

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

Minutes for Tuesday September 10, 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 2:* Julie Radoslovich; *District 3* - Anna N. Nelson, PhD; *District 5* - John I. Ajie; *District 7* - Cynthia D. Serna; *District 9* - Fredrica “Rickie” Bergquist

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

Guests Present: Edward Snow, Mary Beth Laime, Debra Di Guiseppi, Janet Franchini, Kevin Small, Kevin Small, Andrew Burnett, Kris Sly Linton, Kristen Paige Snowe, Kim W Van Valvalkenburgh, Diane Stapleton, Dave Williams, Mike Campbell, Van Eldredge, Kim Blanchard, Kas Egeland, Ralph Arellanes, Marcela Arellanes

1. Call to Order:

- a. Chair Valerie Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:35pm.
- b. Introduction of board members.

2. Business Meeting:

- a. September 9, 204 agenda approved by all board members.
- b. June 6, 2024 minutes approved by all board members.

3. Old business:

a. Chair Martinez

City Councilor District 8, Dan Champine will facilitate scheduling the yearly report at a future City Council agenda, hopefully by end of 2024.

- b. Request to re-name Snow Park to Andres Arellanes Park. During the August 6, 2024 meeting, the board heard a presentation from the Arellanes family.

Chair Martinez described the Park Naming Policy available on the City Parks website. Chair Martinez explained that the Parks Department takes care to notify the public of the request, and forward all public comment to the board. The Park Naming Policy has several steps. One of the general purposes of the board is to provide a public forum for discussions of all park-related issues. Diplomatic and sincere comments from the public are welcome.

Public Speakers (each speaker was allowed 2 minutes to provide testimony; and full video of spoken comments available upon request):			
	Name	Position	Summary of Comment
1	Edward Snow, son of the park namesake, Edward Snow	Opposed	The Edward Snow for whom the park is named moved to Albuquerque as an infant for tuberculosis treatment. When he turned 18, he served in the military; with action in southern France, Bavaria, Austria. He was decorated with a bronze star and purple heart, and attended UNM under the GI Bill. Edward Snow saved and borrowed, and built his first development of affordable homes in Snow Heights for soldiers returning to Albuquerque.

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)
Minutes for Tuesday September 10, 2024 Meeting

2	Mary Beth Laime	Oppose	Has lived in Snow Heights for past 21 years, and her current home built by Edward Snow.
3	Deborah DiGuissepe	Oppose	Does not live in a Snow Heights home, but went to school in the area, and supports its history.
4	Janet Franchini	Oppose	Family friend. The Snow name is synonymous with area and history.
5	Kevin Small	Oppose	Chose not to speak.
6	Andrew Burnett	Oppose	President of Near Heights Neighborhood Association. Encourages memorials at the park rather than re-naming.
7	Kris Sly-Linton	Oppose	Lived in the neighborhood and watched original building of houses.
8	Kristin Paige Snow	Oppose	Granddaughter of Edward Snow - Edward Snow died of heart attack at 45 years old, the year before she was born, and it brings her joy to experience his legacy.
9	Kim Van Valkenburgh	Oppose	Resident of Snow Heights. Believes Edward Snow deserves the honor of the park name.
10	Diane Stapleton	Oppose	Grew up three blocks from Snow Park. Original resident of Snow Heights subdivision, and encourages memorial plaque.
11	Dave Williams	Oppose	Lives on Morrow Ave facing Snow Park. Described the multitude of memorial trees at Snow Park and suggests memorial.
12	Mike Campbell	Oppose	Original resident of neighborhood.
13	Van Eldredges	Oppose	Lifelong resident of Albuquerque. Grandfather was also a developer in the area and worked with the Snow family.
14	Kim Blanchard	Oppose	Granddaughter of Edward Snow. Did not have opportunity to meet him, but experiences positive family connection in the neighborhood.
15	Chris Egeland	Oppose	Chose not to speak.
16	Marcela Arellanes	Support	Mother of Andres Arellanes. Did not know the stories of Edward Snow until this meeting.
17	Ralph Arellanes	Support	Father of Andres Arellanes. As a veteran, father, and advocate of maintaining history, he is honored to hear these stories. His grandfather was a WWI veteran, and his great grandfather was a Civil War veteran. He grew up on Texas St for 35 years, lived at Moon and Aspen. Andres Arellanes gave his life for the safety of all people, so that none of us have to suffer police brutality. The Arellanes family withdrew their request.

(Additionally, emails from 51 persons were opposed to the request.)

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)
Minutes for Tuesday September 10, 2024 Meeting

c. Parks & Recreation Department Speakers:

Deputy Director Vasquez: It is very meaningful when the public shares about their community. It speaks to importance of this issue for all of you in addition to email comments, and shows how people can come together to express different views. The Parks and Recreation Department recently updated the Park Naming Policy, and we will update our records on Snow Park to reflect this testimony.

