

BALLOON FIESTA PARK COMMISSION

February 12, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called into order at 6:05pm

Members Present: Bill Nordin, Steve Wentworth, Sandy Cohen, Justin Garcia, Mark Haley, Mark Johnston, Frank Mezzancello, and Elise Rogers

Members Absent: Rick Treadwell, Gov. Victor Montoya, Barbara Baca, Dave Downey, and Dr. Steve Komadina.

Others Present: Paul Smith, Janie Jordan, Susan Rice, Mike McEntee, Suzanne Busch, Jeff Willis, David Flores, and Daphany Martin

1. CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Reports moved Environmental Health ahead as Ms. Bush had to leave early. Mr. Wentworth motioned to approve changes to Agenda, Mr. Nordin 2nd, passed unanimously.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MINUTES: Mr. Mezzancello motioned to approve minutes amended by Mr. Wentworth, Mr. Johnston 2nd, passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Past Events – Friends & Lovers Balloon Rally – Feb 9
NM Rush Soccer Tournament – Feb 3&4, 9&10
Cupids Chase 5K – Feb 9

Ms. Rice commented that all three events went off the same day with no problems. Ms. Rice was available on this day to ensure there were no problems. This is a nice testimony to the fact that the Balloon Fiesta Park can host more than one event at one time.

Future Events – Youth Rugby Tournament – Mar 15-17 – hosted by the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Color Mob 5K – Mar 30 – This is one of four color events scheduled for this summer. These events clean the biodegradable color from the course after the event, get their sound permit, and portable restrooms as any other 5k race.

Mr. Nordin inquired on the Wine Festival not showing on the Event Calendar. Ms. Rice informed the commission that tentative items are not placed on calendar until confirmed. Mr. Nordin also inquired on the event called Longboard College Championship. Ms. Rice confirmed it was a Skate Boarding competition and gave detail on the event. Ms. Rice handed out flyer on the Color me Rad 5K Event.

Ms. Rice reviewed tentative events: Bicycling National Criterion races – Jun 23, Hoops 3 on 3 Basketball Tournaments – May 8&9 Mr. Nordin brought up his previous

discussion with Ms. Rice regarding the fee schedule for Fiesta on the Green. It was clear that the fees are very likeable by the people renting the facility. Mr. Nordin does not see changing anything this year, but next year recommends addressing the prices and see if we are possibly priced too low. Ms. Rogers stated that it was originally planned that the fee structures would start low, and then develop the demand, thus let the demand then determine price. Mr. Nordin agreed with Ms. Rogers, but re-emphasized the need to look at the fee structure.

Mr. Nordin mentioned that Family Motorcoach is looking at coming back to Albuquerque in March 2015 & 2016. Ms. Rogers stated there are some issues with Expo, and it is so preliminary that it may be too early to be discussing. Mr. Wentworth stated that the City Administration set the fee schedule the 2nd time for the Family Motor coach which was the last event. The City Administration circumvented the board and circumvented the fee structure stated Mr. Wentworth. This would be the 3rd time the Motorcoach comes back, Mr. Wentworth hopes the board will reexamine the event from a-z and re look at the prices we charge, as he feels we gave away too much last time. Ms. Rogers stated her belief is it will be a fresh new start.

Mr. Wentworth asked Ms Rice if she is tracking event fees for first time discounts. He wanted to make sure the first time discount is only given once to an organization. Ms. Rice confirmed she is tracking the discount for first time users. She is only applying discounts to first time users. She has been tracking this discount since she has been doing the scheduling. Ms Rice confirmed that the word of mouth is how people are hearing about the facility.

5. MASTER PLAN UPDATE – The master development plan was approved by EPC in November but it hasn't gone to DRB yet for final sign off. The vacations of a couple easements and rights-of-way were submitted to DRB 2-11-13, which starts the time clock. Those requests will have to coincide with the master development plan next month at DRB, so estimate will be complete by mid March.

