METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD Minutes of October 11, 2011

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

Members Present: Jerry Worrall, Chair; Amy M. Elrod-Lahti; Vice-Chair; William Kraemer; Rebecca L.

Tays; Janet Harrington; Kelly Gossett; Carmen Garcia;

Members Excused/Absent: Margaret Coombs; Dan Wilkinson

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: Jerry Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Amy Lahti moved approval; Janet Harrington seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of September 2011 Minutes: Jerry Worrall requested a motion to approve the September 2011 Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; Amy Lahti seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: None.

Announcements: Amy Lahti requested an update about her reappointment, as well as the reappointment of Janet Harrington and William Kraemer to the Board. Barbara stated that there has been a turnover in staff in the Mayor's Office and that she has sent an email requesting a status update.

Jerry Worrall inquired if the Legislation sponsored by Councilor Jones concerning the Board has been signed by Mayor Berry.

General Public Testimony:

None

Action Items:

- Jerry Worrall inquired if the Board had any objections to the Resolution as written. The Board had no objections. Amy Lahti moved approval of the Resolution. Bill Kraemer seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.
- Jerry Worrall inquired if the Board had any objections to the Bylaws as written. The Board had no objections. Jan Harrington moved approval of the Bylaws. Amy Lahti seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

- Jerry Worrall stated that the Board had previously sent a letter to Mayor Berry dated November 9, 2010, recommending an increase in fees at the Shooting Range. The Board discussed their desire to resubmit the request for a fee increase. Barbara provided information concerning the request for fee increase. Mayor Berry agreed that fees should be increased and forwarded the request to City Council for their approval. City Council denied the request for an increase. The Board discussed this matter in great detail providing input on how they should proceed. It was decided that a letter would be redrafted. Bill Kraemer moved that the letter will be redrafted renewing the Boards support of a fee increase for the Shooting Range as indicated in the November 9, 2010, letter; it will be addressed to the Mayor and City Council; and, it will update the Boards involvement with the Shooting Range. Amy Lahti seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.
- Jerry Worrall mentioned the email he received from Jan Harrington concerning the balloon landing park located at Vista del Norte and Osuna. Jan feels that this property should not be improved except for occasional cleanup of debris and weeds. Barbara provided information concerning the site. She indicated that no development is currently planned as there is no funding available, but it has been discussed. (After the meeting research was conducted and there is \$1.7M available for planning and development of Vista del Norte Park. Parks and Recreation will get feedback from Councilor O'Malley.) The Board discussed various issues with landing sites for balloons such as the disappearance of available land for landing sites. Amy Lahti stated that since the Balloon Fiesta is only 9 days out of the year, the property needs to have other uses for the remaining 355 days of the year. Most members of the Board agreed as the City has invested \$4M (Research after the meeting indicates that \$6.3M has been spent to purchase the entire property) to purchase this piece of property. The Board agreed to include this item on the December 2011 agenda for further discussion.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Director, Barbara Baca felt that the Balloon Fiesta event was very successful. The bicycle valet that is set up at Balloon Fiesta took in 1000 bicycles the first weekend. There was damage to the turf due to the two day rain we received. Staff members are currently assessing the damage and the cost for repairs. Barbara was very pleased with the bond election as all of the bonds passed. We are moving forward on the 2011 Bond package. Money should be available in January or February once the bonds are sold. ABQ the Plan failed, so the Sportsplex that would have affected the Parks and Recreation Department is not happening. A meeting was held with Mrs. Rivas, Richard Rivas wife, concerning the Bike Shop. Parks and Recreation and Family and Community Services Department will work together to revamp the Esperanza Library building. The building needs work, and Family and Community Services Department has some money for repair and renovation. The Parks and Recreation Department has received a Federal Grant to hire an adult bike safety programmer to work out of the site. This is a very sensitive issue and the program needs to be accountable. Mrs. Rivas was happy that an annual event honoring Richard Rivas would be held. Barbara will provide more information as we move forward with this project, especially the date of the event honoring Mr. Rivas. Barbara mentioned that Parks and Recreation Department is working with Mesa del Sol on a park dedication agreement for how new parks in this area will be accepted. She will have staff make a presentation at the November 8, 2011 meeting. She also mentioned that there is a Balloon Fiesta Commission Meeting this evening.
- Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative Bill Nordin was unable to attend today's meeting as he had other obligations.

- Jerry Worrall asked if there are any Sub-Committees reports. He discussed Prescription Trails and the
 medical community giving patients prescriptions for walking the trails. Barbara mentioned that the
 Trails Planner position, which has been vacant since April, has recently been filled. She will put the
 new Trails Planner in contact with Charm Lindblad of Prescription Trails. The Department supports
 Prescription Trails and will continue to improve the trails. The Board will discuss this matter further at
 the November 8, 2011 meeting.
- Jerry Worrall opened for Members Roundtable. Carmen Garcia, District 7, mentioned the Hahn Arroyo Project near Montgomery is almost complete. Rebecca Tays, District 8, mentioned that an Arts in the Park event was held at El Oso Grande Park. She gave kudos to the staff for their handling of the event, especially the parking. Jerry Worrall mentioned that everything is quiet in District 1, especially with the APS stadium.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Worrall mentioned the vacancies in District 3 and 6. Barbara mentioned that she had spoken to Councilor Benton concerning the vacancy for District 3. He has submitted a name. Barbara will follow up with Councilor Garduno concerning the vacancy in District 6.

New Business:

Kelly Gossett mentioned that he is participating in meetings concerning the American Great Outdoor Initiative. The next meeting is schedule for December 1, 2011. He would like to have someone from Parks and Recreation Department participate in this meeting. Barbara asked him to provide her with the specifics, such as the date, time location and she will have someone participate. Jerry Worrall will also attend this meeting to represent the Board. Mr. Worrall inquired about the Board submitting a letter to the Administration concerning Aquatics fees, specifically for West Mesa Aquatics Center. Barbara indicated that she will provide a report at the November meeting. He also mentioned the Fire Department passes. Mr. Worrall inquired if the Board can make a recommendation concerning a "Pack it Out" program. Barbara mentioned that the Department is currently working on this project. Barbara will provide additional information. Jerry Worrall inquired about the Jumper program. Barbara mentioned that a debriefing meeting is scheduled for next week to determine the facts and how the Department will move forward with this program. She will provide information at the next meeting. Mr. Worrall inquired if feeding the homeless is still going on in parks. Barbara mentioned that this event is still taking place at Coronado Park on Saturday mornings. Parks and Recreation is working with Family and Community Services Department on this matter. Mr. Worrall discussed the December meeting and it was decided that it would be held at either the Open Space Visitor Center or the Recreation Offices at Balloon Fiesta Park, depending on availability.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1801 4th Street NW

Adjourn: Mr. Worrall adjourned the meeting at 4:52 PM.