



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 3, 2009

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

MINUTES

Members Present: 16

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, Michael Armstead, Francoise Feliberti, Brian Wickstrom, Jeannine Kennedy

Members Absent: 0

Member Vacancies: 3

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Director, Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Paula Powell, Sports Manager, Shamori Whitt, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Agenda Item # 1. Meeting Called to Order

Henry Stokes, Chair, called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item # 2. Approval of Minutes: January 6, 2009

Motion by Carl Pataky to approve the January 6, 2007 minutes as written. Motion seconded by David Turner. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item # 3. Petitions and Communications from the Public

Matthew Carroll highlighted an editorial in the local newspaper and suggested updating telephone messages at recreation facilities.

Michael Armstead distributed a map of a neighborhood park located at Pebble Hills and Tierra Mina and requested that the recent placement of trees be reviewed and adjusted. (Handout)

Agenda Item # 4. Discussion and Information: Update on Council actions regarding gender Eligibility Rules for Sports Leagues and Restroom Policy.

Nanette Smejkal, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that the Restroom Policy was presented to City Council. The Council decided not to take action on the policy, the rationale given was that by doing so would establish restrooms as a construction priority before Council had an opportunity to look at all potential projects that would be forwarded because of the 2010 Bond. At this time park restrooms are status quo. Bill Sparks noted he expressed his disapproval to Representative Steve Ortega.

The Eligibility Rules for Sports Leagues were considered by City Council today; (February 3rd) Council did not change the rules but directed Parks and Recreation staff to request information from two governing bodies.

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Before proceeding, Chairman Henry Stokes welcomed new member, Jeannine Kennedy (District 1) to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Agenda Item # 5. Subcommittees:

- a. Discussion and Action: Governance Ad Hoc Committee recommendations for Board Goals and Objectives (Bill Sparks)

Bill Sparks reported limited input from members of the Board not in attendance on goals or objectives and those in attendance had no consensus of opinion to make a recommendation to the Board. The committee did accomplish submission of suggested updates to the ordinance and modification of by-laws. The Board should sunset the committee.

Carl Pataky suggested a strategic planning session for the entire board. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Francoise Feliberti, “That we have a goals meeting on March 3rd.” Motion second by David Turner. Motion was restated by Chairman Stokes, “Motion to have a monthly meeting with one agenda item for March 3rd on “goals” and it will be framed for posting for the general public.” Motion failed. 5 ayes, 9 opposed.

Motion by James Tolbert to sunset the ad hoc committee, second by Bill Sparks. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Discussion and Action: Open Space Committee recommendations on the TxDOT Spur 276 Project and the Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (Carl Pataky).

Carl Pataky distributed a drawing and proposals outlining Open Space trails on the TxDOT Spur 276 project. Open Space subcommittee would like to endorse the proposal. Draft of a letter of endorsement was distributed. (Handouts)

Motion by Carl Pataky to approve sending a letter of endorsement, with formatting changes. Motion second by Matthew Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Carl Pataky distributed a copy of a draft letter for consideration concerning the allocation of stormwater funds. (Handouts) Discussion was held on balance for each district regarding projects. The issue of geography, the natural state of arroyos and a greater focus on the mountains were a concern.

A Motion was made that the board endorse the letter from the Open Space Committee to reserve funding only for natural open space projects. Chairman Stokes seconded the Motion. Motion failed. 5 ayes 7 opposed 1 abstain.

- c. Discussion and Action: New Member Appointments to Subcommittees
None

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Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Information: Department Overview
Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, presented an overview of the Department.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Administrative Assistant, Margaret T. Binkley