

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of January 16, 2024 Meeting

Location: In person and Zoom

Members Present: (In Person) Cynthia Serna; (via Zoom) Julie Radoslovich, Tony Johnson, Valerie Martinez, Anna Nelson, David Duhigg

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

Public: None

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Cynthia Serna called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.
2. Business Meeting:
 - a. Agenda was approved, with the addition of a State Capital Outlay discussion item.
 - b. Approval of December 2023 meeting minutes was deferred to next meeting.
 - c. Announcements pertaining to MPRAB related issues. Valerie noted that the MPRAB meeting minutes on the City website were incomplete and inconsistently posted.
3. New Business:
 - a. Election of Officers. After a short review of Board By Laws, nominations were made for the offices of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Valerie Martinez was nominated to serve as Chairperson; Julie Radoslovich was nominated to serve as Vice-Chairperson. A vote was taken. Both nominees were elected unanimously.
 - b. Park Name Change Policy and ABQ Stories of Us Program. Dennis Vasquez drafted a revised policy statement for the Board's consideration. There was a discussion of the ABQ Stories of Us program and its' relationship to the Park Renaming Policy. Valerie Martinez and Anna Nelson will review both further and present a revised policy for Board vote at a future meeting.
4. Reports:
 - a. Parks and Recreation Department Report, Directors
 - Deputy Director David Flores reported on the status of a variety of park projects, including the stadium at Balloon Fiesta Park, Pat Hurley Park pickleball courts, Phil Chacon Park groundbreaking, Wells Park construction, completion of Bel Pair Dog Park (District 7) and Chantilly Dog Park (District 5), Ventana Ranch Park recreation office building, and cricket fields at Balloon Fiesta Park. He spoke of the City budget and the State Legislative Capital Outlay cycles and where the Department is in those processes. recently took place to discuss the Joint Use Agreement between the two entities. There 49 parks and fields that are joint use sites.

- Director Dave Simon spoke further about the City budget cycle. Budget documents were due to the Mayor's Office last week, and will be due to the City Council in April. The budget environment has been described as "tight." Departments have been advised to not expect expansion. The Department has identified its' needs. The State Capital Outlay request will be shared with Board members as soon as possible. It was requested by the Board that the Department communicate budget needs and requests to the MPRAB early in the process, in the fall, so that Board members are informed and can communicate with legislators. It was suggested that a budget subcommittee might be formed and that a Budget Priorities item be added to next meeting agenda.
- b. Parks and Recreation Department Report, Staff – none.
- c. Subcommittee reports – none.
- d. Board Members Roundtable:
- Anna Nelson suggested incorporating Youth Gun Violence awareness in park activation events.
 - Julie Radoslovich updated the Board on her actions regarding a name change for Kit Carson Street.
 - Cynthia Serna informed the Board of a park walk-through community engagement event at Workers Memorial Park on January 20 to discuss recommended improvements.
5. Public Testimony:
- None
6. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6. Agenda items for next meeting include Park Naming Policy, Board member recruitment and appointment, and budget priorities. The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.