City of Albuquerque
Parks & Recreation Department (PRD)

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

Metropolitan Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Members Present

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

Members Absent

- Mark Gering, District 3
- Shaun P. Hart, District 4
- Vacant, District 5
- Vacant, District 8
- Vacant, District 9

Others Present

- David Flores, PRD Deputy Director
- Eric Ghahate, PRD CIP Program Coordinator
- Cheryl Somerfeldt, PRD Strategic Planning & Design Division Manager
- Aziza Chavez, CABQ Council Special Projects Analyst

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MINUTES

I. Call to order

a. The Metropolitan Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of July 07, 2026, was called to order by Chair Julie Radoslovich at 11:30 am.

b. A quorum was present with six members in attendance.

c. Board members and staff introduced themselves for the recording.

II. Review and approval of agenda for Tuesday, July 07, 2026

a. Chair Radoslovich noted a correction needed on the agenda regarding Member John Ajie's representation, updating his assignment to District 1 (formerly District 5) and noting District 5 as vacant.

d. Chair Radoslovich asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Member Larry Lite moved to approve; Member Don Meaders seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

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

a. Chair Radoslovich asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June 2, 2026. Val Martinez moved to approve the minutes. Member John Ajie seconded. Motion approved, all in favor.

e. Revisions and corrections to the previous minutes were reviewed and incorporated, including spelling corrections for Member Don Meaders' name, site visit references (Oxbow Open Space), date adjustments for the Creighton Park name change step, and the inclusion of meeting times for future board notices.

f. Chair Radoslovich asked for a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Member Annie Montes moved to approve; Member Don Meaders seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment Period 1

a. No public comment.

V. Old Business

a. Advisory Board Field Trip scheduled Friday August 21, 2026, 9:00am -1:00pm

- Parks to be visited include: Ouray Dog Park, Mariposa, Rinconada, Santa Fe Village, Petroglyph, Ventana Ranch, and Richland Hills. Lunch order was taken and guidance for requesting a van was given.
- Board members were advised to arrive by 8:45 am. Lunch arrangements through Jason's Deli were discussed, and dietary preferences and meal orders were collected for board members and accompanying staff.
- Deputy Director Flores and staff will coordinate vehicle capacity (van/transportation) to accommodate all attendees.

b. Advisory Board Retreat scheduled Tuesday September 1, 2026, 11:30am – 3:00pm at the Open Space Visitor Center.

- Chair Radoslovich outlined planned topics, including board team-building, city/board working relationships, review of board accomplishments, alignment on short- and long-term PRD goals (3, 5, and 10-year outlooks), action plans for the upcoming year, and subcommittee structure.
- The board discussed addressing fiscal strategies at the retreat, specifically balancing departmental budget cuts alongside the newly secured $80,000 allocation for park programming.
- Additional suggestions included reserving the first 30 minutes for urgent voting items if needed, conducting an annual review of board bylaws, and establishing stronger city council connections and advocacy strategies.

c. Annual Report Review

- Draft provided, reviewed, edited, and formatted during the meeting. All present board members provided input and agreed to reorder the Table of Contents to capture audience attention by making the Executive Summary first. In addition, the board agreed to add examples, dates, and activities to content when appropriate.
- Valerie Martinez presented updates to the template and structure.
- Revisions discussed and agreed upon included:
  - Rearranging the document hierarchy so that the Executive Summary appears first.
  - Shifting board duties, roles, purpose, and membership details toward the back section.
  - Updating images and verifying photo usage/permissions with PRD PIO staff.
  - Adding specific examples of underutilized/inactive parks (e.g., Avalon Park, Silver Tree Park).

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- Refining numbers to reflect nearly 300 parks in the system and documenting specific activities (e.g., attending/commenting at City Council meetings 3 times, visiting 10 field locations).
- Including links to the online Park Pop-Up Manual and report digital files.
- The board discussed broader distribution through the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) newsletter.

- Upon review of the structural edits, the board moved to approve the Annual Report content for submission upon final formatting.

d. **Park Name Change Request Update**. The board requested any documentation regarding the name change be provided before the meeting where the name change will take place including: history, required documents, and public comments.

e. **Open Space Alliance**. General summary and overview of given by member Annie Montes, along with a draft agreement for proof reading, editing, and formatting, once completed a draft will be sent OSA.

VI. New Business

a. City Council Local Park Programming Approved Funding

- Director David Simon provided examples of strategies on how to allocate funding. In addition to encouraging and supporting the use of volunteers to help the money go further. Mr. Simon also provided guidance on the breakdown of department budgets and explained how the maintenance budget is developed and maintained on an annual basis and invited any advocacy from MPRAB that would potentially assist and increasing or maintain the exiting budget.

VII. Reports

a. Parks and Recreation Department, Director's Update (Deputy Director David Flores):

- General Obligation (GO) Bond: PRD is currently moving through the internal vetting process for the upcoming GO Bond package (targeted for the November 2027 ballot) covering capital priorities across forestry, security, and facility improvements.
- Park Projects & Design: PRD (including Aziza Chavez) is collaborating on design work for Petroglyph/Packerley Park utilizing capital outlay and council funding. Modular facility options and common-area improvements are being evaluated for Manzano Mesa.
- Events & Revenue: Highlighting economic impacts, recent senior softball and Team USA tournaments at Los Altos generated an estimated $2 million in local revenue. Balloon Fiesta Park successfully hosted major events (over 15,000 attendees for Calvary celebration/fireworks).
- Maintenance & Operations: Turf quality has significantly improved across facilities due to early aeration (started in January), composting techniques, and upcoming satellite equipment purchases. Community engagement models were noted, such as volunteers manually clearing foxtails at Fox Memorial Park.

b. Parks and Recreation Department, Staff: No separate updates.

c. Board Members Round Table: Topics were incorporated into discussion under retreat planning and annual report advocacy strategies.

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VIII. Public Comment Period #2

d. No public comment.

IX. Next MPRAB Meeting

e. Tuesday, August 4, 2026

X. 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 Larry Lite seconded. Motion approved 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:42pm.

Approved:_____ Date: _____

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