

# METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## Minutes of September 19, 2023 Meeting

**Location:** In person and Zoom

**Members Present:** (In Person) Cynthia Serna, Julie Radoslovich, Tony Johnson; (via Zoom) Anna Nelson, Valerie Martinez

**Members Absent:** David Duhigg

**City Staff Present:** David Flores, Deputy Director, Dennis Vasquez, Deputy Director

**Public:** Jared Langholz (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order:
  - a. Cynthia Serna called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Business Meeting:
  - a. Agenda accepted
  - b. August meeting minutes approved.
  - c. April meeting minutes approved.
  - d. Guest introduced himself.
3. New Business:
  - a. Planning for October Field Trip. Date, time, and meeting location for field trip was set for Friday, October 20, 11:30 am at 4<sup>th</sup> Street office. Box lunches will be provided. Parks to be visited are Garfield, Barelás, Mesa Verde, International District, Phil Chacon, and Manzano Mesa. Albuquerque Public Schools staff will join the Board at Garfield Park for a discussion on Joint Use Parks.
  - b. Park Re-naming Policy. It was brought to the attention of the Board that the policy and process for Board review and recommendation for park name changes is in need of review and updating. The City Administration has launched a Stories of Us initiative. The Board should be aware of that program. Board policy and procedures should be congruent with the Stories of Us program. A work group was identified to review the MPRAB policy and procedures for renaming parks and make recommendations for any necessary revisions to the policy and process. The work group consists of Valerie Martinez, Anna Nelson and Dennis Vasquez.
4. Reports:
  - a. Parks and Recreation Department Report, Directors
    - Deputy Director David Flores reported on the recent public meeting for the Balloon Fiesta Park Stadium project. The facility will be public infrastructure. The stadium will be constructed with private funding. Seating capacity is planned for 8,000-10,000 people. Lighting Study, Noise Study and Traffic Study have been completed with findings of no detrimental impacts. The

change made in school hours for APS has caused some adjustments to Parks & Recreation functions in some areas, particularly the aquatic centers. A large meeting between operations staff and managers for APS and City Parks & Recreation recently took place to discuss the Joint Use Agreement between the two entities. There are 49 parks and fields that are joint use sites.

- Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez reported about recent and upcoming park activation events: September 8, Bennie Hargrove Park pollinator plant give-away and movie night; September 15, Dennis Chavez Park movie night; and September 23, Valley Neighborhood Park Los Griegos Neighborhood Association. Balloon Fiesta takes place October 7-15. A set of Balloon Fiesta tickets and parking pass will be available for Board members to share. A number of events are planned throughout the city, including at Balloon Fiesta Park and the Open Space Visitor Center, for viewing the Solar Annular Eclipse on October 14. Collaborative efforts between the City Greenhouse staff and local organizers led to pollinator plant give-away events in four city parks in September- Tiguex, Rio Grande, Barelás, and Bennie Hargrove. Thousands of native plants and seed packets were distributed at these events.

b. Parks and Recreation Department Report, Staff – none.

c. Subcommittee reports – none.

d. Board Members Roundtable:

- Anna Nelson brought up a project to park maps by physical fitness activities available at each park. She discussed the possibility of internship opportunity for Public Health Social Work asset mapping.
- Julie Radoslovich discussed swimming pool hours and had a question about the renaming of Kit Carson Park while not renaming Kit Carson Street.
- Valerie Martinez commented that the drainage work at Linear Park seemed to be effective.
- Tony Johnson inquired about Bullhead Park and softball tournaments.

5. General Testimony:

- Jared Langholz introduced himself as an applicant for the District 1 MRPAB board member position. He stated that he applied in February 2023. He lives in the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood. He is organizing a park clean-up and awareness event at Creighton Park.

6. Review Action Items and Adjourn Meeting.

Board members will meet again as part of the field trip on October 20.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 12:30 pm at the Parks and Recreation Office at 1801 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, a Zoom option will also be available.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.