



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

October 12, 2015

5:30 p.m. Basement Thorman Conference Room
801 Texas Ave., City Bldg. 3, El Paso, Texas

Minutes

Members Present: 5

District 1 – Dave Turner
District 3 – Deanna A. De La Cruz
District 4 – Roy Gilyard
District 5 – Theresa Welch Fordham
District 6 – Francoise A. Feliberti
District 7 – Sylvia Carreon

Members Absent: 2

District 8 – Ana P. Roush

Vacancies: 2
Mayor – Vacant
District 2 – Vacant

City Staff Present

Tracy Novak, Director of Parks and Recreation
Paula Powell, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Joel McKnight, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Laura Garcia, Administrative Services Manager
Andrea Schiechl, Sports Manager
Steve Lunsford, Land Management Superintendent
Brenda Romero, Recreation and Sports Coordinator
Matt Natera, Recreation Leader
Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator
Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Victor Rivera, Facilities Maintenance
Superintendent

Public Present

Ruben Navarrete

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order
Theresa Welch Fordham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Presentation: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Award Presented to David Turner – Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director presented Mr. David Turner with a plaque commemorating his tenure with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Turner was attending his last day on the Board of Parks.

Photos taken with Mr. David Turner, members of the Board of Parks, and Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director.

3. Agenda Item #3. Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2015
Motion by Sylvia Carreon to approve minutes as written. Second by Roy Gilyard. Motion carried (unanimous).

4. Agenda Item #4. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)
None

5. Agenda Item #5. Update and Discussion: Facilities Maintenance Activities – Victor Rivera, Facilities Management Superintendent

Victor reported on the following items:

- Pavo Real – Installed new pump motors
- Marty Robbins – Restriped parking lot
- Walter Clark – Relamp
- Polly Harris – Installed new flag pole

Discussion ensued on the refurbishing of the concessions and allowing food trucks in parks.

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director, requested Item No. 7. be moved to the fore front.

6. Agenda Item #7. Subcommittees

- a. Grievance Subcommittee

1. Discussion and Action: Appeal of Suspension: Ruben Navarette for one year for violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department’s Behavior Management Policy

Deanna De La Cruz, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the recommendation to the Board was to uphold the one year suspension for violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department’s Behavior Management Policy.

Sylvia Carreon, subcommittee member, described the incident and explained why the subcommittee came to the recommendation of upholding the suspension.

Matt Natera, Recreation Leader, explained how the incident amongst Ruben Navarette and a group of teenage boys occurred at the San Juan Recreation Center. He reported that Mr. Navarette was being bullied and called names by the teenagers and Mr. Navarette had hit one of the teenagers on the head.

Ruben Navarette, spoke to the Board (in Spanish) with Brenda Romero, Recreation and Sports Coordinator, translating. Mr. Navarette explained how the incident had escalated when one of the teenagers took his ball and hid his water bottle. He admitted that he slapped the boy on the back of his head but not with his fist closed. He realizes he made a mistake and asked the Board to reconsider his suspension. Mr. Navarette also produced a letter of commendation for his service to the Parks and Recreation Boxing Program (hand out).

Discussion followed on how Mr. Navarette was provoked by this group of teenagers who knew which buttons to push. Although, he had an opportunity to walk away, he had reached a point of frustration and reacted by slapping the teenager on the head.

Mr. Novak, Parks Director, spoke on the supervision provided at the recreation centers and the availability of cameras in the area. No evidence was captured on surveillance.

Mr. Turner made a motion to reduce the one year suspension to four months suspension for violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's Behavior Management Policy. Second by Roy Gilyard. Motion carried (unanimous).

Mr. Navarette thanked the Board and he respected their decision. He also wanted to say something very important. In the past, the San Juan Recreation Center never had problems. But lately, youths come in the center and with switch blades destroy the punching bags. He just wanted to report this incident in hopes that the department can help.

7. Agenda Item #6. Presentation: Shape It Up! Wellness Employee Incentive Program – David Lopez, Recreation and Sports Coordinator

David Lopez, Recreation and Sports Coordinator, presented the Board with a PowerPoint on the City's Wellness Program for City employees. The program is an opportunity for employees to become fit through this fitness incentive program. (handouts)

Discussion followed on the fitness assessments, enrollment, different packages and the incentives distributed.

8. Agenda Item #7. Subcommittees

a. Grievance Subcommittee

2. Discussion and Action: Review Penalty Matrix of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation – Paula Powell Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Paula Powell, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, stated that Maggie Binkley recording secretary reported that no motion was made by the subcommittee, therefore no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 3 of the Board of Parks and Recreation Grievance Subcommittee meeting, September 30, 2015.

Motion made by Sylvia Carreon for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to forward the Grievance Subcommittee's recommendations of the Penalty Matrix to the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department. Second by Deanna De La Cruz. Motion carried (unanimous).

9. Agenda Item #8. Reports on Recent Activity

- a. Recent City Council Agenda Items
- b. Upcoming Committee Meetings List
- c. Land Acquisition List
- d. Parks and Recreation Construction Projects List

Theresa Fordham, Chair, advised the Board that further information on the above items can be located in their packets and on the City's website. Being no further discussion she moved on to the next agenda item.

10. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

No action taken

11. Agenda Item #10: Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Revisit the Shape It Up! Wellness Employee Incentive Program

12. Adjournment – 6:50 p.m.