

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of May 11, 2010

Location: Pat Hurley Community Center, 3928 Rincon 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; Theresa Baca, Parks and Recreation Department; Andy Garcia, Parks and Recreation Department; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Bill Nordin, Balloon Fiesta Park Policy Board (BFPPB) Representative; Councilor Isaac Benton, District 3; Diane Dolan, District 3 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 3:02 PM.

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

Approval of March 2010 Minutes: Member 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 Benton will discuss issues pertaining to Council District 3.

Announcements: Chair Worrall announced that he obtained the definition of a quorum from City Legal Department. As the Board is comprised of eleven individuals, we would need six people on the Board to have a quorum. Therefore, until we have a quorum, nothing official can be voted on. Chair Worrall went to the Shooting Range and received quite an education. He would like to hold a future meeting at this great facility. His interests in going to the facility were personal as well as his desire to bring this facility to the attention of different organizations in an effort to attract people who like gun ranges.

General Public Testimony:

- Mr. Foutz stated that the park in his neighborhood is overscheduled due to a lack of green space for teams to play. He feels that the wrong types of parks are being built. More parks should be constructed for sports. Seville Park, which is currently under construction is over six acres and

was not built for sports activities. Barbara introduced Christina Sandoval and requested she respond. Christina stated that the construction of Seville Park was driven by the topography of the park and drainage requirements. She said it is 50/50 active passive design. When planning the design of a park, we need to meet the needs of all. Trying to accommodate the needs of everyone is not an easy task. Construction of a park starts with a conceptual design, a meeting with Parks and Recreation staff and then meetings with the neighborhood. Recreation and maintenance needs are met first.

- Mr. Worrall introduced Councilor Benton. Councilor Benton provided a review of the parks in his district. He is involved in moving forward with the modernization of Highland Park. New equipment has been installed at Guadalupe Park and similar equipment has been installed at Washington Middle School Park. A stage is being installed at Kirtland Park for community events. This is being funded out of his set aside money. Councilor Benton discussed the BMX facility and how it was improperly placed on the site. He is looking at ways to fund remediation. He is also looking at installing tennis courts on the east side of the facility near the sound wall and nice landscaping. BMX would have to move their building to make this work. Preliminary estimates are being obtained. He is hoping to have neighborhood meetings in an effort to remedy the injustice to this neighborhood. He discussed the Korean War Veterans Park which is near Loma Linda Community Center. This facility was once a drive-in theater and has a lot of undeveloped area. A Master Plan Process is being proposed with public involvement. He wants this to be more of an asset to the neighborhood with the best use of the property. East San Jose Park, now known as Herman Sanchez Community Center, is being used as a boxing facility. The neighbors of Martineztown Park would like a covered basketball facility with lights.

Mr. Worrall mentioned to Councilor Benton that the Board needs members and requested his assistance to get the Board to a quorum. Councilor Benton suggested that someone from the Board attend a City Council meeting and speak at public comment on this subject. Barbara mentioned that three individuals are in the process of being approved: Mr. Kraemer for District 2, Carmen Garcia for District 7, and Mr. Green for District 8. Councilor Benton suggested the elimination of the two at large positions in an effort to make the Board smaller resulting in fewer members to reach a quorum. He said he is inclined to eliminate the at large positions. Mr. Worrall also brought up the requirement of term limits and the fact that you cannot serve on more than one Board at a time. Councilor Benton asked Diane to check into identifying Boards where it is alright to serve on more than one. Other suggestions included Councilors discussing this matter at neighborhood meetings and Mayor Berry doing public service announcements requesting volunteers for

Boards. Mr. Worrall suggested the elimination of term limits. Mr. Day brought up funding of maintenance for parks.

Reports:

