

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of July 10, 2013

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

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

Members Excused/Absent: N/A

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; James Lewis, Trails Planner; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: John Whitson; John Myers; Lou Romero;

Barbara Baca spoke about Mr. William Kraemer, MPRAB Chair, who recently passed away. All Board Members shared their experience and memories of Mr. Kraemer. A card was passed around to be signed by Board Members and delivered to the family.

Barbara introduced Garry Wolfe, Parks and Recreation Department's new Assistant Director. Mr. Wolfe has a Bachelors Degree in Forestry and a Masters Degree in Recreation. All Board Members introduced themselves to Mr. Wolfe.

Mr. Wilkinson, Vice-Chair, offered to lead the meeting, so Barbara turned control over to him.

Call to Order: Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:50 PM

Mr. Wilkinson requested that Mr. Nordin make his presentation at the start of the meeting.

- BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB – Bill Nordin – Mr. Nordin mentioned the 4th of July event that was held at the Balloon Fiesta Park. There were over 60,000 visitors to the park for the event. Parking was up 25% over last year. There were issues during the exit from the event. They received no complaints regarding noise or music. It was a good event. Barbara mentioned the Bike Valet that was held for this event. It was a huge success with almost 300 bikes being checked in. There is talk of expanding the Bike Valet. Bill mentioned the Balloon Fiesta Park Museum also had a good night for the 4th of July event. Fiesta on the Green Banquet Facility is booked every weekend. Balloon Fiesta Park has events scheduled almost every weekend. The Balloon Fiesta Park Commission will be reviewing the fee schedule. Telecommunication towers are being installed at the park and will generate \$24K annually. These funds will be put into the park.

Approval of Today's Agenda: The agenda was modified to defer the presentation concerning the Trails and Bikeways Facility Update. This presentation will be added to the agenda for next month.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Wilkinson requested a motion to approve the June 2013 Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; Carmen Garcia seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: All visitors introduced themselves.

Announcements: None.

General Public Testimony: None

Items for Discussion:

- Presentation of Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan Update by Consultant – This item is deferred until the next meeting.

Reports:

- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that we are moving forward on the Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan. The ADA Consultant is coming in and will be providing training on assessing our various facilities to assure that we are in compliance with new laws. Christina said that John McGovern and his staff will be in Albuquerque the week of July 22, 2013. She distributed a flyer to Board Members with information on the training. She encouraged Board Members to attend, but requested two volunteers for the training. Jan Harrington and Carmen Garcia volunteered to attend the initial training. Christina mentioned that the training will look at each park and facility for compliance. This will set a baseline. The goal and purpose of the assessment is to create an action plan to bring our facilities into compliance with federal law. Evaluation of facilities should take approximately one year. We will then develop a report of deficiencies and be able to create an action plan. More information will be provided at next months meeting. Barbara mentioned that this is our busy season. There have been some rescues at the pools. The parks look beautiful. With the recent downpour of rain, the Paseo del las Montanas Trail, located near Jerry Cline Park is under water. Water was pumped out. Parks and Recreation Department is doing well.
- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, mentioned that free swimming passes are available for pools. She distributed notes from the Retreat. She would like to discuss sub-committees further at the next meeting. The Bel-Air Miramontes Park plaque for Lee Julian has been ordered. Christina read the language that will be placed on the plaque. A temporary plaque will be placed at the site at the neighborhood event on July 27, 2013, and the permanent plaque will be installed within 3-4 months. She shared a "good news" note she received from parents of a 14-year old that attend a 3 day climbing, caving and repelling class. The child was very excited after attending the class. It is the job of Parks and Recreation, to get kids excited about being healthy and active. Mr. Wilkinson inquired if we partner with Warehouse 508. Christina provided information on projects where we have partnered with them. It is a good partnership.

- Sub-Committee reports – Mr. Wilkinson encouraged Board Members to participate on sub-committees and become more involved and educated on things that are taking place.
- Members' Roundtable – N/A

Unfinished Business – Board Members reviewed vacancies in District 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and the at-large positions. We are working on filling vacancies. Names have been submitted for District 1 and the at-large vacancy. A name is being submitted for District 2, and possibly District 6.

New Business – Barbara Baca provided a briefing on the Rio Grande Bosque Improvements. She said we are moving forward on this. She will be attending the Huning Castle Neighborhood Association meeting tonight to make a presentation on this matter. We are conducting public outreach and focusing on neighborhoods that back up to the river. An environmental consultant has been hired to provide the impact of this project. We are utilizing the Bosque Action Plan which was established in 1993 and calls for low impact recreation which protects the Bosque. As we move forward we will provide additional information and request suggestions from the Board.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4th Street NW.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:40PM.