

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of July 13, 2010

Location: Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd., NW

Members Present: Gerald C. Worrall, Chair; Richard Rivas, Vice-Chair; Robert W. Day; Becky Lee

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, Parks and Recreation Department; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Bill Nordin, Balloon Fiesta Park Commission Representative; Councilor Dan Lewis, District 5; Sara Westbrook, District 5 Policy Analyst; Carmen Garcia, Nominee for Park Board District 7; Rex Foutz, Public

Call to Order: Chair Gerald Worrall called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Chair Gerald Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Vice-Chair Richard Rivas moved approval; Chair Gerald Worrall seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of June 2010 Minutes: Vice-Chair Richard Rivas moved approval; Chair Gerald Worrall seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Visitors and guests listed above. Councilor Lewis will discuss issues pertaining to Council District 5.

Announcements: Chair Worrall discussed the recent 2010 Goals Forum he attended and the 2008 Albuquerque Progress Report. He also mentioned an upcoming event for combating childhood obesity with Prescription Trails being held at the Pyramid Hotel. He asked if Mr. Rivas was available to attend and would provide additional information to him at a later time.

General Public Testimony:

- Councilor Dan Lewis discussed issues in District 5. He expressed his concern for having sufficient grass space for children in his district. District 5 is the largest of the nine Council Districts in Albuquerque as far as population. He expressed his concerns with athletics organizations and neighborhoods in his district. He discussed the possibility for multiple regional parks and stated that it would take vision and creativity to get the projects we need.
- Mr. Foutz discussed Salida del Sol, Tres Placitas and Seville Parks and provided his opinion on the best use for these facilities.
- Joshua Willis of the Open Space Division provided a tour of the Open Space Visitor Center for individuals in attendance at today's meeting.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Director, Barbara Baca mentioned that once all Board appointments have been made she would like to have a longer meeting or retreat to educate new Board Members concerning the Park system and to discuss existing and future issues. She mentioned that she is in the process of compiling a notebook for Board Members with information concerning the Board. She said that the FY11 Budget has been approved, the bottom line has been reduced, and ongoing negotiations with the various Unions will have to come up with a resolution to meet this bottom line. She said that a 20 year anniversary celebration was recently held for the Petroglyph National Monument, which is managed by the City of Albuquerque and the Federal Government. She mentioned the 2011 GO Bond Package and how the focus is on renovation rather than new construction. The Performance Plan will also be presented next month.
- BFPPB Representative - Bill Nordin mentioned that the Balloon Fiesta is beginning its slow season. For three months beginning in August, the Balloon Fiesta Park is used by the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in preparation for the Balloon Fiesta event. Mr. Nordin discussed recent events at the park. He also discussed collection of fees by the Planning Department for inspection of tents for code enforcement issues. Barbara mentioned that the Balloon Fiesta Park Commission should contact the Planning Department and provide information on how this process will affect various events at the park. Mr. Nordin agrees that these inspections need to be conducted for public safety, but at what cost.

Sub-Committee Reports – Mr. Worrall discussed Prescription Trails and will provide a copy of an article entitled “Parks, Playgrounds and Active Living” at the next Board Meeting.

Members Roundtable – Mr. Worrall mentioned that District 1 Councilor Sanchez would like him to spend time attending neighborhood association meetings in their district and provide the information to the Board. One issue is reducing the incidence of vandalism in parks. He discussed their neighborhood patrol and how they are available to assist other neighborhoods start patrols in their areas. Bob Day mentioned a softball tournament held over the 4th of July weekend. He mentioned that there was no maintenance on the weekend and that pitching boxes were not in their proper place. Barbara mentioned that a position was lost with the budget cuts and they are trying to fill the gap through reorganization. Mr. Day said that the Quigley Park Neighborhood Association President requested a speaker or two at their upcoming annual meeting on Sunday, October 24, 2010, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, at Queen of Heaven Church. Mr. Day also invited Carmen Garcia, as she is his replacement on the board. Mr. Rivas mentioned National Night Out on August 3, 2010, and invited everyone to attend the Vecinos del Bosque event. He will provide a flyer with additional information.

Unfinished Business: New members are needed in Districts 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and two at large.

New Business: None.

The August meeting has been cancelled. The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at Los Altos Golf Course Banquet Room, 9717 Copper NE

Adjourn: Chair Worrall adjourned the meeting at 4:46 PM.