

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)

Minutes

December 3, 2024 Meeting

Location: In person at the Parks and Recreation Dept office: 1801 N 4th St NW, and Zoom

Members Present: *At-Large* - Valerie Martinez (Chair), Tony Johnson; *District 1* - John I. Ajie; *District 2:* Julie Radoslovich; *District 3* - Anna N. Nelson, PhD; *District 8* - Fredrica "Rickie" Bergquist

Members Absent: *District 7* - Cynthia D. Serna

City Staff Present: Deputy Director, David Flores

Guests Present: Igor Dernov, Ahren Griego Sr

1. Call to Order:

- a. Chair Valerie Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.
- b. Introduction of Board Members.
- c. Introduction of Guests

2. Business Meeting:

- a. The board voted unanimously to add 'Public Comment' earlier in this meeting after the 'Business Meeting' as well as at the end of the meeting, limited to 2 minutes per person.
- b. The updated Agenda for this December 3, 2024 meeting was approved unanimously.
- c. Minutes from September 3, 2024 were reviewed and the board had 3 requested amendments: revise Rickie Bergquist to District 9, move a sentence per chair Martinez' comment, and fix spelling for John Ajie. After amendments, the minutes were approved unanimously, and will be posted on the MPRAB webpage.

3. Public Comment

- Igor Dernov, District 1, represents the Laurelwood community on the westside of Albuquerque. His comment is that NM Trees.org received a grant of 100 trees for his neighborhood due to increasing temperatures of 10 degrees in the last 15 years, stressing older trees, which need to be replaced. There are many places in the median that already have sprinklers where new trees can be planted, and he believes it would be cheaper to replace trees there, using federal funds/grants for trees. Unfortunately, the parkway median cannot be planted by homeowners.
- David Flores responded that the Solid Waste Department / Clean Cities is responsible for tree plantings in medians, and he will connect the commentor with Clean Cities.
- John Ajie asked if the City has tree planting programmed in operating expenses? David Flores responded yes.
- Ahren Griego Sr, retired captain for the Albuquerque Fire Department, has worked the streets of Albuquerque 24 hour shifts, and he believes that a soft indoor floor spaces with daily access for the public especially on the west side would alleviate crime against children and provide space for senior citizens. He has reviewed initial renderings for the West Side Indoor Sports Complex and sees space for basketball courts but does not see space for seating or soft surface. Data shows how important sports are to community.

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)

Minutes

December 3, 2024 Meeting

- David Flores responded that a property near St Pius is slated for the new West Side Indoor Sports Complex, which will be 164,000 square feet with 6 basketball courts, volleyball, and wrestling mats. Bleacher space is being examined. Additional funding is needed. City interest is high, but it is still early. It is difficult to work fully on the design and programming when it is still in the land purchase phase. There are some concerns from the neighbors regarding traffic. We expect it to be a large benefit to the community, and it looks like it will be financially well-supported into the future.

4. Old Business

- a. Presentation of MPRAB 2024 report to City Council on 12/2/2024.
 - Valerie presented to City Council last night, and there were no questions. She focused attention on the board nomination process. Councilors received a hard copy as well as a slide presentation.
 - Tony Johnson mentioned that Valerie did a phenomenal job.
 - Julie Radoslovich mentioned that she touched base with Councilor Baca after the meeting and will reconnect later.
 - Rickie asked if we are working on budgeting.
 - David Flores responded that we are currently working through the 2025 Fiscal Year. Budgeting for 2026 starts in July. We are looking at very little programming if the budget is not increased.
- b. Public Testimony to Local Government Coordinating Commission (LGCC) re: opioid settlement funds.
 - Julie Radoslovich presented to the Bernalillo County Commission and LGCC. Emphasized that investing in prevention rather than only treatment makes sense, and the City should leverage park spaces with prevention programming. The board and public need to stay on top of the process as a City Department may not be able to request funds directly.
 - There will be a RFP process for nonprofits to apply for funding through this settlement.
 - Valerie Martinez would like the Parks Board to further this effort for programming funding by contacting each of their councilors.
- c. Park Renaming request: Stardust Skies Park" to "Andres Arellanes Park" proposed for MPRAB agenda on January 7, 2025.
 - Renaming request will be taken up next meeting in January.
 - Julie Radoslovich would like options proposed to the Arellanes family shared with the board.

