

**METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of June 2, 2015**

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

**Members Present:** John Myers, Vice-Chair; Lou Romero; Roxanne Turley; Susan Michie-Maitlen; Janet Harrington

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

**Members Excused/Absent:** Dan Wilkinson, Chair; Ted O. Humphreys; Carmen Garcia

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

**Visitors:** Mary Lou Kraemer; John Whitson; Lisa Lopez, Recreation Division, PRD

**Call to Order:** Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Mr. Myers amended the agenda to allow the Request to Rename Country Meadows Dog Park to be first on the Items for Introduction. Janet Harrington motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment; the Board unanimously approved the Agenda.

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

**Introduction of Visitors and Guests:** Mary Lou Kraemer and John Whitson are attending as a potential Board Members. Rachel Miller, Policy Analyst for Councilor Dan Lewis, Charles Montoya, Virgie Russ, and Dodi Camacho attended to speak about the Request to Rename Country Meadows Dog Park.

**Announcements:** N/A

**General Public Testimony:**

- N/A

**Items for Discussion**

- Request to Rename Country Meadows Dog Park – Christina provided background information on Country Meadows Park. It is named after the subdivision. The park is across the street from the Ventana Ranch Community Park. The dog park that is currently under construction at Country Meadows Park will be opening on July 11, 2015. The park will include native shrubs and a dog agility area. Rachel Miller, Policy Analyst for Councilor Dan Lewis, read the letter from Mr. and Mrs. John Murtagh requesting that the Country Meadows Dog Park be named after Bud Warren. Visitors provided information concerning Mr. Warren and his dog Lady. Mr.

Warren was a crossing guard at Ventana Ranch Elementary School. He was hit by a vehicle while performing his crossing guard duties and passed away. When conducting his crossing guard responsibilities, Mr. Warren always had his dog Lady in his truck. Children and parents always said hello to lady as they passed his vehicle. Christina reviewed the Park Naming Policy with the Board. The request for this name change meets all of the criteria. The Board asked questions and the visitors responded. Jan Harrington made a motion to rename Country Meadows Park after Mr. Bud Warren and his dog Lady. Lou Romero seconded the motion; and the Board unanimously approved the renaming of the park. Christina will work with Rachel and Ms. Warren regarding the sign or plaque which will be placed at the park.

- Presentation on All Inclusive Park by Planning and Design Staff – Judith Wong, Planner for the Planning and Design Division of Parks and Recreation Department attended to make the presentation. She provided handout information and the preliminary schematic of phase one for the park. She explained how she received a telephone call from a constituent that wanted a different experience in a park for disabled people. A park that everyone, of different capabilities and all ages could use. A park that would provide a variety of experiences and where all could intermingle, children, caregivers, the elderly, disabled veterans. The park will be located in the International District on approximately 4.5 acres, in an area where there are not many parks. Several meetings have been held with neighborhoods in the area, and they are all very supportive. The park will be constructed in phases due to the high cost. The first phase will include the “Big I Playground” and a grassy area with hills. It will not include soccer fields, but the area will be big enough to throw a ball or a Frisbee around. The park will be a “Little Albuquerque” concept, and possibly include an area that would be the Sandia Mountains, the Volcanos, the Rio Grande. This is a long term project, so people are encouraged to provide input on what they think should be included in the park. Board Members asked questions and Judith responded. Board members provided suggestions on possible supervision at the park. Current funding available is \$800K. This items goes to EPC on June 11, 2015 for zone changes and site plan approval.

### **Reports:**

- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, mentioned that City Council approved the budget at the May 27<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. He discussed what is currently taking place in our Divisions:

Aquatics has opened it seasonal pools for the summer. Montgomery Pool opened today after some repairs were made to the deck and a new slide was installed. Wilson Pool is currently closed as they are waiting on motor parts to come in so that repairs can be made. The parts should arrive on Friday. If so, the pool will open next week. A small child suffered a seizure at Eisenhower Pool. Lifeguards responded and were able to save the child. Cesar Chavez Splash Pad will open the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Golf has experienced problems with the well at Los Altos Golf Course. There is a crack in the well casing approximately 690 feet down. Repairs will be a minimum of \$100K. Staff is working with the Golf Advisory Board regarding pricing at the golf

courses. Prices at Puerto del Sol may possibly be lowered. They are looking at making our golf courses more competitive. They are also looking at marketing golf. Golf has been declining nationwide. We need to get better at getting new customers and holding on to old customers.

Open Space will be celebrating National Trails Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer projects will be held at Elena Gallegos and at the Mountain Road Trail Head going North. These events will begin at 8:00 AM and run through 11:30 AM.

Park Management is dealing with the blessings and curses of all of the rainfall we have been receiving. The parks look nicer, but they also have lots of weeds due to the rain. Approximately 40 Adecco staff members have been hired to assist for the summer season. Albuquerque parks are divided in to six maintenance areas. Each area contains approximately 300 acres of park land. There are 40 to 68 parks per area. Each area crew is made up of approximately ten members. Each area will be assigned 3 to 4 temporary staff members. Each area has 2 to 3 irrigators to ensure the irrigation systems are working properly.

Recreation Division has been very busy at Balloon Fiesta Park. During weekdays, Monday through Friday, there are approximately 6,000 kids from Duke City Soccer at this facility. They are also booked with events on the field during weekends. This past weekend they held a dog adoption event with approximately 7,000 visitors and 35 dogs were adopted. Sid Cutter Pilots Pavilion is also under construction and should be completed by August 2015. Staff must now manage a 12,000 square foot building in November after Balloon Fiesta. Summer tennis is beginning at all of our tennis facilities including Jerry Cline. Staff members teach kids how to play tennis at approximately 200 tennis courts throughout Albuquerque. Twelve new courts are also being constructed at Ventana Ranch.

- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, mentioned that Planning and Design Division has been busy with many projects including: Country Meadows Dog Park, which will open July 11<sup>th</sup>; Four Hills will be completed in July; and, Sierra Sunset is a six acre park that is approximately 75% complete and included the planting of 230 trees.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, was unavailable due to work commitments.
- Sub-Committee reports – N/A
- Members' Roundtable – N/A
- Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2 and 8.
- New Business – Mary Lou Kraemer mentioned that she walks at Los Poblanos Open Space. Car windows are being broken and items stolen from vehicles. This is an APD issues; however, Christina requested that Mary Lou forward a picture of the location and she will contact the APD Open Space Unit.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Myers adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.