## METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD Minutes of November 27, 2012

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

Members Present: William Kraemer, Chair; Amy Lahti, Vice-Chair; Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington;

Jerry Worrall

Members Excused/Absent: Kelly Gossett; Carmen Garcia; Dan Wilkinson

City Staff Present: Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Benny Aragon, J. Anthony Aragon, Bernice Herrera, Councilor Ken Sanchez, Elaine Romero

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

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Amy Lahti moved approval; Jan Harrington seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the October 2012 Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; Jerry Worrall seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Everyone present introduced themselves

**Announcements:** None

**General Public Testimony:** Mr. Worrall inquired if there is an updated report of parks in each City Council district. Christina stated that the report was updated to be presented to City Councilors at meetings in early December, but she can provide this information to the Board at the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Worrall mentioned Neighborhood Coordination and community policing of parks. He also suggested that we begin inviting City Councilors to attend meetings.

Councilor Sanchez provided background information on Benny Aragon and how he worked closely with Senator Domenici to build Carlos Rey Park. Councilor Sanchez is requesting that Carlos Rey Park be renamed after Benny Aragon. He discussed many of Mr. Aragon's accomplishments. Mr. Aragon also spoke and provided additional information on his many accomplishments. Anthony Aragon spoke about his father's accomplishments and their move from San Jose to Westgate. Some of Benny Aragon's accomplishments included installation of backstops in parks, construction of Carlos Rey Park, construction of the fire department in Westgate, 98th Street bridge over the freeway to Taylor Ranch, establishing the PTA at Carlos Rey Elementary School, extending bus service to Westgate, creation of Spanish Village at the State Fair, sponsoring an anti-glue sniffing law, bringing stores and infrastructure to Westgate. Any consideration of the Councilors request is appreciated. Bernice Aragon also expressed her pride for her father. All Visitors thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

## **Action Items**

Update Guidelines for Renaming Park – The Board discussed the request by Councilor Sanchez.
Christina will conduct additional research on Carlos Rey and who he was. The Board discussed the current policy which was established in 1999, and provided their input and suggestions on whether it should be left as is or changed. They also discussed other options on what can be done to

memorialize people other than renaming a park, such as an art piece, etc. For example, Mr. Aragon had a great interest in helping children. One example of a memorial for him might be a basketball court at Carols Rey Park named after Mr. Aragon, which Councilor Sanchez can provide funding for. Christina provided information on the current memorial programs that are in place, such as the Memorial Tree Program. She also informed the Board that with the change in City Council District boundaries, Carlos Rey Park is no longer in Councilor Sanchez' district. It is now in City Council District 3. Christina provided an application form for Park Name Change from 1998. Mr. Kraemer requested that the form be retyped. Christina provided the following points: 1) Administrative costs may be minimal (signs, etc.), but there are also unintended complications. Parks do not normally have addresses. Parks are known by Fire and Police by a specific name. If there is an incident at a park where the name has been change, this may cause a health and safety issue. 2) If a park gets named after a person, for example, Pete Padilla Park. This park was located on the land where the Hispanic Cultural Center was constructed. Fifteen years later, we are dealing with the fact that this park was eliminated to build the Center. Mr. Kramer feels we should be able to offer an alternative to renaming parks. Board Members inquired if the Guidelines for Renaming Parks had been provided to those requesting name changes for Trails Park and Bel-Air Park. Christina mentioned that she had forwarded this information to Councilors Lewis and O'Malley and will forward the information to Councilor Sanchez and Elaine Romero. Board Members feel that further discussion on this matter is necessary. Amy Lahti made a motion to place "Guidelines for Renaming Parks" on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. Rebecca Tays seconded the motion; the board unanimously approved the motion.

## Reports:

- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager for Parks and Recreation Department, distributed a Monthly Project Status Report to Board Members. She also mentioned that Board Members had inquired about having a Retreat. Mr. Kraemer would like to hold a Retreat in January 2013. He would like to have the beginning of the meeting include a business component for further discussion on the Guidelines for Renaming Parks. Board Members agreed to cancel the December 25th Board Meeting and tentatively scheduled the Retreat for Friday, January 25, 2013, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, location to be determined.
- Sub-Committee Reports Mr. Kraemer mentioned that he and other attorneys are working on the bylaws for a foundation to assist Parks and Recreation with an additional funding source.
- Members Roundtable Rebecca Tays, District 8, mentioned that they had a park cleanup day on November 10, 2012. She would like information on the Adopt a Park Program.

**Unfinished Business:** We have vacancies in Districts 3, 5 and 6. Mr. Kraemer asked members to reach out to individuals that they know live in these districts and ask them to volunteer for the Board.

**New Business:** Proposal to Cancel December 2012 Meeting – Board Members agreed to cancel the December 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

**Adjourn**: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 2:33 PM.