

**METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of July 7, 2015**

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

**Members Present:** Dan Wilkinson, Chair; John Myers, Vice-Chair; Ted O. Humphreys; Susan Michie-Maitlen; Carmen Garcia; Janet Harrington

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

**Members Excused/Absent:** Lou Romero; Roxanne Turley

**City Staff Present:** Keith Reed, Deputy Director; Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Joran Viers, City Forester; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

**Visitors:** John Whitson; Dianne Goodman; Charles Arasim

**Call to Order:** Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Mr. Wilkinson inquired if there were any objections to the Agenda as written; John Myers made a motion to approve the agenda; Janet Harrington seconded the motion; the Board unanimously approved the Agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Wilkinson inquired if there were any objections to the Minutes as written for June 2015. Janet Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes as written; John Myers seconded the motion; the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**Introduction of Visitors and Guests:** Dianne Goodman mentioned that she is here to make public comment, discuss how to make our government better and provide information on a systemic weed problem at City View Estates Park. Charles Arasim attended to record the meeting.

**Announcements:** N/A

**General Public Testimony:**

- Dianne Goodman submitted information which she requested be made a part of public record (copy attached). She mentioned that she will also forward the information via email. Mr. Wilkinson requested that this information be forwarded to Board Members via email for their review. Dianne Goodman discussed a systemic weed problem at City View Estates Park. Ms. Goodman indicated that she had filed an IPRA Request and that there are no reports available for various items. She offered her assistance to try to resolve this problem. The Board asked questions about the weed problem at City View Estates Park and Ms. Goodman provided responses to their inquiries.

## Items for Discussion

- Request to Rename Urban Forest Park – Christina provided background information on Urban Forest Park. It was previously called Miracerros Park. The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting that the name be changed to Miracerros Urban Forest Park in order to bring continuity in terms of naming, but still identify it as an urban forest. The park has native plants, walking trails, tables and benches. Adding Miracerros to the name will also distinguish this park from Tom Bollack Urban Forest Park and clear up any confusion constituents may have. Christina has spoken to the neighborhood associations and they have no issues with the name change. Many of the neighbors still call it Miracerros Park.

The Board had no object to the name change. John Myers made a motion to change the name of the park from Urban Forest Park to Miracerros Urban Forest Park; Ted Humphreys seconded the motion; The Board unanimously approved the name change.

## Reports:

- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, mentioned that the summer season is half over.

Aquatics employees from Eisenhower Pool will be honored on Friday, July 10, 2015, 11:00 AM, by Mayor Berry as Employees of the Week. The Lifeguards saved a child that was having a seizure. Montgomery Pool is closed today due to a power outage.

Recreation Division hosted the Freedom 4<sup>th</sup> event this past weekend at Balloon Fiesta Park. There were approximately 65,000 visitors in attendance. The event went well. Recreation staff assisted visitors with a bike valet, taking in 250 bikes. The planning for the upcoming Balloon Fiesta event is in process.

Golf Management Division hosted the Men's City Golf Tournament at three of their golf courses this past weekend, Ladera, Arroyo del Oso and Los Altos. There were 114 golfers that participated in the event. Golf Management is experiencing problems with the well at Los Altos Golf Course. The pump has been in use since 1958. Debris, sand and gravel are being removed from the well. They have run into a large obstruction. Cameras will be used to determine what the blockage is. Worst case scenario is we may have to drill a new well, which would cost more than \$1M. The golf course is currently being watered from a municipal supply, which has increased the cost of water significantly. The deadline for submissions for the RFP for Ladera Golf Course operations is July 13, 2015.

Open Space Division recently trained 43 new Trailwatch Volunteers to assist in the Bosque. On a sad note, Tony Barron, retired Assistant Superintendent, who served over 30 years at Open Space, recently passed away.

Planning and Design Division held an opening at Ventana Ranch Park this past weekend of 12 tennis courts and a playing field. They are also working on the finishing touches of the Sid Cutter Pavilion at Balloon Fiesta Park. They are on track to complete this project by the end of August.

- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, mentioned July is National Parks and Recreation month. We are celebrating by having programs every Friday morning at 6:45 AM on Channel 13. Last week Open Space discussed their Summer Series at Elena Gallegos. Future programs will include Joran talking about tree health and pruning, a tennis demonstration, and a new program being offered by Aquatics where they provide work outs to adults and participation in two swim meets.

Christina mentioned the presentation last month by Judith Wong on the Los Altos Children's Park. This went before EPC and was approved.

The opening of a new dog park, Bud and Lady Dog Park at Country Meadows, will be held on Saturday at 10:30 AM. Agility dog trainers and a pet adoption will be on site.

The Planning Department is revamping the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. Parks and Recreation is participating to see if we need specific zoning for parks. Christina discussed various issues such as lighting, which may affect how parks are zoned. Public meetings are being held in each quadrant of the city to discuss this matter. This is all being done in an effort to simplify the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code.

- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, mentioned that May is the busiest month for Balloon Fiesta Park. The Freedom 4<sup>th</sup> event is the second biggest event held at the park. AIBF will take control of the park for September and October for the upcoming Balloon Fiesta event. The Golf and Event Center is booked. The Sid Cutter Pavilion is a large facility and it would be nice for the Board to see it once complete. It will be the jewel of the park. Phase 1 is currently in construction.
- Sub-Committee reports and Members' Roundtable – Dan inquired about the status of the situation with a recent visitor to one of our Board Meetings that was complaining about dog parks. Christina is working with Animal Welfare on this matter. Animal Welfare does not typically regulate dog parks. The Heart Ordinance regulates dogs that are on leash and dogs at dog parks are allowed off leash. Dan mentioned that he visited four dog parks. He has spoken to several people there and they mentioned that there is always someone with an aggressive dog. Christina is working with Animal Welfare to make dog parks a place for dogs to recreate, but create a safe place for other dogs and owners. Susan Michie-Maitlen inquired about signage at dog parks regarding aggressive dogs. Christina mentioned that signs are posted at all dog parks.

Dan mentioned to Ms. Goodman that he would visit City View Estates Park. Ms. Goodman mentioned that she believes that Parks and Recreation Department is working on the systemic weed problem.

Christina mentioned a multi-agency campaign currently in progress, "Scoop the Poop". Parks and Recreation Department is taking a leadership role in this.

John Myers mentioned that the tennis courts at Columbus Park are looking shabby. Christina discussed issues with the soil and drainage at the park that are causing problems on the courts.

John Whitson mentioned that he was approached by members of the Pickleball Association inquiring about indoor courts and storage for their equipment. Christina mentioned that Parks and Recreation does not have indoor facilities. They may want to talk to the Community Centers and Senior Centers. She also mentioned that we can work with the Association to obtain storage at parks that have indoor facilities.

- Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2 and 8.
- New Business – Dianne Goodman was very complimentary of Los Altos Pool. The pool is need of renovation, but it is extremely well managed. She will forward an email concerning this matter. Mr. Wilkinson requested that this email be distributed to the Board once received.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:42 PM.