Mr. Wentworth commented since the commission did not receive the vacation of easements information he contacted Bohannon Huston Inc. to send the documents to him, and in turn emailed that information to the everyone. Mr. Wentworth went on to say he believes this should be done on any action that is done in regards to the park. He requested this be done in the future, as well as requested a copy of the proposal. Mr. Flores agreed to provide a copy of the proposal. Mr. Nordin asked if AMAFCA has been involved in getting different information in regards to the Master Plan? Mr. Willis stated he has met with DHL?? on several occasions and they have his comments.

6. PRIORITY PLAN UPDATE – Contract with Consensus Planning for Pavilion is in route for approval. We should see an executed contract in the next several weeks. We don't have a firm date when the CAO will sign. Mr. Flores will get board involved in the issues involved with utilities and programming, and from there get that firmed in we can better decide how we are going to build it, and what products we will be using this will better define the next phase of design contracting that will be doing.

7. REPORTS / UPDATES

Environmental Health Department – Ms. Busch informed that copper thefts are rampant in the area, and they have been vandalized several times since last meeting. Currently have security at site during evening hours, and are looking at putting a heavy duty band around the transformers. She also recommend that any one that has transformers on their properties look at security protection. Mr. Wentworth inquired on the security system at their site, Ms. Busch stated the Security alarm did not help as to where it was located, but will be adding more security measures. They are currently doing their normal winter activities, will soon be getting ready for spring.

Mr. Nordin inquired about the runner on the bottom of their fence, Ms Busch said it was installed last year, and will always be there as it is a dust control measure.

Department of Municipal Development

Two left turning lanes update –Mr. Mc Entee represented Department of Municipal Development and presented pictures of the street light. He reviewed the various stripes on the road, and explained the importance and the meanings of each. He said the current setting of the road is inadequate to keep drivers in the same lane. Traffic engineering doesn't currently permit a dual left turn to be a protected permissive movement due to line of sight issues. Adding more lines for a double turn lane would cause added confusion to drivers. Traffic and Engineering confirmed they will not allow a double turning lane. He said would have to do a split phase if double turning lanes are wanted, which would be vehicles coming south to east would have an arrow and everything else would be stopped. Traffic and Engineering recommended leaving things the way they are now, and tweaking the timing of the light. Traffic and Engineering believes it will offer more benefit to have one single lane while adjusting the timing of the light. Doing the split phase would move less people out of the park at each light.

Mr. Garcia recommended they consider a free operating left turn signal for a double left turn. He explained how when a vehicle comes to intersection, there is a sensor of sort that triggers the light. Mr. McEntee said it sounded like an automatic Split Phase, and would make sense, he will look into this with his Department. Mr. Nordin brought up that \$750,000 spent on this intersection previously and we are still having these problems. Mr. McEntee stated he understood the concern, and assured that Traffic and Engineering would like to help. Mr. Johnston addressed that all of these issues should of been planned out in the beginning, and that someone didn't do their homework originally. Mr. Wentworth re-iterated that this concern was pointed out to Traffic and Engineering from several different Commissioners and City staff. He also stated that the Department of Municipal Development should have addressed the "no name" street at the beginning of the planning. Mr. Wentworth stated that Mr. Garcia's comment's as a police officer should be taken into consideration as an expert opinion.

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Mr. Smith projects that are being considered this year are:

Improvement to gate 12's walkway,

(Southern pedestrian walkway from the eastside parking lot),

Gate 14 (North side of the eastside parking lot) was improved 5 years ago,

RV lot West of the Museum is in desperate need of remilling as well as striping the parking lots. Stripes are needed more often because of the milling vs. asphalt lots. AIBF is hoping the striping would last through the Balloon Fiesta. There is a berm which is on the north side of the Launch Field that a lot of people are climbing as they think it is a better vantage point.

South side of the hill is pretty much a cliff and Mr. Smith fears one day in the dark someone may step over, and would like to prevent this from happening. He has talked to AMAFCA about possibly putting a fence. Mr. Willis with AMAFCA said simplest and cheapest fix is to pile up dirt to rid the cliff. A double fence would raise problems with access to the channel, and could possibly create a corridor where people could be trapped in there if something happens. There are different ideas that they may propose offline to solve this.

