

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of September 3, 2013

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

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

Members Excused/Absent: John Whitson; Carmen Garcia, John Myers

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

Visitors: James Morrison

Call to Order: Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM

Approval of Today's Agenda: The agenda was not approved as there was no quorum of the Board.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the August 2013 meeting were not approved as there was no quorum of the Board. They will be submitted for approval at the October 1, 2013, meeting.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: James Morrison of the Rancho Caballero Home Owners Association attended to discuss issues with the basketball courts at Columbus Park. Mr. Morrison submitted correspondence which will be forwarded to Board Members. The neighborhood is having issues with large groups of people playing basketball at the park. Mr. Morrison expressed his love for Columbus Park. He is not opposed to basketball; however, over the past year and a half, use of the basketball courts, which are located only 55 feet from adjacent homes, have become a public nuisance. The noise from the basketballs and shouting obscenities and vulgar language by overzealous adults has become a daily nuisance to neighbors. The Home Owners Association is proposing that the basketball backboards be removed and that basketball play be redirected to nearby Douglas MacArthur Elementary School or Goodrich Park. Barbara mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Department will conduct research. One problem that she does see with redirecting people to use the elementary school is that this property belongs to APS. Christina mentioned that the courts were developed as half courts to prevent aggressive games. Although we do have joint use agreements with APS, the courts at the elementary school are not open for public use during the school day.

Announcements: None

General Public Testimony: None

Reports:

- Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that many meetings are being held to discuss the Rio Grande Vision. The next meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Museum tomorrow. They are working hard to get accurate information out to the public. The latest debate is concerning a consolidated multi-use trail in the Bosque that is proposed to be made out of crusher fine material. The plan has been criticized due to the Rio Grande Visions intense structural improvements such as foot bridges and observation towers. Mayor Berry has heard the public outcry and has revised the plan to remove some of these structural elements. There is currently \$2.9M available for signage, parking lot improvements, ADA access and the consolidated trail in the area between Central and the Freeway. This area was chosen due to facilities that are currently located in the area such as Tingley Beach and the BioPark. The goal is to listen to the public, take their input and determine the next steps. Barbara provided additional information concerning typical and extraordinary facilities. She also discussed removal of jetty jacks and what their intended purpose was. Barbara stated that they will continue to follow the Bosque Action Plan which was developed in 1993 and monitor prior to any construction taking place. There is education that needs to take place. The important thing is that Mayor Berry has listened and has modified the plan based on public outcry. Balloon Fiesta is scheduled for next monthly. Effective today, the park as officially been turned over to AIBF for the event. A coordination meeting is scheduled tomorrow for the event. Alex Kiska and Pete Saiz are the Department's point of contacts for this event.
- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation, mentioned that he will be attending a meeting with State FEMA to discuss storm damage and the possibility of recovering some of the costs such as overtime, etc. He and staff are looking at policies to address specific issues such as noise in parks.
- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, mentioned that the ADA Consultant will be returning to Albuquerque the week of September 16, 2013. Staff is in the process of evaluating 14 sites to ensure that we are monitoring correctly. The process is continuing. The Consultant will probably return one additional time. She mentioned that they are working on a policy concerning vending in our facilities. This policy should be implemented in the spring. They are looking at private businesses making money in our facilities. She will submit the policy to the Board prior to sending it to the Mayor's Office. These activities impact our parks and are also a safety issue. They are also working on amending the Drinking in Park Ordinance. She discussed a recent meeting concerning the Youth Sports Commission. Some items that were discussed include requirement for concussion training, background checks for coaches, and facilities to hold youth sports.
- Dan asked Barbara to provide additional information concerning Bike n Zoning. Barbara mentioned that this is an idea that is moving forward. We are proposing that it be included in the Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan. As for the Old Town Farms, we have requested that the gate be open, but she does not know the status of this request. She will check on this.

- BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB – Bill Nordin – Mr. Nordin was unavailable to provide a report.
- Sub-Committee reports – Rebecca Tays spoke about the Volunteer Sub-Committee. They had a meeting to make sure they were on the same page. They developed a mission statement (copy attached). The group also met with our Volunteer Coordinator, Malia Tafoya. Gary mentioned that Malia has ambitious goals for volunteer projects.
- Members' Roundtable – Rebecca Tays spoke about the Pollinator Garden grant that El Oso Grande Neighborhood Association was able to obtain from PNM (\$10K). PNM advertised this in the newspaper. Rebecca thought it might be a good idea for Parks and Recreation to advertise it as well.
- Kelly Gossett mentioned that his term is ending on September 30, 2013, and he will not be requesting reappointment to his position.

Unfinished Business – Board Members discussed filling vacancies in District 2, 5 and 6. We are awaiting Mr. Lou Romero's appointment to the vacant District 3 position.

New Business – None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 12:30 PM, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1801 4th Street NW.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:52 PM.