

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of October 1, 2013

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

Members Present: Dan Wilkinson, Vice-Chair; Janet Harrington; Rebecca L. Tays; John Myers; Lou Romero, to be appointed on October 9, 2013

Members Excused/Absent: John Whitson; Carmen Garcia

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

Visitors: None

Call to Order: Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM

Approval of Today's Agenda: The agenda was approved with no objections.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the August 2013 and the September 2013 meetings were approved with no objections.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Mr. Lou Romero is scheduled to be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as a representative for District 3 at the October 9, 2013, City Council Meeting.

Announcements: None

General Public Testimony: None

Reports:

- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that John Whitson has resigned from the Board. His job requires that he be out of the country on a regular basis.
- Barbara spoke about the upcoming Balloon Fiesta event, the biggest special event in the state. The event begins this Saturday, October 5th through Sunday, October 13th. She inquired if Board Members were interested in utilizing a parking pass and admission pass that is made available to all volunteers. She mentioned the Bicycle Valet Program, where visitors to the event can ride their bike along the North Diversion Channel and park for free. They would need to pay an admission fee of \$8. She also provided information on the Tribute Area. If people bring in blankets, they can sit in the Tribute Area and watch the balloons from a higher vantage point. This is the first year this has been offered. Various events will also be held in the Tribute Area once the balloons come down. A flyer with information will be forwarded to Board Members.

Barbara informed Board Members that the second round of the ADA Access Audit has been completed. To date, 28 sites have been audited. This is a year long process. Christina provided additional information and discussed areas where we are not compliant. She feels the most challenging is with surfacing in playground areas. We need to review the type of surfaces that will be used based on cost and the amount of maintenance that will be required. Not all of our facilities need to be compliant. Approximately 1 in 3 should be compliant. We also need to have a good geographical spread of compliant facilities throughout the community. Barbara also mentioned how we facilities need to have inclusive programming. We need to provide accommodations for individuals if they are requested. This is all part of the process of addressing ADA issues. We need to provide the best service to Albuquerque that we can. Barbara is very proud of the work that we are doing as an agency. Christina provided information on a new park that is being developed that is an "all inclusive park". It is in the area of Wyoming and Copper. This park will be entirely compliant with ADA Access.

Barbara mentioned that we are hiring for many positions including the City Forester, Median Crew Supervisor, Horticulturist and Park Maintenance Worker positions. We will be interviewing for the Fiscal Manager position after Balloon Fiesta.

Barbara mentioned a volunteer event that was held this past weekend, "Company's Comin". It is a volunteer clean up event that has been held the past 4 years prior to Balloon Fiesta. Volunteers (over 300 this year) participated in cleaning up Albuquerque in preparation for the upcoming event.

Christina mentioned that the next Step It Up event will be held this coming Saturday, October 5, 2013, at Academy Hills Park at 9:00 AM

- BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB – Bill Nordin – Mr. Nordin mentioned that the Balloon Fiesta Park Commission will not have a meeting this month due to the Balloon Fiesta event. He discussed the lease for Balloon Fiesta Park and how AIBF has exclusive use of the facility for two months during the Balloon Fiesta event. The Commission is working on revamping the fee schedule for use of the building next to the Golf Training Center. Events are scheduled at this facility every weekend. The Commission feels it is time to raise the rent for use of this facility. They also reviewed the application and have developed new ones. Bill will provide the new fee schedule for distribution to Board Members. This is a nice facility that is being used often.
- Sub-Committee reports – Dan mentioned that he has been attending SM97 Senate memorial 97 meetings and is gathering information on background checks and concussions. He provided additional information concerning this matter.
- Members' Roundtable – Rebecca Tays spoke about the Pollinator Garden at El Oso Grande Park. They are making progress and many people seem to be interested. She also mentioned that Make a Difference Day is scheduled for October 26th. This is a day when volunteers participate in cleaning up city parks.

Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Board Members requested that we send information concerning vacant positions, a map showing boundaries of Districts, and any additional comments.

Dan inquired about Old Town Farm. Barbara mentioned that she has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to discuss this matter. She will provide additional information later.

New Business – None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4th Street NW.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.