Cynthia Serna: As City Council Distric 7 representative on the board, she appreciated the neighborhood sharing their stories, taking time out of their day, and their understanding of others.

Dr Ana Nelson: The Arellanes family experienced deep and profound loss of a young man of color. Parks provide opportunities, a place where communities can be heard, and the rich cultural diversity of our city. Suffering persists, and it is important to bring in the voices of young men of color into collective dialog.

Julie Radoslovich: Greatly appreciate all of those who spoke today.

Chair Martinez: This was a good example of civil discourse. The next meeting will acknowledge that the matter is decided and the park will not be renamed.

4. New Business:

a. Open Space Alliance

Chair Martinez: On August 8, 2024, met with the Open Space Alliance to consider raising money for park activation, and discussed the MOU update currently being considered with Parks.

b. Opioid settlement money.

Julie Radoslovich: City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County will receive \$145 million over 10 years. Some of these funds could be used to support parks. Each board member could contact their City Councilors to state they would like some of the settlement money to go toward park programming. City Council and County Commission will approve fund distribution. The request should have connection to drugs such as providing summer camp for children with addiction in their families.

Director Simon: The board has an opportunity to contribute to the dialog. The board can voice their opinion formally through written letter/s. It is important to invest in play for youth as it plays a vital role in development. Presence makes a park more secure resulting in public safety through activity. Taking children into nature is the healthiest investment in kids. Physical Security improvements can be a bottomless pit for funding.

Cynthia Serna: Mesa Verde is looking for activities and ways to support home-schooled children. What is the status of nature play? Cynthia will speak with Councilors Fiebelkorn and Rogers.

John Ajie: Look for solutions that makes sense. How much are we spending now? What is adequate?

Chair Martinez: Would like to identify an amount. Physical security items have a hefty price tag while activation can be a smaller amount. Requests that are too vague may not influence City Council.

Dr. Anna Nelson: Supports a collective letter to approach City Councilors, and funding for an emergency response telephone at parks directly impacted by violence.

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB)
Minutes for Tuesday September 10, 2024 Meeting

5. Public Comment (unrelated to Snow Park renaming request)

a. E-Bike Ordinance CS O-24-14

Terry Storch: The Parks Department has a City Council mandate to monitor e-bikes on trails, and does not have sufficient funding resulting in other needs being disregarded such as the South Valley lighting upkeep. Resources will be going toward persons who have e-bikes instead.

Chair Martinez: Does Parks have funds to enforce the e-bike ordinance?

Director Simon: Complete enforcement will be multifaceted since there are funds initially for signage, which will reach active and passive trail users. Observation, direct enforcement on trails, or control of the space is not always possible since there are 150 miles of paved and 300 miles of unpaved trails. APD is the only legal authority to take enforcement action, and law enforcement would need to observe the activity.

There will be two kinds of basic signage: speed limit signs and trail etiquette signs to respect yielding. Parks has the ability to set lower speed limits. Painting the trail surface is more efficient. E-bikes yield to pedestrians.

Previous public engagement included a 6 month period of research and consultation with stakeholder groups. The City Council process took 5 months. Other public meetings included OSAB, GARTC, Bike ABQ, and mountain biking stakeholders. Public engagement will continue especially regarding specific trails.

6. Reports

- a. Director Simon:* Open Space 40th anniversary is occurring on September 16, 2024. The morning and lunch will be important for Open Space partners and key allies, and the afternoon is more public facing. RSVP with Deputy Director Vasquez to attend the morning as a key constituent.
- b. Deputy Director Vasquez:* Pollinator and native plant giveaway events over the next few weeks. Sat and Sun 9-12 at Wilson Middle School. This year that program is engaging neighborhoods that the board agreed could use more support.
- c. Chair Martinez:* Lavaland Park is having weekend events in September.
- d.* Subcommittees reports are postponed to the next meeting due to time.

7. Review Action Items

- a.* Chair Martinez will check in on the status of the Open Space Alliance MOU and invite them to present their work at an MPRAB meeting.
- b.* Julie Radoslovich will work with Rickie Bergquist on an Opioid settlement letter for City Council.
- c.* Deputy Director Vasquez will identify example amounts for activation.
- d.* Julie Radoslovich suggested board members contact their City Councilors separately about presenting the MPRAB report at a future City Council meeting.
- e.* Recruit for District 6 board member.

8. Next meeting

- a.* Going forward, meetings will be on Tuesdays as determined by the board. Post agenda 72 hours in advance on Parks Department MPRAB webpage.
- b.* Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 22, 2024 at 12:30.

Adjourned at approximately 2:35pm.