

METROPOLITAN PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of February 10, 2009

Location: Parks and Recreation Admin Building A, 1801 Fourth Street

Members Present: Donald H. Couchman, Chair; Sandra P. Richardson Vice Chair; William Baldwin; Robert W. Day; Becky Lee; Joe M. Montano; Carolyn Stewart; Jerry Worrall

Members Absent/Excused: Orlando Sedillo

City Staff Present: Jay Lee Evans, PRD-Acting Director; Jeff Hart, Park Management Division Manager; Nick Kuhn, City Forrester; Mike Molina, Recreation Division Manager; Malia Tafoya–Board Secretary

Visitors: René Horvath, District 5; Cliff Richardson, PIC for MRCOG

Call to Order: Chair Couchman called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Vice Chair moved approval, Member Sedillo seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of January Minutes: Vice Chair Richardson moved approval, Member Day seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

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

Announcements: Chair: Don Couchman distributed a handout for review regarding three MPRAB Special Sub-Committees in order to help members decide if they would be interested in sitting on any of the Sub-Committees. He also distributed a handout with review for all with City Ordinances that cover the general idea of boards committees and commissions along with the MPRAB bylaws and current member contact information. Don advised that the HB273, State Parks Trails will be heard today.

General Public Testimony: None

Reports:

- PRD Acting Director – Jay Lee Evans – Discussed and advised how he has been spending much of his time involved in the budget process, including the need for \$155 million cut. Jay also briefed the board on current items the Department is working on such as prairie dog relocation, responding quickly to 311 calls, and some aspects of SB 222 regarding Ditches with Trails: recreational, maintenance; neighbors, the Conservancy's role. Sen. Feldman has sponsored the bill allocating \$900,000. Since the bill only deals with the stretch within Bernalillo

County, VC Richardson's question related law enforcement problems raised at the Conservancy meeting fortunately is not an issue.

- PRD Park Management Division Manager – Jeff Hart - Discussed how Park Management is working with “Smart Use” to conserve water, and how the FY07 Capitol Bond Fund will be used to save water, refurbish older existing parks and park regulation signs. Mr. Hart also discussed and distributed a handout regarding FY09 Winter Median Projects.
- PRD City Forrester – Nick Kuhn – Reviewed and discussed a large banner/poster regarding different types of trees with pictures. Vice Chair Richardson suggested putting these in the Libraries. Nick advised eh will get with cultural services to make sure at least one is inside each library.
- PRD Recreation Division Manager – Mike Molina – Advised he will be attending future meeting and reporting for the department. Mike stated he would like to send out the 30-60-90 day report via email, Chair Couchman suggested it be sent out two weeks prior to each upcoming meeting. Mike distributed and reviewed a current 30-60-90 day report which had upcoming events listed all PRD divisions. Vice Chair Richardson suggested that Mr. Molina contact the Councilors in an attempt to recruit lifeguards and that he also coordinate with Charter Schools.
- PRD Acting Deputy Director – Colleen K. Frenz, RLA, ASLA – Not Present – A hand out with Bios on Jay Lee Evans, Colleen K. Frenz, Leonard Berg and Tomas A. Leclerc was distributed for Colleen in her absence.
- BFPB Representative for MPRAB – Bill Nordin – Vice Chair Richardson reported that Bill called about the need to be out of town for family matter.
- Prescription Recreation Liaison – Dr. L. Gottlieb – Not Present
- DMD Report – No report Scheduled for February 10th meeting

Sub-committee reports

- Amenities
- Ditches with Trails
- Prescription Trails

Members' Roundtable

- Member Worrall – Advised that Tres Volcanes is going to the roundhouse tomorrow regarding seeking funds for 15 lateral ponds.
- Member Stewart – Advised they are continuing to update to edible landscaping.
- Member Lee – Distributed four handouts – 2009 USTA Northern NM Tennis Association's Survival Guide, 2009 Northern NM Adult Tennis Tournaments Schedule, 2009 so you want to play national junior tournaments, and the 2009 New Mexico Junior Tennis Tournament Schedule.
- Member Montano – Advised last week was last to bring new legislation.
- Vice Chair Richardson reported several items: 1) She is working with a KNMB Grant and an earlier Urban Enhancement Grant to create a Xeric Demonstration Garden at the Cherry Hills Library. This project is multi-

faceted: provides a low maintenance, low water use for Parks Management which maintains the grounds: coordinates with the Library, the Xeric Council and Master Gardeners efforts to promote xeriscaping; rehabbing a formerly “traditional,” “worn-out” planting in two prominent areas; models a neighborhood collaborative with libraries, community and senior centers; and, provides a “learning lab” for residents to see the benefits of xeriscaped gardening; 2) Edo NA member Artichoke Café is working on the edible landscaping concept by initiating a Community Garden; and, 3) in an effort to help educate and garner support from community activists about the PRD’s meeting opportunities at the recreational facilities, she’s initiated holding various non-profit meetings in these places, starting with the Los Altos Golf Club. She recommended that MPRAB members spread the word amongst their various organizations that these facilities are easy to work with and have excellent mutual benefits.

- Member Day – Advised that District 7 is cool.

Unfinished Business:

- Dist. 3 and 5 are in need of potential board members. Chair Couchman announced that he has written and been in telephone contact with the council staffers for Isaac Benton and Michael Cadigan about filling these positions.
- Establishing Committee Chairs & members for 2009: Chair Couchman explained the need to re-visit the board’s sub-committees and caveats: 1) The Chair with Board approval can add public local experts to the committees; 2) new special committees, such as “Trees,” and/or “Edible Landscaping” can be added; and, 3) there is no requirement for members of the Board to serve in these strictly voluntary committees.
- Chair Couchman proceeded to establish the chairs of the following committees:
 1. Amenities: Members Worrall nominated and Member Baldwin seconded Vice Chair Richardson as chair; passed unanimously.
 2. Ditches with Trails: Member Baldwin nominated and Member Montano seconded member Sedillo as chair; passed unanimously.
 3. Prescription Trails: Vice Chair Richardson nominated and Member Montano seconded Member Worrall as chair and Member Stewart as Vice Chair; passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. Chair Couchman requested a motion regarding Sen. Feldman’s SB 222 for Ditches with Trails. Vice Chair Richardson moved that: *“The Board support SB 222 bill which designates 5% (\$900,000) for maintenance by the City of ABQ.”* Member Worrall seconded. A brief discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Chair Couchman indicated that, based on the Open Meetings Act, votes by email and or phone are not permissible. Vice Chair Richardson

- requested that Director Evans ask the PRD's legal counsel to review the issue and report to the Board.
3. Chair Couchman reported that the Administration has recently designated all existing members of MPRAB as "At Large" representatives. He wants to change that designation. He would like the Board to support his efforts next month, as an action item to the MPRAB be comprised of members specifically designated by council districts.

Next meeting March 10th, 2009, 4:00pm to 6:00 pm

Adjourn: Chair Couchman adjourned the meeting at 6 pm.