

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of November 9, 2010

Location: Balloon Museum, 9201 Balloon Museum Drive NE

Members Present: Gerald C. Worrall, Chair; Richard Rivas, Vice-Chair; Amy Elrod-Lahti; William Kraemer; Margaret Coombs; Carmen Garcia

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Sandy Zuschlag, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Kristy Diaz-Trahan, Recreation Services Manager, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, Senior Planner, Parks and Recreation Department; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB; Rex Foutz, Public; Kelly Gossett, Public

Call to Order: Chair Gerald Worrall called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. A tour of Balloon Fiesta Park was then conducted by Sandy Zuschlag. She provided very interesting facts concerning the park and its history. Suzanne Busch met us at the Los Angeles Landfill portion of the park and provided facts and history on the landfill.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Chair Gerald Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Member Amy Lahti moved approval; Member Margaret Coombs seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of October 2010 Minutes: Vice-Chair Richard Rivas moved approval; Member Amy Lahti seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Visitors and guests listed above.

Announcements: Chair Worrall welcomed all new Board Members. He mentioned that he attended and spoke at the last City Council meeting concerning the length of time it is taking to fill vacancies on the Board. He discussed how we have not had a quorum for several months. He also spoke to the Mayor concerning this matter at the State of the City Address. He asked for assistance in filling the remaining five vacancies.

General Public Testimony:

- Mr. Foutz discussed graffiti and vandalism in his neighborhood and use issues with his neighborhood park.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Director, Sandy Zuschlag announced changes in management within the Department. Brandon Gibson is Acting Manager for the Aquatics Division and David Salas is Acting Manager for Golf Management Division. We are in the process of filling vacancies within the Department. A pre-test for the Ventana Ranch lights is scheduled for November 10, 2010 and the test is scheduled for November 16, 2010. We are moving forward with the Bullhead/New Day Park Contract. She is working on the conceptual plan for the Balloon Fiesta Park.

She mentioned that Los Aliso Park needs a face lift. We will be hiring a firm to look at the park and make suggestions. She mentioned that discussions are in progress with Open Space for construction of large sports fields on the west side.

- Parks and Recreation Department Senior Planner, Christina Sandoval mentioned that the EPC hearing will be held on November 18, 2010. They will be looking at the GO Bond Program for 2011 and 2012. She discussed the process with EPC. Once items pass EPC, they then go to City Council for negotiation between City Council and the Administration. GO Bond Program is focusing on reno/rehab rather than new construction. Please contact Christina if you have specific questions. She also discussed Mesa del Sol in southeast Albuquerque. A retreat for the Board will be held in January. Most Board members indicated that they would be open to attending a retreat on either January 15 or 29, 2010.
- Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Services Manager, Kristy Diaz-Trahan introduced herself to the Board and provided some background information. She has been with the Department for approximately two weeks.
- Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative - Bill Nordin discussed recent and future events at Balloon Fiesta Park.

Sub-Committee Reports – Chair Worrall mentioned that we currently do not have any sub-committees due to the lack of Board Members. In the past, we have had sub-committees for Prescription Trails, Ditches and Trails and Facilities. We will look at this in the future after the Retreat.

Members Roundtable – Mr. Worrall discussed the Route 66 Sector Plan. He also mentioned the patrol program in his neighborhood. If anyone is interested, contact him. Mr. Rivas mentioned a celebration that will be held in his neighborhood on December 11, 2010, 5:30 PM, "Acequia of Lights". William Kraemer mentioned issues with graffiti and vandalism at Garfield Park. Amy Lahti mentioned a conflict she witnessed over the use of a park in the Vista del Norte Subdivision.

Unfinished Business: Positions for Districts 4, 6, 8, 9 and one At-large position remain vacant. The Chair distributed a letter that will be sent to the Mayor from the Board recommending increases to the fees at Shooting Range Park. A brief discussion was held by Board Members. Chair Worrall requested a motion to approve and sign the letter. Member William Kraemer moved approval; Member Margaret Coombs seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion and all Board Members signed the letter.

New Business: Chair Worrall mentioned that in December for the past three years, the Board has had their December meeting at the Open Space Visitor Center and held a Christmas Dinner. He asked if we could check on the availability of the Open Space Visitor Center for our next meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at the Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors NW.

Adjourn: Chair Worrall adjourned the meeting at 4:57 PM.