

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of February 9, 2010

Location: West Mesa Aquatics Center, 6705 Fortuna NW

Members Present: Gerald C. Worrall, Chair; Richard Rivas, Vice-Chair; Carolyn Stewart; Donald H. Couchman

Member Absent/Excused: Robert W. Day; Becky Lee

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, DMD; Brandon Gibson, WMAC Manager; Tomas Leclerc, Aquatic Division Manager; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Bill Nordin, Balloon Fiesta Park Policy Board (BFPPB) Representative; Darlene Couchman, Public; Councilor Ken Sanchez, District 1; Elaine Romero, District 1 Policy Analyst

Call to Order: Chair Gerald Worrall called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Member Donald Couchman moved approval, Vice-Chair Richard Rivas seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of November 2009 Minutes: Vice-Chair Richard Rivas moved approval, Member Donald Couchman seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of January 2010 Minutes: Member Donald Couchman moved approval, Member Carolyn Stewart seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Visitors and guests listed above. Councilor Sanchez will discuss issues pertaining to Council District 1.

Announcements: Gerald Worrall, the new MPRAB Chair, discussed several issues that are important to him and what he would like to accomplish in his new position. He would like to complete Council District Reviews, beginning with District 1 and continuing with District 8. There are many Board vacancies which need to be filled. He wants to do a facility analysis. For example, the Shooting Range does not have sporting clays. How much of an investment would it take and would it attract tournaments. West Mesa Aquatics Center is one of only three Olympic size swimming pools in Albuquerque. How can we bring in more events and increase revenues? He mentioned Mayor Berry's Constituent Services Division and individuals he has appointed. The Board would like interaction with them to create a

dialogue. He requested that Gizelle Alvarez be invited to the next Board Meeting. He discussed the various interests of Board Members and how the Board can work with staff to improve availability at City facilities. He mentioned Heroes Park and how it has only been identified and not built. He mentioned the APS Bond Issue which recently passed and wondered what is in it for Parks.

General Public Testimony:

- Councilor Ken Sanchez expressed his appreciation to Mr. Worrall, newly elected Chair and Mr. Couchman, previous Chair, for their time and effort on the Board. Councilor Sanchez discussed the current Budget situation. Staff is not growing; however, maintenance needs continue to increase. The Budget is being reduced from \$475M to \$465M, by \$10M. Departments have been asked by Mayor Berry to reduce their budgets by 2%. Councilor Sanchez is predicting a Budget shortfall of \$25-27M for this fiscal year. He stated that he does not want to see layoffs or furloughs; however, if the trend continues, it is a possibility. He expressed the importance to have a full Board so that there is equal representation throughout Albuquerque. Councilor Sanchez mentioned that Albuquerque passed a \$160M bond in October; \$1M went to Ladera Golf Course. Subsidies need to be provided for Golf. Member Couchman mentioned to the Councilor that there is currently one person per district on the Board and 2 at large. He stated that the ordinance does not state that it is necessary to have a representative for each district. Councilor Sanchez stated that there should be equal representation for each district, one representative per district. Member Couchman stated that he believes APS and the County should both be represented. Chair Worrall mentioned that a past Board member was asked to resign because her spouse was on a different board. Member Couchman said that a spouse can't serve on another board due to the potential for conflict.

- Christina Sandoval of DMD mentioned that they are in the process of building Ventana Ranch Community Park in District 5. It has unique features in terms of land formations. DMD is proposing the name of the park be changed to either Basalt Rock or Volcano Rock Park. Christina's presentation showed how approximately 200 cubic yards of volcanic rock was removed from the site. She indicated that 5-8 cubic yards would be used at the site for various projects. They are trying to use the remainder of the rock on other projects. The Board discussed the possibility of changing the name of the park and how it had already been named. Member Couchman moved to leave the name as Ventana Ranch Community Park, Member Stewart seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Reports:

- District One Report – Jerry Worrall and Elaine Romero, District 1 Policy Analyst. Chair Worrall distributed a District 1 Park Profile for review. He

