

**METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 13, 2010**

Location: Jerry Cline Tennis Center, 7205 Constitution NE

Members Present: Gerald C. Worrall, Chair; Richard Rivas, Vice-Chair; Robert W. Day; Becky Lee

Member Absent/Excused: Carolyn Stewart, Resigned from Board

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Rhonda Methvin, DMD; Fred Hultberg, Parks and Recreation Department; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Bill Nordin, Balloon Fiesta Park Policy Board (BFPPB) Representative; Councilor Michael Cook, District 7; Tony Duran, District 7 Policy Analyst; Carmen Garcia, Nominee for Park Board District 7; Sue Jollensten, NNMTA, Public; Rex Foutz, Public

Call to Order: Chair Gerald Worrall called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Chair Gerald Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda, Member Robert Day moved approval; Vice-Chair Richard Rivas seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of March 2010 Minutes: Member Robert Day moved approval, Member Becky Lee seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Visitors and guests listed above. Councilor Cook will discuss issues pertaining to Council District 7.

Announcements: Chair Worrall announced that Carolyn Stewart resigned from the Board. Bill Nordin stated that the Balloon Fiesta Policy Board had been informed by the City Legal Department that a quorum consists of active members only and that vacant positions do not count. Barbara will get an answer from City Legal concerning a "quorum". She will also inquire if a member has to be a resident of Albuquerque and if a person can serve on more than one Board at a time.

General Public Testimony:

- Councilor Michael Cook discussed the Jerry Cline facility. He stated they want to build an affordable, but nice facility. He expects it to be completed in 2012. Expanding on Councilor Cooks discussion of Jerry Cline, Barbara showed a picture of the park. The Tennis Program operates from this facility. With 18 tennis courts, it is the largest facility in the state. She stressed that the Parks and Recreation function needs to

remain at this facility. She stated that there is \$2.5M for construction of the facility. Representative Al Park has an additional \$500,000 in State money for this facility and the money has not been deappropriated. DMD has advertised for an architect and are doing competitive bids. The public will be involved in the process. Member Becky Lee is a staff person for the Southwest section governing body of tennis for the United States. She said that Jerry Cline is the primary facility for New Mexico, which is the largest in the state. She compared the Jerry Cline facility to Phoenix and Tucson which have 32 courts in several locations. She said New Mexico is behind the curve. She does feel the Jerry Cline facility is in a good location for tournaments, near hotels and restaurants with much potential to raise money for the City. Barbara stated that the neighborhood has issues with the installation of showers at the facility, as they may be used by transients. Councilor Cook feels we can work with most issues from the community. Councilor Cook stated that a shade structure is being installed at Vista Verde Park and they are also considering work at Tom Bolack Park. He stated that he is working on getting older trees at Alvarado Park replaced. He does feel that Jerry Cline is the big issue in his district.

Mr. Worrall requested that Councilor Cook look for a replacement for Mr. Day for District 7. Councilor Cook encourages people to apply for Boards.

- Rex Foutz discussed scheduling of activities in the park in his neighborhood. He stated that there is an overabundance of scheduling in his park, totaling 40 weeks out of the year. In a previous meeting it was stated that activities occurred in the park from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, but Mr. Foutz stated that activities in the park continue until dusk.
- Sue Jollensten, NNMTA, stated she has been working with the Parks and Recreation Department since 1996. She also mentioned Phoenix facilities and stated the New Mexico has more players per capita. She urges the Board to support expansion of tennis activities. She discussed the Best Tennis Town in America Competition. The grand prize is \$100,000. The deadline for entries to the competition is June 28. The Board expressed an interest in participating. They need a volunteer.
- Fred Hultberg, City of Albuquerque, stated that he is responsible for scheduling 35,000 people for various activities in 185 parks. It is a difficult task finding a location for everyone to play. There are 5,000 kids playing football. That is 175 teams. There are new organizations coming in all the time requesting use of the facilities.

- Councilor Cook stated that the Finance Committee approved work at Bullhead at last night's meeting. Barbara expanded on Councilor Cook's statement by discussing the type of work taking place at Bullhead Park.

Reports:

- District Seven Report –Bob Day distributed a list of park facilities in District 7. He stated that District 7 is an established area of small parks. The major locations are Los Altos Park and Jerry Cline Tennis Center. All others are parks in residential areas. He suggested that Parks should charge groups to use the facilities. Barbara stated that the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide affordable quality recreation.
- Tony Duran, District 7 Policy Analyst, completed a review of parks in District 7 at Councilor Cook's request. He stated that most parks are in good shape. The only issue is replacement of older trees in some parks.
- Parks and Recreation Department Director – Barbara Baca distributed a previously requested report containing revenue generating facilities. She will have Andy Garcia, PRD Finance Manager, attend the next meeting to provide additional information to the Board. Barbara stated that the City of Albuquerque has a \$66M shortfall in the current budget which needs to be made up. Parks and Recreation Department is losing nine permanent positions from Park Management, Recreation and Open Space Divisions. It has also been recommended for approval that City staff take a 3% cut in salary for everyone including public safety positions. The Department is currently in the process of answering Council questions concerning the budget. There has also been a reorganization in the Parks and Recreation Department. The Design and Construction staff is being returned to the Parks and Recreation Department from Department of Municipal Development. Along with the staff comes a \$60M capital budget. Barbara feels this is a very important step for the Department.
- BFPPB Representative - Bill Nordin distributed a handout concerning changing the Balloon Fiesta Policy Board to a Commission. He provided a history of the Balloon Fiesta Park and how the Policy Board was created. He discussed various issues including the establishing the Balloon Fiesta Park Commission, composition, duties and powers of the commission, responsibilities of the City, the fee schedule used for the Balloon Fiesta Park and upcoming events at the Balloon Fiesta Park. Mr. Worrall stated that whether it is a board or commission, he feels they provide a valuable service for Balloon Fiesta Park. He also brought up the term limits for Boards. He stated that perhaps term limits should be done away with.

- Rhonda Methvin of DMD distributed a report and discussed current landscape and public art projects taking place around Albuquerque.

Sub-Committee Reports - None.

Members Roundtable - Vice-Chair Rivas inquired about work near the river. Barbara stated that it is Route 66 and is being completed by the Corp of Engineers. Mr. Rivas stated that a ribbon-cutting will be held on April 25; however, the invitation did not include a time or location. Barbara will get this information for him.

Unfinished Business: New members are needed in Districts 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 2 at large. Mr. Worrall obtained a status report on Board and Commissions. He stated there is a 34% vacancy rate on Boards and 44% vacancy rate on Commissions. He requested that Board members encourage people to volunteer for Boards and Commissions.

New Business: None

Next Meeting will be May 11, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at Pat Hurley Community Center, 3928 Rincon NW.

Adjourn: Chair Worrall adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM.