

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of February 21, 2012

Location: Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office, 1801 4th Street NW

Members Present: William Kraemer, Chair; Amy M. Elrod-Lahti; Vice-Chair; Jerry Worrall; Kelly Gossett; Carmen Garcia; Rebecca L. Tays; Dan Wilkinson; Janet Harrington;

Members Excused/Absent: None

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Kristy Diaz-Trahan, Recreation Services Manager; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; James Lewis, Trails Planner; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: John Whitson; Larry West; Allan Ludi; Pat Moses

Call to Order: Bill Kraemer called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Amy Lahti moved approval; Jan Harrington seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the January 2012 Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; Amy Lahti seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: As mentioned above.

Announcements: None.

General Public Testimony: Allan Ludi of the Ladera Heights Neighborhood Association spoke to the Board concerning issues he has had with maintenance of the trail and the entrance to the Ladera Heights Neighborhood. James Lewis, Trails Planner, will schedule a meeting on site with Mr. Ludi to discuss these issues. He will invite Pete Saiz, Assistant Manager for Park Management Division. They will work together to come up with a permanent resolution to Mr. Ludi's concerns. Barbara did mention that Park and Recreation Department is low on staffing and funds for trails maintenance. Mr. Kraemer thanked Mr. Ludi for bringing this matter to the Board's attention. He mentioned that it is important to make the Council aware of these issues. He discussed volunteer efforts by the neighborhood. He mentioned that neighborhoods need to find a different way to function as the Parks and Recreation Department is on a limited budget.

Action Items:

- Barbara Baca presented Mr. Worrall with a certificate in appreciation for his two years of service as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Kraemer also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Worrall for his past and present assistance on the Board.
- Mr. Kraemer thanked Board Members for their comments on the draft of the Annual Letter to the Mayor. He opened for discussion on this matter. Mr. Worrall mentioned the City Council change this

past year for Board Members to officially represent City Council Districts. This allows Members to focus on specific issues in each Council District. Mr. Worrall felt it was important to express appreciation for this. Rebecca Tays had comments along the same line. She felt that Members could be the “eyes and ears for their district”. Mr. Kraemer will amend the letter to include these comments and will have it ready for signature at next months meeting.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Director, Barbara Baca, proposed that “Budget” be included as an agenda item for next months meeting. She feels that the Boards support at the Budget Hearing is very important. It is important that the Board express that Parks and Recreation Department can not take anymore cuts. Barbara will provide additional information to Board Members at next months meeting. This is a no growth year. Last year, 15 positions were cut from Parks and Recreation Department during the budget cycle. Recreation Services Division has been reorganized to provide additional assistance in increasing revenues at Balloon Fiesta Park. Mr. Kraemer urged Board Members to know their City Councilor and Policy Analyst and raise concerns with them.
- Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative - Bill Nordin mentioned that conceptual plan meetings have been held. He also mentioned that a pole was rented out to a cell phone company for approximately \$2,000 per month. The Commission is working on approving the fee schedule at their meeting tonight. Approximately 4,100 kids per week are using Balloon Fiesta Park for spring practice for soccer and t-ball.
- Sub-Committee Reports – Mr. Worrall mentioned that he attended the last Prescription Trails Meeting. This is a program where physicians refer patients to trails for exercise. He said that Prescription Trails does not feel that Parks and Recreation Department has been responsive to this program. Amy Lahti mentioned that the company she works for did some work for the Prescription Trails Program in Santa Fe and the biggest weak link of the Prescription Trails Program is physician involvement. She feels that Prescription Trails needs to find another way to communicate about the trails other than physicians. She does not feel this problem is solvable from the Parks and Recreation Department side. She feels that people need to be self-motivated and self-managed where their health is concerned. Mr. Worrall mentioned a possible kick-off program to make people aware of the trails. Mr. Kraemer mentioned a recent meeting with Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation. He believes a foundation could be an important tool in helping to raise money for parks. Amy Lahti mentioned the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. She feels it has good information, but could possibly be updated more often. Barbara will mention this to Paul.
- Members Roundtable – Dan Wilkinson inquired about the CNM fields and who is responsible for the roads leading up to this facility. He mentioned people parking on the mesa around the facility. He explained his concern with use of the facility by various leagues. Kristy Diaz-Trahan was in attendance and will discuss these issues with her staff. Mr. Wilkinson also mentioned vendors around sports facilities blocking traffic. He recommended that we utilize the Facebook page to remind people about spring soccer practice at these facilities and remind people to be aware of the kids. Mr. Worrall feels the Board needs to discuss football leagues and safety of children from concussions. The Board discussed this matter. Bill Nordin will provide Members with a link for training on concussions. Barbara requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for next month. Rebecca Tays mentioned that Councilor Jones held meetings in two parks last year in District 8.

Unfinished Business: We have vacancies in Districts 3 and 6. We are awaiting appointment of John Whitson for District 5. Barbara has spoken to the Councilors for Districts 3 and 6, and Councilors are working on filling vacancies in their districts. Mr. Kraemer expressed the importance of finding people to serve on the Board.

New Business: Mr. Wilkinson passed around a handout for the Board to see concerning concussions. He feels that the Board should make a recommendation that if someone is coaching on our facilities, they must attend this type of training. Kelly Gossett mentioned the New Mexico Outdoor Coalition and Secretary Salazar's plan. He mentioned that neighbors don't want people in their back yards. The Board discussed the right to access public lands. Barbara mentioned that the City is working on a plan for protection of the Middle Rio Grande Valley. We are taking the next step and developing a recreation plan. We are heading in a positive direction. She would like to make this an agenda item in the future. Mr. Worrall brought up the Montano property where Walmart wants to build a new store. He inquired if the Board should make a recommendation on this matter. Barbara requested that this item be put on the agenda for next month.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office.

Adjourn: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 12:40 PM.