5. New Business

- a. PRD priorities and requested funding from NM State legislature, 2025.
 - The board would like a list of projects to write support letters to influence funding requests and priorities for state grant funding. Staff still working on requests.

6. Reports

- a. Parks and Recreation Department, Deputy Director, David Flores
 - The new eastside Esperanza bike shop opened with an event, and will share partial staff days with Esperanza west.

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)

Minutes

December 3, 2024 Meeting

- Vista del Norte dog park is opening soon and is installing shade structures next week.
 - After-hours security is hired for Juan Tabo Hills Park.
 - Two golf managers retired, and Kenny Ortiz is the current golf manager. Gloria Chavez is the temporary interim Park Superintendent. Laurie Firor, the Strategic Planning & Design Division Manager, is leaving PRD. Susan Rice is the new Recreation Division Manager. Kent Vigil is the new Aquatics Division Manager. One recent retiree, Ted Chavez, worked in procurement for 42 years with PRD; and at a recent retirement party at the mayor's office, Ted took the time to praise the value of contributing to the Parks Department. The board would like to send him a thank you note.
 - Tony Johnson asked about the Phil Chacon Park project. David Flores responded that the grass has grown excellently, the pump track is done, the playground is in construction now, and construction is generally on schedule.
 - Julie Radoslovich asked about Councilor Grout's proposed amendment to the Parks Ordinance, and would like an agenda item in the future to discuss before it goes to a vote; would like to know how soon it will be brought to Council for approval; and if PRD has a stance. The amendment is primarily focused on security and protection for park places with regulations concerning camping and shopping carts. City Councilors are still debating and have some concerns, and the date is unknown for Council discussion.
- b. Subcommittee reports
- Valerie Martinez will meet with a subcommittee for promotion in the near future.
- c. Board Members Roundtable
- John Ajie would like a list of board members email and phone numbers. The board should write a letter to support nominations of individuals who have applied but have not yet been appointed such as for Wes Duplantier who attended past board meetings, and is from vacant District 8, but has not been appointed. Would like to have maps showing parks in each Council District before the end of the year. Reached out to Daniel Manzano in the mayor's office to say that he has now moved to District 1, and hopefully this can be adjusted administratively. What happened to Lavaland Park?
 - Valerie Martinez would be happy to contact City Councilors regarding vacancies. Councilor Bassan was the only person to comment after the presentation and said she submitted a person for District 4 and was surprised to see that nothing happened as it was stuck with the administration. Valerie will follow up.
 - Julie Radoslovich mentioned that the rule that there needs to be two people before an appointment creates confusion at all levels.
 - The Lavaland Park events were only attended by 2-3 people, and they did not continue the events. The board could work to find out why the events were poorly attended - could be lack of publicity, capacity, or timing. The board could create a subcommittee for park activation and devote 15 minutes at an upcoming meeting to discuss; and create a booklet or brochure to distribute to the public.

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)

Minutes

December 3, 2024 Meeting

- Valerie Martinez mentioned a commercial that included Albuquerque ranking 15 on the national ranking of City park access, which is assessed by the Trust for Public Lands.
- Julie Radoslovich visited the opening of the new Esperanza bike shop, and is excited by potential connections with Comanche Blvd.

7. Public Comment

- Mr. Arellanes congratulated the board on their work. The message to the neighborhood association was completed by Mr. Arellanes. PRD will be moving forward with the park signs at Stardust Skies Park and the newspaper notice, so the request will be on the January 7, 2025 agenda.

8. Review Action Items

- PRD staff will reply with more information on whether the Stardust Skies re-naming request will move forward to the January meeting.
- MPRAB will create a one-pager list with board emails and phone numbers.
- MPRAB will email their City Councilors regarding vacancies.
- PRD staff will send the board district maps with parks in each district.
- PRD staff will contact the City Clerk's office about John Ajie switching to District 1.
- MPRAB will take up Lavaland Park and park activation pamphlet subcommittee.
- PRD staff will research more information on the proposed Parks Ordinance amendment from Councilor Grout.
- PRD will provide more information on e-bikes and results from the ordinance.

Adjourned at 2:28 pm.