

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of December 13, 2011

Location: Fiesta on the Green (Old Gardunos Restaurant) at Balloon Fiesta Park

Members Present: Jerry Worrall, Chair; Rebecca L. Tays; Janet Harrington; Kelly Gossett; Dan Wilkinson

Members Excused/Absent: Amy M. Elrod-Lahti; Vice-Chair; William Kraemer; Carmen Garcia

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

Visitors: Paul Smith

Call to Order: Jerry Worrall called the meeting to order at 1:14 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Mr. Worrall requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Jan Harrington moved approval; Rebecca Tays seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of November 2011 Minutes: Mr. Worrall requested a motion to approve the November 2011 Minutes. Kelly Gossett moved approval; Janet Harrington seconded; the board unanimously approved the motion.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests: Mr. Worrall introduced Paul Smith of the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Announcements: Mr. Worrall discussed building better relationships with community groups.

General Public Testimony: None

Action Items:

- Balloon Landing Sites – Barbara mentioned that Sandy Zuschlag could not be at the meeting. Christina Sandoval will be filling in for her in this discussion with the Board concerning Balloon Landing Sites along with Paul Smith. Christina mentioned that open space areas are filling in and Albuquerque is losing its landing sites. The discussion concerning Balloon Landing sites was spurred by the purchase of the property at the intersection of Vista del Norte and Osuna. Parks and Recreation Department staff will be meeting with Councilor O'Malley to discuss the development of this property. Community work needs to be done for planning. We need to be aware of structures that are built and possibly bury some power lines that are currently on the property. Christina showed the Board a map of the area. Paul Smith mentioned that balloons need places to land. He discussed the Balloon Fiesta Park, 80 acres of grass for launching. In a study conducted over the past eight years, it was determined that 72% of balloon flights go south toward Vista del Norte. He discussed the amount of land required for landing based on various factors. It is best to have as much land as possible. He discussed vacant land owned by UNM, AMAFCA, etc. Christina and Mr. Smith discussed this matter with the Board and responded to their inquiries. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta provides maps to balloonists indicating properties that are appropriate to land on and those that are prohibited. Mr. Smith stated that he has flown balloons in many different locations throughout the country and Albuquerque is a great place to fly. He feels that the support of the Board is very important. He asked that when purchasing and developing properties in the future, the City keep balloonists in mind.

Reports:

- Parks and Recreation Department Director, Barbara Baca, mentioned that she feels it is important for the Board to be aware of Balloon Fiesta issues.
- Balloon Fiesta Commission Representative - Bill Nordin discussed issues with the lights at the Balloon Fiesta Park intersection off of Alameda. He mentioned that the Commission is working on policies and procedures. He discussed the construction that has been completed at the Balloon Fiesta Park. He showed the Board a draft conceptual plan that is currently out for comment. Barbara Baca mentioned that as an Action Item in the future, it would be good to have Sandy Zuschlag discuss technical review. Barbara wants to do a more comprehensive presentation, possibly at next months meeting. Mr. Worrall inquired where they are as far as staffing the Commission. He asked if he can inquire at the Westside Coalition meeting for a representative for the west side. Bill informed him that all recommendations need to come from the City Council and the Administration.
- Sub-Committee Reports – None.
- Members Roundtable - None

Unfinished Business: We have vacancies in Districts 3, 5 and 6. Mr. Worrall met with Doug Lutz from Constituent Services regarding the open positions. He also asked Doug to check with Mayor Berry concerning the number of Boards someone can serve on and term limits. He requests they review these items and possibly change them.

New Business: Mr. Worrall reminded Board Members that elections for Chair will be held in January.

Mr. Worrall and Barbara Baca expressed their appreciation to Board Members and thanked them for serving on the Board this year.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Adjourn: Mr. Worrall adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.