City of Albuquerque
Parks & Recreation Department (PRD)

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor **David Simon, Director**

Metropolitan Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Members Present

- Valerie Martinez; At-Large
- Don Meaders, At-Large
- Julie Radoslovich, District 2, Chair
- Shaun P. Hart, District 4
- John Ajie, District 1
- Larry Lite, District 6
- Annie Montes, District 7, Vice Chair

Members Absent

- Mark Gering, District 3
- Vacant, District 5
- Vacant, District 8
- Vacant, District 9

Others Present

- Cheryl Somerfeldt, PRD Strategic Planning & Design Division Manager
- David Flores, PRD Deputy Director
- Eric Ghahate, PRD CIP Program Coordinator
- Tom Menicucci, CABQ Associate Director of Capital and Community Projects

MINUTES

I. Call to order

a. The Metropolitan Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of May 05, 2026, was called to order by Chair Julie Radoslovich at 11:30 am.

b. Each board member introduced themselves; visiting people present, Eric Ghahate and Suzanna Haltern with PRD.

II. Review and approval of agenda for Tuesday, June 02, 2026

a. Review of agenda, the agenda is missing the date for the next meeting. Meeting will be held July 7, 2026. Add Annual Report discussion to New Business.

b. Chair Radoslovich asked for a motion to amend the agenda for June 2, 2026. Member Annie Montes moved to approve the agenda. Member John Ajie seconded. Motion approved 8-0.

III. Review and approval of minutes from Tuesday, May 05, 2026

a. Chair Radoslovich asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 3, 2026. Don Meaders moved to approve the minutes. Member John Ajie seconded. Motion approved 8-0.

IV. Public Comment Period 1

a. No public comment.

V. Old Business

a. Legislative follow-up: Thank-you cards for legislators who funded the Parks and Recreation Department. MPRAB will be provided a Grant sponsor list - estimated 5 grants for each board member. Review final language and card materials inventory. Eric Ghahate provided a list of projects organized by advisory board member that aligned with NM legislative districts for both Representatives and Senators including mailing addresses. The advisory board members assembled the cards and Eric Ghahate agreed to mail them.

b. Advisory Board Field Trip date: Friday August 21, 2026 at 9:00am -1:00pm. Will be led by David Flores, the list of parks to be visited include: Ouray Dog Park, Mariposa, Rinconada, Santa Fe Village, Petroglyph, Ventana Ranch, and Richland Hills. Chair Julie Radoslovich suggested adding open space sites citing San Antonio Oxbow Open Space as an example. Member John Ajie recommended adding District 4 site visits or perhaps a spring field trip.

c. Advisory Board Retreat date: Tuesday September 1, 2026 from at 11:30am-3:00pm. Chair Julie Radoslovich suggested brainstorming an agenda/action plan for the retreat which should including primarily focused on an annual report, big vision breakdown for the advisory board, and advisory board member recruitment strategy.

VI. New Business

a. Park Name Change Requests, Creighton Park name change to Taylor Vista Park. The park name change process has been completed thru step 1,2 and 3. Currently on step 4, which includes public meeting signage 30 calendar days prior to the meeting at which the name change will be considered, November 3, 2026.

b. Open Space Alliance. Discussion occurred using the Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve as a model which is nested under the Open Space Alliance though an MOU. Member Annie Montes suggested using the MOU as a template, adjust to the needs of the MPRAB and have the mechanism in place to begin to receive donations, set up a bank account etc. The Opens Space Alliance would charge a 5% administration fee and would require an MPRAB member to serve on the OSA board. MPRAB discussed strategy for creating a subcommittee, potential fund-raising opportunities, etc.

c. Annual Report Discussion -

- Report purpose & structure - Uses a template created in the first year: “we have that first year template, so we don't have to change much…” Includes board purpose, priorities, major work, and policy recommendations (the most important section).
- Timing & ordinance requirements - Ordinance requires submission “during the month of June.”
- Board is often late but wants to improve; retreat in September informs next year’s priorities, not the current report.
- Engagement with Mayor & City Council - Mayor’s office rarely responds: “I follow up… and it's just like crickets.” City Council is more receptive; some councilors read the

report and meet with board members.

- Need for brevity - Councilors have limited time; reports must be concise: “you may get them to scan it for 2 or 3 minutes.”
- Field visits & board knowledge - Site visits help the board understand park conditions and strengthen credibility. These observations are included in the report to show engagement with community parks.
- Expanding the report’s audience- Suggestion to send the report to neighborhood associations and coalitions to increase visibility.
- Long term goal - Make the annual report expected and influential: “We want everybody saying, where is your report…”

VII. Reports

a. Parks and Recreation Department, Directors – David Flores Update –

The group discusses the status of the city budget—particularly funding for open space, contract staff, and educator positions—while noting the mayor has not yet signed it and details remain uncertain. They plan to follow up once finalized.

They then review recent and upcoming parks events (e.g., a major county-funded event at Phil Chacon Park, BMX Nationals, Movies in the Park, tennis tournaments, softball events, the Route 66 “Great Race,” and the Bomb Lomas skate event).

Operational concerns come up, including park maintenance, staffing cuts, and community involvement. One neighborhood group wants to manually remove foxtails at Fox Park, which leadership sees as a potential model for civic engagement.

They also cover ongoing capital projects: pool upgrades at Montgomery and other sites, ADA improvements, boiler installations, and multiple playground renovations—highlighting a new $600k shaded playground at Academy Hills Park as a potential model for future designs.

Finally, they note progress on several community garden projects (Martinez Town, Phil Chacon, and Mesa Verde) and clarify locations of recent playground work near local schools.

b. Parks and Recreation Department, Staff – No Updates

c. Board Members Round Table – Member Don Meaders Update - Dan reported that he recently presented the Backyard Refuge Program to the District 8 Neighborhood Coalition, promoting pollinator-friendly practices and habitat creation. Although he had to leave quickly, the presentation generated interest. He shared materials and scheduled a follow-up meeting with Forrest Owens, president of the Glenwood Hills Neighborhood Association, which is also in District 8. That neighborhood is interested in certifying parks and developing pollinator gardens. Dan offered to present to other coalition groups as well, and a colleague agreed to connect him with contacts for the Westside Coalition. Member Jon Ajie Update - The conversation focused on whether the city should pursue a golf fee increase to boost revenue. Golf brought in about $6 million last year and was the only area with rising revenue. With roughly 300,000 rounds played, a $5 increase per round could add $1.5 million per year to the general fund. to the golf advisory board, which has supported similar increases before. The group emphasized timing, coordination, and ensuring the board understands the revenue potential. There was also brief

discussion about how much of the added revenue should benefit parks.

VIII. Public Comment Period #2

a. No public comment.

IX. Adjournment.

a. There being no further business before the Board, Chair Radoslovich asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Annie Montes moved to adjourn the meeting; member Shaun Hart seconded. Motion approved 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.