Mr. Smith referenced issues regarding when events are canceled during Balloon Fiesta. The volunteers, and people working booths who are to inform of cancellations make an announcement then step away from their posts, leaving people who did not hear the announcement un-aware of the cancellation. He threw out the idea of possibly using air horns, or a large flag pole with the following color references; Red-Closed, Yellow-Hold, Green-Go. Ms. Rogers suggested that the neighborhood should be made aware of this, so they know what the sound is. Mr. Nordin pointed out the flags would not work in the dark, he mentioned to possibly light up the Public Safety control tower in same color scheme so that everyone can see from the field. Mr. Smith liked the idea. Mr. Wentworth pointed out that air horns are often ignored, but freak out business and visitors.

Mr. Smith said evacuation procedures need to be re-examined in case any incidents like the Sargarland tragedy occur. We need to know how to get people off the field safely.

AIBF owns land on the northwest side of the field and would like to work with AMAFCA to put RVs for the Balloon Fiesta officials in that area. To do so, he will need to put a bridge across the North Diversion Channel with the permission of City, Commission and AMAFCA. Mr. Wentworth said he has already heard rumors of this, and recommended Mr. Smith get this information out to the community as to what is being planned. Mr. Wentworth stated that people are speculating that this will be another entrance which will create traffic in the area. Mr. Wentworth also recommended to Mr. Smith that he may want to address Bernalillo County as City loses control over where the land is located. Mr. Smith said this concept is very preliminary, but clarified that he is not planning on making it a public entrance. The entrance would be just for the officials and staff that are staying in their RVs. He is estimating on having forty RVs on the land area.

Mr. Nordin commended Ms. Rice on coming up with an address for the Northeast gate of the park, which is; 5500 Balloon Fiesta Parkway. Mr. Smith pointed out that it gets you to San Mateo and Balloon Fiesta Parkway. Ms. Rice stated Ms. Jordan helped her in acquiring the address. The address is the closest intersection to park, and will help clients locate when using their GPS.

Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum

Past Events – Nice opening for new exhibit on hot air ballooning and history of ballooning, which preceded Friends and Lovers Rally was a bit windy.

Upcoming events – Mr. Cohen reported that they are planning on an orientation theatre. They have a self contained theatre in their annex storage, but are working on the logistics of getting it up and running. Mr. Cohen believes that this would add an exciting component to the museum. It can be used to show films, simulate a balloon ride, have a 3d experience, making you feel like you are actually there.

Tethered balloon ride – RFP has been put out for this, and is going through the process. Mr. Mezzancello asked Mr. Cohen if the Tethered Balloon still going to be helium, and Mr. Cohen is not entirely sure. Discussion on how expensive helium is and how people are going away from using helium. Mr. Cohen stated the original intent was helium, but times have changed. The big question Mr. Cohen raised is coming up with an alternative to helium. Mr. Garcia questioned if the tether ride and the orientation theatre would conflict with each other, and Mr. Cohen explained that one would be inside, as the other will be outside.

Selection of the Arts Community of Public Art will be on display in designated area in the tribute area which is called “Sky Portal” artists named is Randy Walker from Minneapolis.

Mr. Cohen is looking at getting people to visit the Balloon Museum, and he is trying to meet the challenge by coming up with modern interactive displays inside the museum, and a tribute areas outside. Giving people a reason to come back to the museum.

Ms. Jordan asked Mr. Cohen if the Museum might be holding hands with the space port? Ms. Rogers went into further detail that the space port is located outside Albuquerque near Tor C. They are trying to get people to fly into Albuquerque to reach the Space Port. Those same people that are interested in flight may be interested in the museum. Mr. Cohen had not heard of this, but interested.

Parks & Recreation

Telecommunications Tower update – Zoning is reviewing their application, and is not expected to take long. AT&T did finally obtain a waiver from PNM to allow the placement of the wireless facilities. Now AT&T is circulating the lease internally for their signature. As soon as they deliver it to legal, it will be circulated it for the City’s signatures. Mr. Wentworth inquired if AT&T is going to be required to allow the co-locations of other cellular units on the tower? This would help other cell phone carriers like Verizon or any other company target the tower. Mr. Mezzancello stated that wireless communication is terrible at the park.

