



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 6, 2009

6:00 p.m. Memorial Senior Center
1800 Bryon, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: Henry Stokes, Chair, David Turner, Vice Chair, Carl Pataky, Ruben Robles, William Medrano, James Tolbert, Matthew Carroll, Fred Shuford, Trinidad Munoz, Ralph Cloud, Rodolfo Troncoso, Bill Sparks

Members Absent: Francoise Feliberti, Michael Armstead, Brian Wickstrom

Member Vacancies: 4

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Director, Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Paula Powell, Sports Manager, Wright Stanton, Aquatics Manager, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant, Lucy Calderon, Recording Secretary,

Agenda Item # 1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Joint meeting with members of the LRC was called to order at 6:00 p.m. – Representative Steve Ortega presiding.

Representative Ortega established Protocol for the meeting. The joint meeting will address two agenda items (gender eligibility and restroom policy), afterwards the Legislative Review Committee will adjourn and the Parks and Recreation Board will continue their meeting.

All members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item # 2. Discussion and Action: Gender eligibility policies for various sports leagues (Joint meeting with Economic and Community Development, Quality of Life and Tourism Legislative Review Committee).

Paula Powell, Sports Manager, provided a presentation explaining types of programs and the governing bodies used to establish leagues. Current policy and guidelines were presented. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment:

Melody Joiner – Supported a change for girls to play with the boys. Would also like to see the parent make the decision of allowing their child to play with boys.

Annette Monsivais – A football coach supports UIL and governing bodies, but would like to see girls have the choice.

Sylvia Carreon – Coaches girls basketball. Supports the current policy and staff recommendations.

Edgar Fino – Coaches girls basketball. Supports current policy and staff recommendations.

Rene Leon – Legislative Aide, Representative Susie Byrd, provided Representative Byrd's position on girls playing on boys teams.

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Open discussion with PRAB, LRC and staff including, governing body rules and regulations, consequences of changing the rules, potential harm to players, parent participation and authorization, and future coed leagues.

A Motion was made by PRAB Member Matthew Carroll, “That the gender eligibility rules currently in place for the competitive level of play continue as is, further that the practice of boys and girls playing together in instruction and recreational levels is continued as per staff recommendations.” Second by Ralph Cloud. Motion carried (10 Ayes, 2 Nays).

A Motion was made by LRC Representative Holguin, “To accept the recommendation from the Parks Board.” Second by Representative Acosta. Motion carried (4 Ayes).

The issue will be forward as a recommendation to City Council.

Agenda Item # 3. Discussion and Action: Developing a park restroom policy (Joint meeting with Economic and Community Development, Quality of Life and Tourism Legislative Review Committee)

Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, provided a presentation, and reviewed the draft policy and options for implementation.

Open discussion with PRAB, LRC and staff including, operating costs, criteria for restroom facilities, potential vandalism, and neighborhood association input.

A Motion was made by PRAB member Bill Sparks, “To approve the staff recommendation.” Second by Fred Shuford. Motion carried (12 Ayes).

A Motion was made by LRC Representative Emma Acosta, “To approve the Park Board recommendation.” Second by Representative Holguin. Motion carried (3 Ayes, 1 Abstain).

The LRC adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The PRAB meeting continued, with Chair Henry Stokes presiding.

Agenda Item # 4. Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2008

Motion to approve the December 2, 2008 minutes made by Fred Shuford; second by Carl Pataky. Motion carried (12 Ayes).

Agenda Item # 5. Petitions and Communications from the Public

None

Agenda Item # 6. Discussion and Action: Appointments to Subcommittees

There are four vacancies on the Park Board and three vacancies on subcommittees. A Motion was made by Matthew Carroll, “To approve Henry Stokes as a member of the Park Naming Subcommittee.” Second by Carl Pataky. Motion carried (12 Ayes).

Agenda Item # 7 Discussion and Information: Update on Status of Pool Repairs.

Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, provided an update of pool closures due to requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and progress to date. Four pools have reopened with new drain covers.

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Agenda Item # 8 a. Discussion and Action: Governance Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations for Board Goals and Objective (Bill Sparks).

A final meeting for the Governance Ad Hoc Committee will be January 16, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall (TBA).

Other Copies of the Parks and Recreation Department January 2009 newsletter and event calendar were distributed.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Administrative Assistant, Margaret T. Binkley