

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes for August 6, 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 3* - Anna N. Nelson, PhD; *District 5* - John I. Ajie; *District 7* - Cynthia D. Serna; *District 8* - Fredrica “Rickie” Bergquist

Members Absent: *District 2:* Julie Radoslovich; *District 6:* David Duhigg

City Staff Present: Dennis Vasquez, Deputy Director, David Flores, Deputy Director, Cheryl Somerfeldt, CIP Manager

Guests Present: Ralph Arellanes, Mercela Arellanes, Wes Duplantier

1. Call to Order:

- a. Chair Valerie Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.
- b. Introduction of Board Members.
- c. Introduction of Guests

2. Business Meeting:

- a. Agenda for August 6 2024 was approved.
- b. Minutes will be submitted for the next meeting.

3. Presentation:

- a. Request/Application for Name Change: Snow Park, 9501 Indian School Rd NE:
- b. Chair Martinez introduced the request by reporting that the earliest files within the City Parks & Recreation Department for Snow Park are from 1957. Parks files state that the park was named by the developer as part of the subdivision development, and the name is currently tied to the neighborhood and community center as well.
- c. Ralph Arellanes conducted a 10-minute presentation describing the story of his son, Andres Arellanes, who was a victim of police brutality and fought against it throughout his life, eventually passing at age 36 (written presentation attached below and video available upon request).
- d. Chair Martinez outlined the name change process:
 - Contact the Office of Neighborhood Coordination for affected associations.
 - Send the request letter and application to these associations.
 - The Parks Department will notify the public through a newspaper and post signs at the park 15 days before the board meeting.
 - The MPRAB will review all comments received at least five days before the meeting or during the public comment period.
- e. Cynthia Serna asked if these steps had been followed and noted that the District 7 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations meets the first Wednesday of each month, with the next opportunity in September. She also mentioned the meeting notice lacked a call-in number.

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4. Old Business:

- a. The MPRAB field trip occurred on Friday, June 21, 2024. The board visited Wells Park, Lavaland Park, Westgate Community Center Park, Silver Tree Park, Sierra Sunset Park, Wilson Park, Phil Chacon Park, Trumbull Park, and Bel Air Park, and had the following comments:
 - Fredrica “Rickie” Bergquist stated that she is impressed with the amount and quality of City parks.
 - John Agie stated that he is also impressed with the parks given the climate. He was happy to see the current state of Lavaland Park. He was pleasantly surprised to see grass at parks.
 - Tony Johnson stated that he was excited to see parks that he hadn’t seen before, but there is still a lot to do. Would like to further to promote activity at more parks.
- b. The board felt that popular parks often need more maintenance, whereas less popular parks are better maintained but underutilized. It was discussed that reservation-only parks for special events can potentially be an option in a few locations around the City for special events.
- c. Chair Martinez mentioned that the annual report was sent to the mayor and city council. The report is scheduled to be added to the city council agenda at a future meeting. The Park Activation Guide is included in the report and will be reviewed by the Park Activation Subcommittee.
- d. Together for Brothers (T4B) visit by Christopher Ramirez at the June meeting raised concerns about changes to the Phil Chacon plan that were not in the original version. It was suggested that Parks and Rec staff hold an update meeting with community members. Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez confirmed that there has been no progress yet, but he plans to work with project manager, Christian Mathias, to provide an update.

5. New Business:

- a. Chair Martinez was unaware that City Council voted on the e-bike ordinance, and would like MPRAB to be included in parks related City Council items. Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez mentioned that the e-bike ordinance received review and comments from the Open Space Advisory Board. The adopted ordinance allows e-bikes on City trails unless the Parks Department closes them unless the trail is in another jurisdiction such as National Parks or MRGCD since some agencies do not want trails open to e-bikes without a public process.

6. Reports:

- a. With time running out, the committee suggested typing up a report. Since no subcommittees met, there are no reports from them to include.
- b. Deputy Director Dennis Vasquez announced that food trucks and music will be available at Lynwood and Pat Hurley Parks every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

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7. Public Comment:

- a. Wes Duplantier mentioned that Sims Park Road has been repaved, and there is improved signage on Tramway for better navigation. Regarding e-bike closures, Parks and Rec should consider that the bike trail on Tramway that leads into Elena Gallegos Park is a single-lane trail, and faster bikes may complicate maintenance and usage due to the trail's limited width.

8. Agenda items for September meeting:

- a. Chair Martinez mentioned in Julie Radoslovich's absence that exploring how the \$145 million from the opioid settlement could be used to support positive activities in parks through quality programming will be added to next month's agenda. The funds could be allocated for prevention, intervention, and treatment.
- b. John Agie would like the board to be more proactive with filling vacancies.

9. Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 10, 2024, 2024 at 12:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.