discussed how the Facility Inventory has not been updated since 2007. He mentioned Sundoro South Park as an example of how it would not exist if not for Suncal, Councilor Sanchez' and the Petroglyph Homeowners Associations donations of land, money, equipment and maintenance. Petroglyph Homeowners Association is completing the maintenance for five years. The homeowners association may be asked to continue the maintenance for an additional five years. The neighborhood also patrols the park. He is proposing to contact Office of Neighborhood Coordination and request patrols to check on the park on a regular basis; contact 311 for graffiti, etc. He also mentioned after school and summer activities in the park. Elaine Romero thanked Barbara Baca, Director of Parks and Recreation Department and Christina Sandoval of DMD for their assistance on various issues. She mentioned that Silver Tree Park (completed one month ago) and Avalon Park (completed 1-1/2 years ago) were not listed in the Facility Inventory. Mr. Worrall discussed how increasing volunteerism and possibly implementing the "Pack It Out Program" could result in the ability to cut the amount of staff necessary for maintenance. He mentioned that with new homes having such small backyards, residents need the park system, but it costs money. Elaine mentioned that there is a need for parks in District 1. All areas want parks immediately, but some areas have been waiting a long time. It costs money and time and residents may have to wait unless there is money available from somewhere else. Barbara mentioned that the 2006 Facility Inventory was completed by a consultant for Barbara Taylor for the Master Plan. Christina said she does have the community park information available on a database that is forwarded to Parks and Recreation Department.

- Parks and Recreation Department Director – Barbara Baca reported that new initiatives being formalized in FY11 create a department wide program on volunteerism. She wants to praise and promote the idea of volunteerism. She also mentioned a Youth Recreation Initiative and providing opportunities for exercise and appreciation of the outdoors. She also mentioned the Administration wants to promote good partnerships on the use of Balloon Fiesta Park. She discussed the USA Track and Field Championship event taking place February 27 and 28, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. This is an opportunity to promote the Parks and Recreation Department and track and field in Albuquerque. She mentioned that UNM is bringing in National and International tourism. She has asked Councilor Winter to promote this through APS. It is a lot of work to set up the track.

- Tomas Leclerc, Aquatics Division Manager for Parks and Recreation Department stated that the City of Albuquerque has twelve aquatic facilities. The West Mesa Aquatics Center has three pools. It was expanded in 2006 and is the most visited facility in Albuquerque. It was voted best Albuquerque pool in both 2008 and 2009. He expressed his appreciation to WMAC Pool Manager Brandon Gibson for the outstanding and phenomenal job he does at the pool. Tomas discussed how he and his staff are working

on pool drain retrofits to be in compliance with the Virginia Graham Baker Act that President Bush signed into law. His goal be in full compliance by this summer. Tomas mentioned the various programs offered by the Aquatics Division including scuba diving, water polo, water aerobics, diving, to name a few. They also work with APS, AFD, APD and the film industry, as the pools are sometimes used for filming. He expressed his desire for the division to grow, increasing the number of swimming pools, and enhancing the lives of the Albuquerque community. He is looking for areas that need expansion. He and his staff are currently preparing for the summer season by hiring staff and getting the facilities ready. The Board discussed the great services that are provided by the Aquatics Division. They also discussed various fees and increasing events at the facilities. The Board offered their support in these areas.

- BFPPB Representative - Bill Nordin reported that the Balloon Fiesta Park opened on February 1, 2010, for use on a larger scale. He discussed various activities that are taking place at the park such as soccer and flying planes. He indicated that flying planes requires a lot of space. A plane came down in the middle of a soccer game, causing a safety issue. Fortunately, there were no injuries. He stated how plane flyers need to be members of the AMA and have a \$1M insurance policy to use the facility. He will propose that users need to show their AMA certificate to use the facility. He discussed the possibility of doing an RFP or and RFI (put out to the public on use of the facility) for Gardunos Restaurant which went under this fall. Now that the BFP facility is having more activities, he did mention that when the staff from the Golf Training Center leaves, now that Gardunos is closed, they lock the gate. Fortunately, no one has been locked in the area. He mentioned that there is an upcoming stakeholders meeting coming up to discuss the BFP.
- Christina Sandoval of DMD indicated that she had not prepared a report as she thought they were not on the agenda until next month. She asked for a schedule. Mr. Worrall will provide the schedule of presentations for distribution.

Members Roundtable - Member Rivas stated that there is a lifted sidewalk near Garcia's Restaurant in District 1. He inquired who he should contact for repairs. Elaine said she would look into that for him. Member Stewart mentioned that the Bosque Trail near the Nature Center is heavily used. Bicyclists are racing, intimidating other users, chasing them off the trail. Barbara stated that it is a multi-use trail and that an etiquette sign should be posted.

Unfinished Business: New members are needed in Districts 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 2 at large.

New Business: Chair Worrall discussed the possibility of changing the location and time of the meeting. He would like to have the next meetings in Districts 8, 7, 2, 3 and 6, in that order, in a location determined by the City Councilor for each particular district. The Board also discussed changing the time of the meeting. Member Rivas moved to have the meetings from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, seconded by Member Stewart, the board unanimously approved the motion.

Next Meeting March 9, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, location in District 8 TBD.

Adjourn: Chair Worrall adjourned the meeting, 5:02 PM.