

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of August 4, 2015

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

Members Present: Dan Wilkinson, Chair; John Myers, Vice-Chair; Roxanne Turley; Susan Michie-Maitlen; Janet Harrington

Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative for the MPRAB: Bill Nordin

Members Excused/Absent: Marylou Kraemer; Lou Romero; Ted O. Humphreys; Carmen Garcia

City Staff Present: Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Lisa Lopez, Recreation Division; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: John Whitson; Dianne Goodman

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

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Wilkinson amended the Agenda to discuss Sub-Committee Reports earlier in the meeting; the Board unanimously approved the Agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Wilkinson inquired if there were any objections to the Minutes as written for July 2015. Janet Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes as written; John Myers seconded the motion; the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Mr. Wilkinson introduced Dianne Goodman who has signed up for public comment, and Lisa Lopez of the Recreation Division of Parks and Recreation Department.

Announcements: N/A

General Public Testimony:

- Dianne Goodman previously attended the July meeting and discussed a weed issue at City View Estates Park. She indicated that she has not received any type of commitment on when the weed issue will be resolved. She also discussed pickleball. Albuquerque currently has 300 people that play this sport. There are 500 pickleball players statewide. She indicated that the City is planning on investing \$1.5M in pickleball courts at Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center, when we have children killing each other in our parks. She is concerned that we are investing money in pickleball for old people and not giving young people something to do.

John Whitson indicated that these courts are community courts and not just used for pickleball. Pickleball is not just for old people, it is for the community.

Dan Wilkinson mentioned that he knew the child that was killed. He coached him in wrestling. What is happening in our community has nothing to do with money. It has to

do with crime. There is a perception that money is being spent in the wrong places. Mr. Wilkinson mentioned that he is touched personally by her comment and he does not feel the same. To say that budgetary items can be shifted is wrong. We need to know the facts.

Dianne Goodman feels it is important for us, the City, to invest in young people to keep them off the streets. We need more support for our children.

John Myers stated that we provide recreational facilities for young people. We are doing our part.

Dan Wilkinson stated that the City, with limited funds, is doing the best that it can. Mayor Berry is doing all he can to have a direct impact.

Reports:

- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, mentioned Aquatics has one week left in the summer season. A competition between lifeguards, Lifeguard Games, will be held this Saturday at Sierra Vista at 5:00 PM. Three lifeguards were honored this month for saving lives.

Golf Management hosted the Men's City Golf Tournament on July 4, 2015, at our three largest golf courses, Arroyo del Oso, Ladera, and Los Altos. The RFP for a new concessionaire to operate Ladera is pending. In round one, no proposals were completed adequately. The RFP will be reposted. A meeting is scheduled to discuss marketing golf. We are working on different methods such as social media and a consultant to help with consistent brand image. We have 90 holes of golf available in Albuquerque in all quadrants except for the southwest. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of golf courses that surround Albuquerque. The primary well at Los Altos has suffered a well casing collapse. Staff will work with the State Engineer to apply to drill a new well at a cost of between \$1M to \$2M. The golf course is currently being watered with domestic water at an increase in cost from \$41 to \$671 per acre foot of water. Approximately 3 to 4 acre feet of water are used nightly at Los Altos. This will impact the golf budget in a negative way. Reuse water is used at Arroyo del Oso and Puerto del Sol Golf Course.

Recreation Division has wrapped up summer tennis. Fall softball and sports registration has begun, with 116 teams registering last week, bringing in \$35K in revenue. Repairs to the infield of the Mondo Track are currently taking place. This should be completed by mid to late October. Track season kicks off at the Convention Center in January 2016. We have less than 60 days until Balloon Fiesta.

Open Space Division is in the busy season with summer programs through August. At Mayor Berry's request, they have developed a youth work program for a 20 person crew. They are doing vegetation and trail work in the Bosque.

