

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of February 6, 2024 Meeting

Location: In person and Zoom

Members Present: Valerie Martinez, Julie Radoslovich, Cynthia Serna, Tony Johnson, Anna Nelson, David Duhigg

City Staff Present: Deputy Director David Flores, Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Chair Valerie Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm.
 - b. Introduction of Guests: Cristobal Rocha, City Clerk's Office, Boards and Commissions; Wes Duplantier, applicant for District 8 Board Member position. Board members and Department staff introduced themselves.

2. Business Meeting:
 - a. Agenda was approved with the addition of approving of September 2023 meeting minutes in addition to December 2023 and January 2024 minutes.
 - b. Unanimous approval of meeting minutes from September 2023, December 2023, and January 2023.
 - c. Chair Valerie Martinez provided an overview of the Board mission and purpose statements, the existing subcommittee structure, and the five-point list of Department priorities that was previously shared by Director Simon. A discussion took place on safety and security as a possible topic for a subcommittee. The discussion concluded with incorporating safety and security considerations as part of the Park Activation Subcommittee work.

3. Old Business:
 - a. Board member appointment process. Valerie Martinez read the ordinance that directs the appointment of members to the MPRAB (Section 10-1-2-3 in City ordinance 27-1994, Chapter 10, Article 1). Cristobal Rocha spoke of the Mayor's Office Newsletter and other social media platforms on which to advertise the MPRAB vacancies. Meeting guest Wes Duplantier spoke of the barriers to appoint board members. Suggestions were made to simplify the appointment process and recommended changes to the ordinance.
 - b. **Action Item: Park Name Change Policy and ABQ Stories of Us Program.** Chair Martinez read a revised version of the Park Name Change Policy. A vote was taken to approve the revised MPRAB Park Name Change; it was unanimously adopted. The new policy will be shared with the Mayor's Office and posted on the City's MPRAB webpage.
 - c. The Board discussed scheduling presentations of the Department budget priorities and requests at Board meetings: October for legislative requests, January for City budget requests.
 - d. The Board discussed the need to maintain an up-to-date posting of meeting agendas and minutes on the MPRAB webpage.

4. New Business:
 - a. Request for service on at least one subcommittee by new board members. Anna Nelson will serve on the Park Activation Subcommittee.
 - b. On the organization of the meeting agenda, the “Public Comment” section will be moved closer to the beginning of the meeting after the “Business Meeting” section.
5. Reports:
 - Deputy Director David Flores reported on the new mobile stage that was recently received; the opening of pickleball courts at Pat Hurley Park; changes to the City website; the relocation of an office building to the Ventana Ranch Park; cricket pitches at Balloon Fiesta Park and a cricket tournament in May; Xeric Gardens Park landscaping project; the opening of dog parks at Bel-Air Park and Chantilly Park; and LED lighting at skate parks
 - Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez reported on the submission of a State grant for the addition and improvement of disc golf courses; the newly established APD Open Space Conservation Officer program; and the status Indoor Track season.
 - Subcommittee reports. A meeting will be held Park Activation Subcommittee is planned in February.
 - Board Members Roundtable:
 - Tony Johnson spoke of accessibility and engagement of park users.
 - Cynthia Serna reported on a walk-through of Worker’s Memorial Park to discuss park improvements. Labor Union representatives participated.
 - Valerie Martinez spoke about park activation and conducting surveys of underutilized parks looking at, among other things, access and safety.
6. Public Testimony:
 - Meeting guest Wes Duplantier indicated that he frequently uses Academy Hills Park. He reported that he observed a situation at the park that was well-handled by the Albuquerque Community Safety staff. In response to Conservation Officers program, he reported on police actions in other jurisdictions. About the park renaming policy, he stated the importance of clarifying the word “overwhelming.” He expressed his desire to see a more streamlined appointment process for the MPRAB board membership. He suggested possibly two public comment periods as part of the meeting agenda, one at the beginning, another at the end of the meeting.
7. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5. The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 pm.