

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 17, 2012

Location: CNM Montoya Campus, Conference Room J124, 4700 Morris Avenue NE

Members Present: William Kraemer, Chair; Amy Lahti, Vice-Chair; Jerry Worrall; Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington; Kelly Gossett; Carmen Garcia, Dan Wilkinson

Members Excused/Absent: None

City Staff Present: Barbara Baca, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Matthew Schmader, Open Space Superintendent; Christina Sandoval, CIP Program Manager; Jane Trujillo, Board Secretary

Visitors: Beth Baker, Oso Grande NA; Juan Rubio, Liga Latinoamericana Soccer; Alicia Quinones, President, Oso Grande NA

Call to Order: Bill Kraemer called the meeting to order at 11:09 AM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Amy Lahti moved approval; Jerry Worrall seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Kraemer requested a motion to approve the March 2012 Minutes. Jan Harrington moved approval; Kelly Gossett seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: All visitors and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Kraemer requested that Board Members and City staff also introduce themselves

Announcements: None.

General Public Testimony: Alicia Quinones, President of Oso Grande NA, distributed a handout with pictures of the natural space at El Oso Grande Park. She discussed the concerns that the neighborhood association has with the area. This area is approximately 7 acres, 3 acres of which are utilized by Water Utility Authority for a water tank. They are requesting assistance with maintaining this area. Barbara Baca indicated that she would coordinate a meeting with the neighborhood association, Park Management, Open Space Division and Water Utility Authority to work on solutions to the issues that were brought up at the meeting.

Action Items:

- Montano Property – Matt Schmader provided a presentation on this area. He displayed a map and discussed various issues with the construction of the Walmart at Montano and Coors such as the impact to the Bosque riverside drain, impact to the Open Space area to the east, traffic in the area, etc. The Board provided their input. Mr. Kraemer stated that it was the Board's decision if they wanted to provide an opinion to the EPC. Mr. Kraemer stated he had a conflict of interest on this project and he would recuse himself from the vote. Mr. Worrall suggested that the Board recommend a moratorium on building until infrastructure is built to accommodate this type of construction. Janet Harrington made a motion that the Board submit a recommendation to the EPC for a moratorium on construction in the area. Dan Wilkinson seconded the motion. All Board Members were in favor.

- Letter to the Mayor and Council – Mr. Kraemer made a motion that the Board sign off on the letter that was prepared by the Board to be sent to Mayor Berry and Council. Mr. Worrall seconded the motion. All Board Members were in favor and signed the letter.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Director, Barbara Baca, mentioned that she would forward Budget information to Board Members. Mr. Kramer suggested that any Board Members that are able to attend the Budget meeting scheduled on April 26, 2012, 5:00 PM, do so in support of the Parks and Recreation Department. He feels that it is important for Board Members to be at the meeting as advocates for support and to provide public comment.
- Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative - Bill Nordin mentioned that a public meeting will be held next Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 5:30 PM, at the Balloon Fiesta Golf Building to discuss the Balloon Fiesta Master Plan. He mentioned activities that are taking place at Balloon Fiesta Park.
- Sub-Committee Reports – Mr. Kraemer mentioned that the Foundation Committee had another successful meeting to discuss establishing a foundation. Carol Dumont, Planner, provided the group with information on foundations that have been established in other cities. This is an opportunity for private funding to help with Parks and Recreation Goals. Barbara mentioned that the Austin Parks and Recreation Foundation raised \$800K last year alone. Mr. Worrall inquired if anyone was interested in taking over Prescription Trails. He mentioned that he would like to have Prescription Trails participate in an upcoming meeting.
- Members Roundtable – Kelly asked Mr. Worrall to attend a recreation meeting scheduled for July 18, 2012. He would like Prescription Trails to participate as well. Mr. Wilkinson recommended that the Board take a serious position on volunteer coaches being required to receive concussion training. Mr. Kraemer asked that this item be placed on next months agenda as an action item. Mr. Wilkinson also mentioned that APS wants to charge teams \$250 for use of fields. Barbara mentioned that Parks and Recreation Department is working with APS on a Joint Powers Agreement for use of fields.

Unfinished Business: We have vacancies in Districts 3, 5 and 6. Unfortunately, John Whitson was not appointed. Due to the redistricting, he is no longer in District 5.

New Business: None

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at TBD.

Adjourn: Mr. Kraemer adjourned the meeting at 1:13 PM.