

METROPOLITIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of May 5, 2015

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

Members Present: Dan Wilkinson, Chair; Lou Romero; Roxanne Turley; Susan Michie-Maitlen; Janet Harrington

Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative for the MPRAB: Bill Nordin

Members Excused/Absent: John Myers, Vice-Chair; Ted O. Humphreys; Carmen Garcia;

City Staff Present: Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Mary Lou Kraemer, John Whitson, Sarah Eiland

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

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Wilkinson amended the agenda to allow General Public Testimony so Sarah Eiland could speak about dog parks. As Mr. Nordin had other work related issues to attend to, he will speak after Ms. Eiland.

General Public Testimony:

- Sarah Eiland, a member of the newly formed Silver Platinum Neighborhood Association, attended the Board Meeting to speak about dog parks. She discussed how only one of our dog parks, Tingley Dog Park, is wheelchair accessible. She discussed incidents she has had at this Dog Park, where her dog has been attacked by aggressive dogs on several occasions. She also mentioned how she contacted 311 and no one came to assist her after waiting several hours. She mentioned how people take snacks and food into the Dog Park. She feels there should be a policy in place to deal with these issues. She would also like to see Tingley Dog Park designated a "special needs" dog park, for people that have disabilities. Board Members discussed this matter and inquired if designating the park as special needs would solve the issue of aggressive dogs. Christina provided an explanation of what accessibility is. She invited Ms. Eiland to contact her and discuss this issue further away from the Board Meeting. She explained how the Parks and Recreation Department does not enforce the Heart Ordinance. This Ordinance is enforced by Animal Welfare. Christina offered to contact Animal Welfare to request patrols at this park for a two week period. She addressed the inquiry from Ms. Eiland about the Facebook page, indicating that it is not associated with the City. Garry mentioned that enforcement of dog parks is a difficult challenge. Accessibility at dog parks is something we can look at. Christina provided information on how we are conducting audits of all of our facilities for ADA accessibility. Dan Wilkinson suggested installation of a video camera. Christina explained how the Department is

currently looking at purchasing one or two portable security cameras that can be placed at our facilities. They will be hooked up to the Real Time Crime Center.

- Bill Nordin, BFP Commission Representative for MPRAB, discussed how the Balloon Museum has recently held events where there were too many people in attendance. If this happens, more APD officers are required to assist with exiting the facility. He indicated that the Balloon Fiesta Park Commission is currently discussing what to do in this type of situation. The Commission is discussing another slide event at the Park. A presentation will be held on this at an upcoming Commission meeting. The Commission approved the fee schedule for the new Sid Cutter Pilots Pavilion. He discussed how the Golf and Event Center is booked on weekends. It is also a good place to have lunch meetings. The facility holds close to 300 people and rents for \$250, which is very minimal. Mr. Nordin discussed the amenities that the facility has. He suggested that the Board hold a meeting at the new Sid Cutter Pilots Pavilion once construction is completed. This facility is 12,000 square feet and will hold approximately 800 people.

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

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Mary Lou Kraemer and John Whitson attended as a potential Board Members.

Announcements: N/A

Items for Discussion

- Presentation on Bike Loop by Linda Rumpf of the Planning Department and Savina Garcia of Wilson and Company – An overview of the 50 Mile Activity Loop was provided. The Loop will connect bikeways and trails to create the 50 mile loop. The project is being completed in phases due to the high expense. The connections currently being worked on are in the Nob Hill area near Alvarado and Zuni, the Downtown area on 4th and 5th Streets, and the area of Coors and Eagle Ranch. Other connections will be constructed as funding becomes available. A handout with information on the 50 Mile Loop Plan was provided to Board Members.

Reports:

- Garry Wolfe, Assistant Director, discussed what is currently taking place in our Divisions:

Aquatics is “mucking” Montgomery Pool today. This means they are cleaning the pool and preparing for the upcoming opening on Memorial Day. They are also installing a new pool deck and slide. This should be completed for the opening. Swim lesson mass registration was held this past weekend at all indoor pools. Aquatics sold almost \$100K in swim lessons at \$25 for two weeks of lessons.

Golf Management advertised a Request for Proposal (RFP) for operation of the Ladera Golf Course on Sunday. There will be a 50 day proposal period. The proposals will then be evaluated later this summer.

In Recreation Division, the State Tennis Tournament is being held at Jerry Cline this weekend. It is a high school tournament with the NMAA. Task meetings will begin soon for the 2015 Balloon Fiesta event. The kickoff for the New Mexico Games is this month. The Games will begin with basketball over the Memorial Day weekend.

Park Management Division is in the summer growing season. They are in the process of hiring 50 temporary employees.

Open Space is having several cleanup events in open space facilities during the weekends. They are also in the process of acquiring additional acreage currently called "Dog Biscuit Hill".

- Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager, mentioned that a study session is being held today at noon to discuss the liquidation of the Open Space Trust Fund to purchase additional open space lands.

The Old Armory site at Copper and Wyoming is being used to build an all inclusive park for all to enjoy. She would like to have the Planner attend the meeting next month to make a presentation. This will be heard at the EPC meeting in June for platting and rezoning.

Next Friday, May 15, 2015, is Bike to Work Day.

Christina attended an Adaptive Sports Conference last week. She was able to make many good contacts, including the Veterans Administration. We will be working with them to create new programs.

She mentioned that budget is in progress. A Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2015.

She provided information on Youth Conservation Corps and youth hiring programs such as Rocky Mountain Youth Corp, where students will work on trail improvement projects in Open Space areas, and assist with constructing a shade structure at the Shooting Range.

There is new interest in the Foundation. Discussions have started again. She will do a presentation in the next few months.

- Sub-Committee reports – N/A
- Members' Roundtable – Susan Michie-Maitlen mentioned a tree canopy outreach event that was held and approximately 40 people showed up. It is a pilot to see what type of volunteer work people can do.

- Unfinished Business – There are currently vacancies in Districts 1, 2 and 8.
- New Business – Janet Harrington discussed a letter she prepared for the Board’s endorsement of the donation of “Dog Biscuit Hill”, a 12 acre parcel of property by the MRGCD, to be named in honor of Patrick J. Baca. Christina provided information on where we are in the process and responded to questions from the Board. Louis Romero made a motion that the Board endorse this donation. Susan Michie-Maitlen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the endorsement and Mr. Wilkinson signed the letter. Christina will submit the letter to the Administration and City Council on the Boards behalf.

Adjourn: Mr. Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 2:21 PM.