

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of March 5, 2024 Meeting

Location: Parks and Recreation Department Office and Zoom

Members Present: Valerie Martinez, Julie Radoslovich, Cynthia Serna, Tony Johnson

Members Absent: Anna Walker, David Duhigg

City Staff Present: Director Dave Simon, Deputy Director David Flores, Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez, Senior Planner Whitney Phelan

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Chair Valerie Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:39 pm.
 - b. Introduction of Guest: Wes Duplantier, applicant for District 8 Board Member position.
2. Business Meeting:
 - a. Agenda was approved with a revision to the listing of subcommittee assignments, adding Cynthia Serna to the Park Activation and Park Promotion Subcommittees.
 - b. The February 6, 2024 meeting minutes were approved with one minor change in the Board Members Roundtable section of the meeting.
3. Public Testimony:

Wes DuPlantier commented that he likes the change in the meeting agenda to move the Public Testimony section to the early part of the meeting. He also commented on the Board efforts and administrative challenges to filling vacant board positions.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Reported that the revised MPRAB Park Renaming Policy was finalized and has been posted on the City website.
 - b. In September, MPRAB will invite PRD staff to present department budget priorities/requests for the New Mexico legislature at the October MPRAB meeting.
 - c. In December, MPRAB will invite PRD staff to present department budget requests for the city budget at the February meeting.
 - d. MPRAB meeting agendas and minutes are being posted on the City website.
 - e. Board requested action from PRD to post the MPRAB Zoom meeting recordings on the website. PRD will check with City Communications and Information Technology Offices about the feasibility of doing this.
5. New Business:
 - a. Discussion took place on possible changes to Ordinance 10-1-2-3 to facilitate appointments to the MPRAB. PRD Senior Planner Whitney Phelan offered an idea of changing the composition of the board from a member representing each City Council district and two at-large positions to composition by subject matter expertise or geographic representation. The board discussed possible geographic

representation, such as three members from east of the river, three from west of the river, and three at-large members. Dennis Vasquez will ask City Attorney to read existing ordinance and clarify if Mayor can appoint an applicant with advice and consent of the Council, if there are not two applicants from that district. Actions: Seek advice from Legal Office. Further action is tabled.

- b. Discussion took place on proposal for the board to focus on one under-utilized park for board attention. Questions to ask in the process: Why is park not utilized? What would draw people? The topic was assigned to the Park Activation Subcommittee for follow-up.

6. Reports:

- Deputy Director David Flores reported on new dog parks and upcoming dog parks. There are currently 15 dog parks with more on the way. Mobilization for Phase II of the Los Altos Park renovation has begun; new amenities to be added will include a dog park, a pump track, new road access and circulation pattern. A recent job fair was well attended.
- Director Dave Simon reported that the State Legislative Session concluded. The annual Capital Outlay Bill is awaiting the Governor's approval. The proposed state budget to support City Parks and Recreation projects totaled \$29 million, including \$15 million for one large project, Balloon Fiesta Park improvements. Many projects focusing on swimming facility improvements are funded. Another project that was funded was the initiation of planning and development for Creighton Park.
- Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez reported on the park activation program, Park Pop-Up, having nine events scheduled thus far. The department has entered into an agreement with AMP Concerts to coordinate music and entertainment for park activation events. The Open Space Division with many operational partners and contractors is conducting a thinning project in the bosque to reduce fire risk and to remove non-native species. The State Outdoor Recreation Division has approved grant funding for the addition and improvement of disc golf courses.
- Subcommittee reports. Chair Valerie Martinez discussed establishing a Board Development program. Park Activation Subcommittee did not meet.

Board Members Roundtable:

- Julie Radoslovich reported on a Community Mandala Project to activate Pat Hurley Park on April 27.
- Valerie Martinez reported viewing coverage on ESPN of the indoor track meet featuring Albuquerque and the Parks and Recreation Department track.
- Tony Johnson thanked the staff for all the work and stated that he liked the idea of another field trip to visit city park projects.

7. Review Action items:

- State Capital Outlay list from Director
- Underutilized parks
- Seek city attorney review of ordinance language dealing with MPRAB appointments

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.