is scheduled for September 27, 2014, 10 AM to Noon. The Sid Cutter Pilots Pavilion, a 12,000 square foot facility to be used by pilots, is to be constructed by Balloon Fiesta 2015. This facility will be used for special events the remainder of the year. ADA audits of the remaining parks, pools, and playgrounds will begin soon. Garry provided additional information for any Board Members who might want to volunteer to assist our teams. Garry provided information on the ADA door that was installed at Jerry Cline to accommodate sports wheelchairs.

- Barbara distributed the Parks and Recreation Department Balloon Fiesta pin to Board Members. If Board Members are interested in attending the event this year, passes are available. Please let her know so she can make a pass available.
- Barbara mentioned that she attended the NMRPA Conference in Las Cruces, NM, last week. The Department received five awards, which include “Outstanding Facility” - The Jerry Cline Recreation and Tennis Center; “Outstanding Young Parks and Recreation Professional” - Christin Chavez-Smith: Recreation and Facility Manager for Sports and League; “Distinguished Parks and Recreation Professional” - Chuck Malagodi: Outdoor Recreation Manager; “The Environmental Stewardship Award” - The Open Space Division Bees, Bats, and Butterflies Awareness Day Program. This program reaches over 500 people, teaching them a habitat for native pollinators; and, “The Denver Bennett Memorial Program Award” - The Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Esperanza Community Bike Shop.
- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, provided information on CiQlovia which will be held this Sunday. Mountain Road will be closed to 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the trail to encourage citizens to get out and walk or bike. The Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan went before EPC two weeks ago. It was deferred due to editing and public comment. Christina expressed appreciation to the Board for their support. A new Marketing Manager was hired. She started on Monday. This is an important role in our Department to assist with good news and bad news stories. Christina encouraged to Board to visit our Facebook page as this is a good way to find out what our Department is doing. Christina also attended NMRPA last week and provided information on the Green Chamber of Commerce. She will be reaching out to them since we are a green business. Christina provided information on the Pollinator Garden at El Oso Grande Park and the memorial for Becky Tays. She thanked the Board for their support. The GO Bond went before the Executive Committee. We presented the program for our Department. The Executive Committee will provide the information to the Mayor and will be sent to City Council for approval. When it goes before City Council, we would appreciate the Boards assistance at that time. It is important for them to hear from citizens concerning the importance of our park system. Christina provided information on upcoming projects in Four Hills and Sierra Sunset Park.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, was not in attendance at today’s meeting.
- Sub-Committee reports – N/A.
- Members’ Roundtable – John Myers discussed pickleball and how he would like to get Columbus Park on the list to be a pickleball site. Susan Michie-Maitlen mentioned a problem at Hyder Park. On the Richmond side there is an accumulation of water which has been their for several months causing a mosquito problem and a sewer smell. Janet Harrington discussed issues with medians on Atrisco. Barbara indicated that the problem has been reported. Median maintenance has been turned over to the Solid Waste Department, although we are continuing to assist them during the transition. Janet attended the volunteer project

at El Oso Grande Park and provided information on the memorial for Becky Tays. The tree has been planted and the area looks grand.

- Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2 and 8.
- New Business – N/A

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 12:30 PM

**Adjourn:** Mr. Myers requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lou Romero made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Myers. Mr. Myers adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.