Digital Sign update – Ms. Rice confirmed sign can be accessed again. She is meeting with Alex from Zeon Signs. They are pricing a new license to get it up running. She explained to them we already paid for the license, but they are saying we still need to pay for a new one. Ms. Rice said they are still in discussion regarding the licenses. Mr. Johnston requested that Ms. Rice ask Zeon if the license is tied to the computer, and if so

that we get a backed up? Ms. Rice confirmed that another license will need to be purchased for e a back up, but she is still in negotiation. Mr. Wentworth brought up Ms. Zuschlag use to have to climb a ladder to access the sign and high temperatures sometimes caused glitches in the sign. He recommended they provide something like a portal or plug in so this does not have to happen again. Ms Rice confirmed she is requesting remote access. She did not know about the glitches with extreme temperatures, and will address this with the company as she goes through this process.

Income since last meeting

\$7900 Fiesta on the Green, and \$4250 from BFP

Mr. Wentworth asked if City taking any of that money for the leaky roof in the Golf Training Center. Mrs. Rice confirmed those monies go back to general fund. The City is addressing the problem of the leaky roof, and looking at what to do. Mr. Wentworth pointed out last time they didn't remove decking on the roof, and it is still leaking and stated it needs to be professionally done. This was done 3 years ago costing over \$350,000 and still needs to be repaired.

Funding updates/GO Bond- Nothing has been expended to date

Signage for park – on hold for approximately another month – Mr. Nordin

Gate key email list cleanup – Gate key holders are being informed that all keys will now expire on December 31 of the year they are purchased. Only cards that are prorated are purchased after June 30 – \$10. After December 31 everyone pays \$20.00, will iron out details on helping everyone pay in advance so not everyone (250people) showing up on the same day to renew January 1. Mr. Nordin reminded everyone that he and Mark Johnston informed the Commission that the insurances for the flyers expire Dec 31 of every year. Also gives soccer time to get their security clearances before we give them clearance for another year. Mr. Johnston stressed the point that we should not have anyone out there with out coverage. Renewals by insurances usually go out by mid September for the flyers so there is no reason they cannot provide by deadline of 12/31. The only exception is members with a card that has lifetime on it, which means they never pay for it again. It is a permanent insurance for them.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report – continue discussion. Mr. Wentworth pointed out that he sent out request to Ms. Rice and Ms. Martin to reprint the annual report and attachments from 2004 and 2007. He would like this information be made available as it is the history of the park. Ms Rice said she is looking for this information electronically and will find for the commission. Mr. Wentworth responded that the information was compiled by Ms. Zuschlag and should have been filed with the City; he suggested that she be given a call Mr. Nordin would like to spend more time on this in the next meeting.

Park Policies & Park Funding Priorities– Meeting to be held on Thursday 2/28 at 1PM

RFI - RFP – On hold.

New construction site on the top of the hill is quite large. The idea was proposed to extend Balloon Museum Drive to San Diego Road a couple of years ago. Mr. Mezzancello said it doesn't meet proper road credentials of some sort. Mr. Wentworth brought up that maybe as a board this could push forward and inquire on getting DMD involved. Mr. Flores stated that this is part of the master plan as well.

How to recognize past Board/Commission members-

Mr. Garcia offered to take on the task of setting up parameters on recognizing past Board members current members would email him their ideas that they would like to see set. Ms. Rogers not sure who would set the parameter and who would qualify. Mr. Wentworth recommended that past board members be recognized, original master plan forward, if we recognize all the important people such as Rutherford, Sid Cutter, Sam Baxter, Sandy Zuchslag the list will never end. We should recognize all of them but not sure how we would do that. Mr. Garcia will sift through ideas that the board members email.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wentworth referenced the screen used in meeting, that it could be utilized for future meetings by displaying aerial photographs of the park. He also pointed out that there are aerial photographs of the park mounted on poster board that should be brought to the meetings for use during presentations. This would help when someone referencing certain areas of the park during discussions. Several Commissions agreed this was a good idea.

Ms. Rogers motioned to adjourn, Mr. Garcia 2nd, passed unanimously.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING – March 12, 2012

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department staff liaison at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Committee liaison at Parks and Recreation Department at (505) 768-5300 (Phone/Relay) if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.