

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of January 10, 2012

Location: Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office, 1801 4th Street NW

Members Present: Jerry Worrall, Chair; Amy M. Elrod-Lahti, Vice-Chair; Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington; Kelly Gossett; Dan Wilkinson; William Kraemer; Carmen Garcia

Members Excused/Absent: None

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: None

Call to Order: Jerry Worrall called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Jan Harrington moved approval; Kelly Gossett seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of December 2011 Minutes: Mr. Worrall requested a motion to approve the December 2011 Minutes. Kelly Gossett moved approval; Janet Harrington seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: None

Announcements: Mr. Worrall mentioned that he attended a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

General Public Testimony: None

Action Items:

- Election of Officers for 2012 – Mr. Worrall mentioned it was time for election of officers for the Board as his term is up. The Board discussed this matter. Mr. Worrall requested a motion to nominate Bill Kraemer as Chair for 2012. Jan Harrington nominated Bill Kraemer for the position of Chair. Kelly Gossett seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Worrall requested a motion to nominate Amy Lahti as Vice-Chair for 2012. Kelly Gossett nominated Amy Lahti for the position of Vice-Chair. Bill Kraemer seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion. At this time, Mr. Kraemer began to Chair the meeting.
- Mr. Kraemer opened for discussion by the Board concerning the Annual Letter to the Mayor regarding the MPRAB. Items suggested to be included in the letter were a strong emphasis on the fee increases recommended by the Board; Board vacancies; express that we should not have term limits on this Board; should not be restricted to serving on only one Board unless there are ethical concerns; difficulty for Parks and Recreation Department to continue to provide high quality service when positions are cut as they were in the last budget cycle; include the many responsibilities of Parks and

Recreation Department. For example responsible for all planted medians, etc.; better communication between Administration and Boards – review the Mission Statement and use “ABQ the Plan” as an example; in past years the Board Chair has accompanied the Director to Budget meetings. Mr. Kraemer requested that Jerry Worrall provide him with copies of past letters. He stated he would prepare a draft and distribute it to the Board via email for their review.

- Dan Wilkinson mentioned that he would like for staff to conduct another Retreat. He also inquired about changing the time of the meetings. The Board discussed this matter. Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to reschedule the Board meetings to the Third Tuesday of each month from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mr. Wilkinson moved. Amy Lahti seconded; the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Director, Barbara Baca distributed copies of a recent positive article in the newspaper entitled “City Ranks High in US Park Survey”. Trust for Public Lands conducted a survey and estimated that Albuquerque has more than 32,500 acres of parkland. She also discussed the meeting with the Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar concerning conservation and recreation opportunities within the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Items discussed included land use, recreation issues and how to protect the land. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge has been designated on the Prices Dairy property in the South Valley. She also mentioned the Open Space Division has received a \$200,000 Southwest Willow Flycatcher Grant. She will keep the Board advised on what happens. Mr. Salazar will be back in Albuquerque in July. Barbara mentioned that a letter of intent was signed to work out a larger parks master agreement on Mesa del Sol. She feels it is very important to work out the details on this. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Kraemer for his participation in making sure this is done sensibly. Barbara mentioned that the indoor track is being set up at the Convention Center. A schedule of events will be forwarded to the Board. The first event is scheduled for January 20, 2012. There are new ADA requirements for pools. We may reach out to Carmen Garcia for assistance. The Board discussed this matter.
- Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative - Bill Nordin mentioned that there was no Balloon Fiesta Commission meeting in December. As he promised at the December meeting, he distributed copies of the Balloon Fiesta park draft conceptual plan. This information will also be forwarded to Board Members via email.
- Members Roundtable – Mr. Worrall mentioned the APS stadium on the west side; Westside day at the Roundhouse is scheduled for February 7, 2012. If you are interested in attending, please contact him; He also inquired about the status of the Sundoro South Park Agreement. David Flores will be asked to contact him. Carmen Garcia mentioned the Hahn Arroyo dedication and how nice the Arroyo looks. Amy Lahti inquired if there are any Legislature issues. Barbara said there are none. Bill Kraemer mentioned Garfield Park. He said the plan for a track is being replaced by an exercise path around the park. He feels they are heading in the right direction. The neighborhood is working hard with Park planners.

Unfinished Business: We have vacancies in Districts 3, 5 and 6. Barbara mentioned that John Whitson has submitted his information to fill the vacancy for District 5. Mr. Kraemer will request that he attend future meetings. Barbara has spoken to the Councilors for Districts 3 and 6, but there is no specific individual for either district yet. The Councilors are working on filling vacancies in their districts.

New Business: Kelly Gossett inquired about a pond that can be used for recreational water activities such as the Model Pond at Tingley Beach.

Barbara Baca expressed her appreciation to Jerry Worrall for his hard work and enthusiasm as Chair of the MPRAB for the past two years.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office.

Adjourn: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM.