

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of June 8, 2010

Location: Highland Pool, 400 Jackson SE

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

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

Visitors: Bill Nordin, Balloon Fiesta Park Commission Representative; Councilor Rey Garduño, District 6; Julian Moya, District 6 Policy Analyst; Carmen Garcia, Nominee for Park Board District 7; Rex Foutz, Public; Chris Fairchild, Public

Call to Order: Chair Gerald Worrall called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Chair Gerald Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda, Member Bob Day moved approval; Member Becky Lee seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of May 2010 Minutes: Member Richard Rivas moved approval; Member Bob Day seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Visitors and guests listed above. Councilor Garduño will discuss issues pertaining to Council District 6.

Announcements: Chair Worrall announced that he received a letter inviting him to participate in a 2010 Goals Forum for providing long term vision for the City of Albuquerque. He asked for suggestions. The Forum will be held on July 10, 2010, 8:00 AM to Noon at the Convention Center.

General Public Testimony:

- Chris Fairchild discussed how in the Clayton Heights Master Plan the Korean War Veterans Memorial Park was almost lost to build retail shops. She said a new master plan is being developed for the area near Loma Linda Community Center. Ms. Fairchild also inquired if neighborhood associations are notified that the MPRAB exists.
- Mr. Foutz stated that he requested information from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the number of teams at CNM versus Salida del Sol Park. He believes that Salida del Sol has a larger number of teams than CNM. He provided Christina with a copy of the email he sent to Fred Hultberg. He stated that Seville Park is by a busy street and has a fence to keep balls in. He inquired why Tres Placitas Park is not used for organized sports. He feels that for the cost of a fence, we can get another sports field and if Tres Placitas Park was used as a sports field, it would alleviate the crowding at Salida del Sol Park. He also inquired if we could use APS outfields for practice. Christina said she would check into this, although she believes they are already in use. Bill Nordin stated that in the Fall, school fields are used for school activities. He inquired about YAFL and Little Leagues fees for use. Christina said we have lease agreements with them. They are non-profit and they provide a service to the City by providing youth activities.

Mr. Worrall asked Mr. Foutz if he had anything else, as we had additional time. Mr. Foutz inquired of Christina when Seville Park would be ready. Christina said it opened two weeks ago, but has to have a full growing season before it can be used for games. He asked where he can find policies and ordinances on the web, as he feels the Parks and Recreation Department is operating without regulations. Christina asked him to contact her and she would tell him where to find the information. He also was concerned because he is not able to find the location of the meetings on the web or through 311. Jane will ask the web person if we can have the information posted on the web on a monthly basis prior to the meetings. Mr. Foutz said he is collecting donations for planting trees in the park. He inquired about the procedure. Christina asked him to contact Malia Tafoya.

Reports:

- Councilor Garduño introduced his Policy Analyst, Julian Moya. He stated that they received \$1.5 M in the 09 Bond for Bullhead Park renovations. VA land near Bullhead has also been acquired, but the neighborhood would like it left as open space. Constituents would like to see water added at the dog park for animals and lighting added for winter play. He mentioned the growers market in Nob Hill at Morningside Park, which is held between May and September. He would like to see this kept as a neighborhood park. There are two golf courses in his district, Puerto del Sol and Los Altos. A reusable water tank is being added at Puerto del Sol. Golfers have expressed concern due to the size of the tank. This tank is providing reuse water for Puerto as well as other facilities in the area. Most of his constituents are happy with the tennis courts in his district. They just need to be kept in good shape. He discussed a possible trade with APS for the Performing Arts Center near Highland High School, so that it can be used by the City as an international library for District 6. He is looking at the possibility have having Wilson Pool renovated into an indoor pool for year-round use. He would like to purchase land near Jack and Jill Park for expansion and use as a parking lot. New equipment has been installed at Burton Park.
- Julian Moya, Policy Analyst for District 6, mentioned that in the 09 Bond there is money for a study for a library. The parking lot off of Alvarado near the old Lovelace Hospital is now a City parking lot. Constituents in the area would like it turned into a park. It is mainly surrounded by apartments.
- Mr. Worrall asked for Councilor Garduño's assistance with appointing members to the MPRAB. We currently have no quorum. Councilor Garduño mentioned that he was going to ask for a Council Study session for Boards and Commissions.
- District 6 Report – Becky Lee discussed District 6 parks. She said they have five tennis courts and two pools in the district. She inquired if there is an Adopt-a-Park Program. Christina informed her that we have a Volunteer Program. Malia Tafoya will be invited to the next meeting to provide a short history and information on the Volunteer Program. She really likes the idea of a Pack-it-Out Program. She suggested we pursue Joint Use Agreements with other organizations. She feels joint programming is a good idea. She feels having pools, tennis courts and dog parks in close proximity to one another is a really good idea.
- Parks and Recreation Department – Christina Sandoval mentioned that the FY11 Budget was approved by the Mayor. City employees will be taking pay reductions and non-paid holidays or furloughs. It has not been finalized yet due to Union negotiations, but the Board will be informed. Hoop it Up tournament will be held on Civic Plaza this weekend. Freedom 4th will be held at Balloon

Fiesta Park on July 4th from 3:00 to 11:00 PM. Admission is free, but parking is \$10. A transformer was hit by a vehicle at Mariposa Basin Park, resulting in no electricity to run sprinklers, etc. The fountain on Civic Plaza should be running this week. Due to health concerns, a filtration system is being added for chlorination. Swimming pools opened Memorial Day Weekend. West Mesa Aquatics Center is at capacity, people are standing in a line extending to Fortuna for several hours. Looking at adding shade structures to help with the heat. A staff member was assaulted at West Mesa this week. Security is being added. We may be asking the Board for recommendations/support concerning methods to alleviate the situation at West Mesa. Westgate Mini Pool will open on June 15th. The capacity for this pool is 18. Ladera Golf Course irrigation renovation will be going before SAC in a few weeks. The Paseo del Mesa Bike Trail, a 4.5 mile paved trail extending from 81st and Unser to Paseo del Volcan north of the Volcano will be opening soon. This trail is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Paseo del Norte.

- BFPPB Representative - Bill Nordin stated that the Balloon Fiesta Policy Board has been replaced by the Balloon Fiesta Commission. Their first meeting is tonight. It has gone from a 9 person Board to a 13 person Commission. Four new members have been added including the Parks and Recreation Department Director, a safety position, a west side and an east side position. All information established over the past 8 years by the board will have to be reviewed by the Commission. There will be a kickball tournament at Balloon Fiesta Park on June 23, 2010. They are busy every weekend with various events. A soccer tournament is being held in Bernalillo with 220 teams. These teams will be using Balloon Fiesta Park to practice. Balloon Fiesta Park will close on July 1, 2010, to prepare for Freedom 4th which will be held on July 4th.

Sub-Committee Reports – Mr. Worrall said there will be a Prescription Trails meeting on June 28, 2010, 9:30 AM, at the Bank of the West Building at San Mateo and Central, 8th Floor.

Members Roundtable – Mr. Rivas mentioned the Valle del Bosque Ribbon Cutting, which occurred on May 25, 2010. He said there were 40 to 50 people in attendance. He mentioned that the trees in the 1000 block of Lomas need trimming.

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

New Business: None.

Next Meeting will be July 13, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at the Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors NW

Adjourn: Chair Worrall adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.