- Diane Dolan, Policy Analyst for Councilor Benton, mentioned the large renovation project that is currently in progress at Highland Park. They are looking at relocating the play area to a more visible location. She stated that she has been in her position for only a month and a half and has not received any complaints concerning any of the parks in District 3. The only issue she brought up was trash cans at Kirtland and Highland Parks, but this issue is being addressed.
- District 3 Report - Richard Rivas went to each of the parks in District 3 and prepared a report which he distributed. He was very impressed with most of the parks. All of the play areas had new slides and the condition of the parks was great. He spoke to a maintenance worker at Martineztown Park and due to the economic situation, fewer workers are having to maintain more parks. He did have some general maintenance issues which he reviewed and were included in his report. For the most part, Mr. Rivas was very complimentary of the parks in District 3. Barbara will send his report to the Park Management Division and request that the maintenance issues in Mr. Rivas report be place on their regular maintenance schedule. The maintenance of the areas near Sunport Pool was discussed. Councilor Benton asked if the additional property should be surplus. Barbara mentioned that this matter will be discussed with Strategic Planning and Design staff and they will look into the possibility of using the additional property as parking for the pool. Excess trash in the parks was discussed along with a "Pack It out Program". Barbara said this would be brought up at the next department Volunteer Committee meeting.
- Parks and Recreation Department Director - Barbara Baca mentioned that Strategic Planning and Design is relocating to Parks and Recreation Department along with the Capital Program. They will be located at 4th Street. The Construction Crews are located at Pino Yards. The Balloon Fiesta Park Commission Ordinance legislation was passed. Bill Nordin is our representative on the Commission. The New Mexico Games started today. Fred Hultberg is the Executive Director. This is the 21st annual New Mexico Games. It includes 19 different sports. Barbara stated that the Budget impact is real. Nine positions have been cut from the Parks and Recreation Department. She feels Park Management Division is doing a great job considering the reduction in staff. She introduced Andy Garcia, Finance Manager for Parks and Recreation. He will be doing a presentation on revenues as requested by the Board at a previous meeting.

- Parks and Recreation Finance Manager – Andy Garcia distributed a revenue report to the Board. He reviewed the report with the Board. He stated that Golf Management Division is the only enterprise division in the Parks and Recreation Department and has to be self sufficient. The Board discussed bringing the budget and revenue numbers closer together in an effort to close the gap. Some suggestions were increasing fees and better marketing. As it is our mission to provide affordable quality recreation for all citizens of Albuquerque, it is doubtful that this will ever happen. Barbara did mention the possibility of the Board starting a fund such as Friends of Parks and Recreation Department for raising revenue. Mr. Worrall inquired what he would do if he wanted to recommend fee increases for the Shooting Range. Barbara suggested he begin with the Board submitting a recommendation to her. She will forward it to the Administration and City Council if necessary. Andy stated that the Administration controls all fees. Barbara stated that Division Managers are submitting recommendations for fee increases. She proposed that this item be added to the agenda for next month for discussion. Barbara also suggested that once the Budget is adopted, Andy attend another Board meeting to discuss the Budget.
- BFPPB Representative - Bill Nordin stated that the Ordinance establishing the Balloon Fiesta Park Commission was passed. In this new ordinance, term limits were eliminated along with the requirement that you have to live in Albuquerque. Two additional positions were added. They are the position for Parks and Recreation Director or designee and a position for public safety. The way the Balloon Fiesta Board handles the fees is they have a distinction between profit and non-profit. Non-Profit organizations pay less. Some events that are occurring at the Balloon Fiesta Park include bike races on Tuesday evenings through June. He stated that some of the events at the park such as walks/runs, planes and bikes only use the park for the paved areas, not the grass. This weekend the Celtic Festival will be held. It is an interesting event with many fun activities and booths. He brought up a Wine Festival Run that is being advertised without any approvals being received. The hosts of this event have been invited to tonight's Board meeting and they will be told how much their event will cost them. He said that Balloon Fiesta Park is booked through the 4th of July. Mr. Nordin expressed his appreciation to the Park Board for allowing him to serve as their representative at the Balloon Fiesta Board.
- Theresa Baca distributed a report and discussed current trails projects taking place around Albuquerque. She distributed a handout on public meetings for Bikeway and Trails Master Plan that will be held May 18-20, 2010, at various locations. They are seeking public input for updating of their Master Plan. Mr. Worrall inquired about Prescription Trails and the

trails system. Theresa stated that the trails system has not been included in Prescription Trails. He also inquired about lighting on the trails. He said he has information concerning vandal proof lighting which he can provide.

Sub-Committee Reports - None.

Members Roundtable - Mr. Worrall discussed the value of neighborhood patrols. He believes they can benefit our park system. Please contact him if interested. Richard Rivas mentioned a ribbon cutting of the Route 65 Project by the Army Corp of Engineers and MRGCD. It will be held at Valle del Bosque Park, 480 Sunset, on May 25, 2010, 9:30 AM. Barbara requested that Jane forward the invitation to all Board Members. Becky Lee provided an update on Tennis at her school.

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

New Business: Theresa Baca distributed flyers on the 2010 National and New Mexico Bicycle Rally being held in Albuquerque June 3-6, 2010.

Next Meeting will be June 8, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at Highland Pool, 400 Jackson SE

Adjourn: Chair Worrall adjourned the meeting at 4:58 PM.