

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of December 5, 2023 Meeting

Location: In person and Zoom

Members Present: (In Person) Cynthia Serna, Julie Radoslovich, David Duhigg

Members Absent: Tony Johnson, Valerie Martinez, Anna Nelson

City Staff Present: David Flores, Deputy Director; Dennis Vasquez, Deputy Director; Emily Moore, Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Public: Fran Warren, Montgomery Park area

1. Call to Order:
 - a. A quorum was not present. At 12:45 pm, Cynthia Serna called the meeting to order as an informational meeting.
2. Business Meeting:
 - a. Business meeting items were deferred.
3. Announcements pertaining to Board business
 - a. New Board Member David Duhigg introduced himself.
 - b. Julie Radoslovich reported that Matt Benedict applied for the Board position in District 5.
4. Discussion:
 - a. Review of October field trip. Participants on the October 20, 2023 field trip to city parks were Board members Cynthia Serna, Julie Radoslovich, Tony Johnson, and Anna Nelson; Department staff Dennis Vasquez, Shay Armijo, Laurie Firor, and Emily Moore. We met with Albuquerque Public School staff Karen Alarid, Amanda Velarde, Aaron Forrester, and Principal Joshua LeClair at Garfield Park. The itinerary included Garfield Park, Barelvas Park, Mesa Verde Park, International District Park, Phil Chacon Park, and Manzano Mesa Park. Among the highlights reported by Board members were the discussion of Joint Use Parks with the APS staff and the presentation by Garfield Middle School Principal LeClair, the Barelvas Park Phase 1 renovation, the needs and possibilities at Mesa Verde Park and the conversation with youth there, the discussion with Director Simon about the potential for the International District Park, the plan for Phil Chacon Park, and the pickleball complex expansion at Manzano Mesa Park and the conversation with park users there.
 - b. A brief update was presented about the Park Naming Policy. Dennis will draft a revised policy and present it to the Board for consideration.
5. Parks and Recreation Department Reports:

- a. Deputy Director Flores reported on a number of projects including cricket pitches at Balloon Fiesta Park, New Mexico Veteran's Memorial improvements, Los Tomases Park renovation, Bel Air Dog Park, and Balloon Fiesta Park Soccer Stadium.
 - b. Deputy Director Vasquez reported on the selection of Josh Herbert as the Recreation Division Manager, scheduling of tournaments at the Los Altos Softball Complex, Skate Park lighting projects, and discussions with APS about Middle School Sports programming.
 - c. Communications and Marketing Coordinator Moore reported on ongoing website updates.
6. Public Testimony:
- Fran Warren, citizen of Albuquerque and volunteer for Montgomery Park, addressed the Board about her concerns with the surface at the new dog park at Montgomery Park. She expressed opposition to concrete or hard surfaces at dog parks. She presented a written statement about preferred walking surfaces for dog parks.
7. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 12:30 pm at the Parks and Recreation Office at 1801 4th Street NW; a Zoom option will also be available.

The informational meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.