

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of June 7, 2022

Location: Zoom

Members Present: Valerie Martinez, Julie Radoslovich, Teri Neville, Talal Saint-Lot, and Kristin Abdill.

Members Absent: Chris Crum, Cynthia Serna, Tony Johnson

City Staff Present: David Flores, Deputy Director; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Sean O'Neill, Assistant Forrester; Cecila Webb, Mayor's Office Observer

Visitors:

- Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News
- Diego Garcia, Together for Brothers
- Alejandro Villezcas, Together for Brothers

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Chris Crum and Cynthia Serna were absent, so Christina called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and continued moving us through the agenda.
2. Business Meeting:
 - a. Agenda accepted
 - b. Meeting notes from April meeting were accepted.
 - c. Visitors and guests introduced themselves.
 - d. Announcements: none
3. Presentation by Sean O'Neill, CABQ Assistant Forester, soneill@cabq.gov
[<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/resources-rules/tree-information>]
 - a. O'Neill explained the latest development in CABQ's initiative 'Let's Plant Albuquerque'. CABQ along with its partners Tree New Mexico, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, Bernalillo County, NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, The Nature Conservancy, Dakota Tree Project, and New Mexico State Forestry Division are soon to roll out a GIS-enabled portal so that citizens can view the data collected on Albuquerque's trees. The first part of this initiative was to identify and map the location of all trees within the city parks of Albuquerque. There are over 23,000 trees mapped to species, along with a database to track size, health, maintenance schedule, etc. This information is combined with existing GIS data to model for climate adaptability, where more trees are needed, etc. This GIS-enabled database will help the City maintain its trees and plan for the future.
 - b. An extensive 12-week course exists for volunteer Tree Stewards to help grow and maintain trees for the various programs by CABQ and partners. The Department is considering a less intensive program to increase the already 65 Tree Stewards that are presently trained. Possibly a 2-week course may be proposed.

4. New Business:
 - a. Sub-committee Reports: Board Reactivation, Park Reactivation, and Park Promotion.
 - b. Board Reactivation update presented by Christina Sandoval and Kristin Abdill. Meeting held April 27, 9am. Ultimately, there will be an MPRAB handbook that will contain:
 - i. Board Officer's roles and responsibilities
 - ii. Member roles and responsibilities
 - iii. FAQs understanding the budget process at PRD regarding the City Council, State Government, and Grants
 - iv. Major PRD events such as Earth and Arbor Day, National Trails Day, Freedom 4th, Balloon Fiesta Park, Neighborhood cleanups, National Night Out.
 - v. An outside CABQ repository for documents to share among MPRAB members. Directories will be established for sub-committees, etc.
 - c. Park Reactivation update presented by Julie Radoslovich. Next meeting to be held July 29, 12:30 pm.
 - i. The group conducted an informal list of parks they feel are under utilized. Many they identified fell within the International District.
 - ii. They are conducting research on other existing Friends of Parks & Recreation organizations
 - iii. They would like the PRD to develop a calendar (more discussion from Park Promotion Subcommittee) of public activities in parks
 - iv. The recent Wilson Park event (recipient of Park Activation Funds) was a great event and should serve as a model for park events. Christina said the PRD learned a lot from this event and gathering more insight on how other events from the Activation Program will help inform them on how to best handle issues like staffing. Essentially, there were not enough PRD staff to handle the event.
 - v. Question for PRD from sub-committee: How does the PRD evaluate success, what measures are used?
 - d. Park Promotion update presented by Valerie Martinez, sub-committee meeting held on May 10. Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21 12:30-2:00 pm.
 - i. What do we promote? They need to know what is happening, what is planned. Using education and information to promote awareness of parks, what they offer and events.
 - ii. Who do we want to reach? Families, teens, fostered children, tourists, other language speakers, neighborhood associations, refugee organizations, arts organizers, transportation challenged, etc.
 - iii. How do we reach the public? The PRD's PIO would help the sub-committee develop the calendar of events for parks. A more enabled web locator for parks that would provide better information on park amenities and what's available. An FAQ sheet for each park.
 - iv. Ask the public how they would like to receive information about park activities and events—social media, schools, flyers, texts?

- v. PRD response: Within PRD they are discussing the use of Outer Spatial App, as well as the use of Shared-Point calendar. There are discussions occurring within the PRD about how to better promote events online. The PRD is also discussing developing a questionnaire to the public about how they want to get information for events.
- e. PRD Director's Report by Dave Flores.
 - i. The 311 calls have increased but the Department is struggling to staff completely to respond to the calls effectively and efficiently. Most are regarding broken irrigation, trash, weeds, maintenance issues, and encampments..
 - ii. They do not know of a way for MPRAB members to see what types of 311 calls are recorded.
- f. PRD Report by Christina Sandoval.
 - i. Budget has been approved for the coming year. Will be able to be more specific for the next meeting of MPRAB in August. Some highlights on budget and grants:
 1. \$60K again for Park Activation
 2. Staff increases for all city employees
 3. Grants: \$2M for dog parks, next phase for Phil Chacon (\$900K), Daniel Webster, Netherwoods, Golf courses water-saving improvements, Alameda Trail (\$700K)
 4. Public Art for Barelmas, Alameda, Chacon. Murals: near Lowel Elementary, the new Esperanza Bike Shop, the Old Boys & Girls Building, 4H.
 - ii. Unfortunately, the Safe Outdoor Spaces was voted down in the City Council which will have an impact on City Parks.
 - iii. MPRAB members can ask for 'Ditch the Ditches' cards which are 1-day passes to pools to hand out. Request from Christina Sandoval. Julie Radoslovich would like to consider introducing a program next year to hand these out to Title 1 schools within Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.
 - iv. Nature Play designs are going to be implemented at Daniel Webster, Chacon, and Vista del Norte.
 - v. Christina will contact the mayor's office to see if there are applicants for our Board openings for Districts 3, 6 and 8.
 - vi. In response to a query about having a booth at Balloon Fiesta, Christina suggested Freedom Fort would be a better venue since it is well attended and mostly locals.

Subcommittee Assignments.

1. Board Reactivation: Kristin, Teri and Christina Sandoval (505-768-5370, cmsandoval@cabq.gov)
2. Park Activation: Julie, Valerie, Cynthia, Tony, Kristin, and Roxane Cisneros (505-857-8657, rcisneros@cabq.gov). This subcommittee will also research other 'Friends' committees.

3. Promotion: Valerie, Talal, Cynthia, Tony, CABQ PIO (when filled)
5. Adjourn Meeting
 - a. There will be no meeting on July 5 so that our subcommittees have a chance to meet in July. We will resume our regular monthly meeting of the whole Board on August 2.

Contacts for making connections for subcommittee meetings:

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