Park Management Division is working on weeds in all parks due to the rain. Crews are divided into six maintenance areas. There are 8-10 staff members per crew. We hire additional support of about 3 members per maintenance area through a temporary agency. Each park maintenance area has about 250 acres of park land to maintain. Garry's hope is to get weeds in parks addressed. We are working on hiring a weekend supervisor so that a small crew is available on weekends to address maintenance issues. Garry explained how the number of Park Management staff members has declined since

2008 due to a decline in the economy. We also lost personnel when medians were transferred to the Solid Waste Department.

Bill Nordin indicated how his organization, players and parents, take ownership of their parks by pulling weeds and picking up trash. Grass needs to be cut on specific days. Fields are then lined so that children can play sports on them.

Garry discussed the Open Space Volunteer Program and how we are working on establishing the same type of program in the Park Management Division.

Janet Harrington asked Garry questions about swimming and tennis. She also mentioned that her two sons are golfers. They have told her that our public courses are among the best they have seen.

- Sub-Committee Reports – Committee Chairman or their designee – Roxanne Turley discussed the Vision Sub-Committee. They met to discuss the direction they want to take. They will be meeting with Christina to put thoughts into action. They are working behind the scenes regarding the tree canopy, nature deficit disorder and public outreach. More information to come later.
- Mr. Wilkinson mentioned that Bill Nordin is a member of the Balloon Fiesta Commission as the representative to the MPRAB. Dan recommended putting together a letter requesting that Mr. Nordin be allowed to remain on the Balloon Fiesta Commission as our representative.
- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, mentioned that the Commission will not have an August meeting because they currently do not have a quorum. He discussed how the Commission is represented. His term on the Commission has expired. He has reapplied, but is lacking a letter from the MPRAB. In lieu of an August meeting, a tour of the Sid Cutter Pilot's Pavilion has been scheduled. It will be held on August 11, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at Sid Cutter at Balloon Fiesta Park. Phase 1 of this very nice building is almost completed. It will be used to host the pilots at this year's Balloon Fiesta. It is the newest building in our park system. It will be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of August. When not in use by Balloon Fiesta, it will be rented for use as a Manuel Lujan type facility.
- Members' Roundtable – Report on P&R issues in their area (limit 2 minutes)

Susan Michie-Maitlen mentioned that she attended the Parks and Recreation meeting for the Comprehensive Plan. There were people in attendance from the Martineztown area that are concerned about their parks. She mentioned that we are building new parks when we can't maintain the parks we have. She feels we need to look at and address this issue. She discussed how the Volunteer Coordinator was a good idea and that it provides a way for neighbors to get involved. We need to make it easier for people to get involved. Mr. Wilkinson requested that Garry introduce Susan to the people in the Open Space Division that are responsible for the volunteer program.

Mr. Wilkinson allowed Ms. Goodman to have his two minutes to speak. Ms. Goodman indicated that she wanted to respond to Garry's comments concerning the Park Management Division. Garry informed her that Park Management is not under his

purview of control. Ms. Goodman indicated that Parks and Recreation Department is being reactive rather than proactive. She feels that 311 is not an effective way to address issues. She has learned that the most effective way to deal with issues is to call the Mayor's Office.

- Unfinished Business – Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to prepare a letter from the Board recommending that Bill Nordin be allowed to continue to be our representative on the Balloon Fiesta Commission; John Myers seconded the motion; the Board unanimously agreed. Mr. Wilkinson will provide the language for the letter to be forwarded to Carmen Ortiz, Boards and Commissions Liaison in the Mayor's Office.
- There are currently vacancies in Districts 1 and 8.
- Old/New Business – Janet Harrington discussed how we have had three Board Members pass away. We have memorialized Richard Rivas and Becky Tays, but have not done anything to memorialize Bill Kraemer. In past meetings, the Board has discussed some type of bicycle/jazz event in conjunction with the Balloon Fiesta, as they provide a bike valet at this event. John Myers indicated that Barbara Baca had shown interest in this, but since her retirement and father's death, she has been occupied with other things. He is sure she would be interested in participating in this. Ms. Harrington mentioned that she would like to see this happen by next year.

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