

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of February 4, 2014

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

Members Present: Dan Wilkinson, Chair; John Myers, Vice-Chair; Carmen Garcia; Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington

Members Excused/Absent: Lou Romero

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Matthew Schmader, Superintendent, Open Space Division; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: N/A

Call to Order: Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:33 PM

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to approve the Agenda with no objection.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to approve the January 2014 Minutes with no objection

Announcements: None

General Public Testimony: Matthew Schmader, Superintendent of the Open Space Division introduced himself to the Board and provided background information on himself and the Open Space Division.

Items for Discussion:

- RGVSP Update – Barbara Baca and Matthew Schmader provided an update to the Board on the improvements they would like to see occur in the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Barbara feels it is important to keep the Board informed on this matter. Barbara discussed the Mayor's Albuquerque the Plan. She mentioned that the Rio Grande Vision has been completed. This document contains many ideas, but is not a blueprint of the work that will be completed. The public has expressed their desire that the Bosque be preserved in its natural state. Mayor Berry has \$2.9M for improvements in the Bosque from Central to I-40. SWCA, an environmental monitoring organization, has begun gathering specific information in the area. The results of this monitoring will influence the design and should be completed in September. This information will be shared with the public. A public meeting held in September 2013 to discuss plans for the Bosque resulted in the public expressing passionate concern about what was being proposed. All of the information gathered has been taken into consideration. The City is working with a number of agencies to develop educational forums. They are scheduled for March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3. They will be held at the Natural History Museum in the DynaTheater. This will assist the City with developing future plans and assist with determining where we go from here. The public has a misconception that we can stay out of the Bosque and do nothing. There is a real need to complete some work in the Bosque, as it is a living breathing ecosystem that is used by the public. The \$2.9M will be utilized to improve parking, signage, ADA access and Bosque restoration. Barbara and Matt also discussed the many man made paths that are currently in use in the Bosque and how they would like to consolidate these paths into one trail in an attempt to preserve the Bosque. This matter has caused the greatest amount of concern with the public. Matt provided information on management techniques that can be utilized to accomplish the path

consolidation. Barbara and Matt provided background history on how the management of the Bosque came under the control of the Open Space Division. Barbara discussed the Bosque Action Plan, which was developed 20 years ago, and the Open Space Division has used this plan in the management of the Bosque ever since. Barbara mentioned that the Council Resolution introduced by Councilor Sanchez has been deferred until March 3, 2014. They are working on the language of the Resolution, as the Open Space Division needs to have flexibility so they can comply with the Bosque Action Plan. Board Members discussed this matter and staff answered questions that were asked.

Reports:

- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, informed the Board that as a result of a Retreat that was held with Planning and Design staff, they have begun to have Brown Bag Session to discuss various topics within the Department. The next Brown Bag Session is scheduled for next Thursday, February 13, 2014, 11:30 AM, in our lunch room at 4th Street. The topic will be 30 Years of Open Space. Christina invited the Board to attend and will forward additional information to them. The goal of the Brown Bag Sessions is to discuss broader topics and allow staff to become informed on the responsibilities of other divisions within the department. The topic covered at the last session was "Inclusive Programming". The Department wants to make the public aware that all of our programs are available to all citizens. We will accommodate them. She is also working with staff on a new vending policy. This is being completed in an effort to control the use of parks in an equitable way. Some examples she provided were movies in parks and mommy boot camps.
- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that a selection has been made to fill the City Forester position. The person selected for this position is schedule to begin on March 24, 2014. He currently works at NMSU Extension Service and is the President of Think Trees.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, was called to the Legislative Session in Santa Fe and was unable to attend today's meeting.
- Sub-Committee reports – Carmen inquired about the Foundation. Barbara mentioned that the next step is to have the language to go to the PRC. We need three members of the community to participate to move forward. Barbara is currently working to locate these individuals. John Meyers inquired about the Bike Loop. Barbara mentioned that Planning Department is the lead on this project. Mr. Meyers thought it would be a good idea to have a presentation on the Bike Loop. Barbara said we can do this.
- Members' Roundtable – None
- Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Barbara mentioned that we have reached out to the Mayor's Boards and Commissions Liaison to check on the status of appointments to vacant positions. We will provide more information at the next meeting.
- New Business – None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4th Street NW.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.