



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

October 13, 2014

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

MINUTES

Members Present: 5

District 1 – David Turner
District 2 – Adam Gurrola
District 3 – Deanna A. De La Cruz
District 5 – Theresa Welch Fordham
District 6 – Francoise A. Feliberti
District 8 – Ana P. Roush

City Staff Present

Parks and Recreation

Paula Powell, Interim Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator
Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

El Paso Fire Department

Fire Chief Sam Pena
Fire Captain Dave Valero
Carlos Briano, Fire Department PIO

Public Attendance:

Kip Hall Family - Sandra, Kipp Anthony, and Alexandra Hall
Hector Padilla – FF Assoc. Union Local 51 Representative
John Ceballos, PIO Benavidez-Patterson All Airborne Chapter
Lee Walker, Mr. Lopez, BPAA Chapter members
John Alarcon, SISD Director of Maintenance and Operations
Ronald Durkes, SISD Sports Athletic Director

Members Absent: 3

District 4 – Roy Gilyard
District 7 – Sylvia Carreon

Vacancies: 1

Mayor – Vacant

General Services

Larry Nichols, Interim Director
Steve Lunsford, Superintendent

City Attorney

Lauren Ferris, Assistant City Attorney

City Council

Dist.2 - Representative Larry Romero
Dist.5 - Legislative Aide, Erin Ritter

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order
David Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Discussion and Action: Nomination and Election of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair, pursuant to Ordinance 017124, Title 2, Chapter 2.20

Adam Gurrola nominated Theresa Welch Fordham for the position of Chair. Second by Ana Roush. Motion carried (unanimous).

Theresa Welch Fordham now Chairs the remaining Board Meeting

Theresa Welch Fordham nominated Ana Roush for the position of Vice Chair. Second by Deanna De La Cruz. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. Agenda item #3. Approval of Minutes: September 8, 2014
Motion by David Turner to approve minutes as written. Second by Adam Gurrola. Motion carried (unanimous).

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

5. Agenda Item #5. Distribution: Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter

Paula Powell, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the events for October:

- Halloween Carnival at all the City Recreation Centers
- Youth Football Season
- October Music Festival

6. Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action on pursuing: Joint Use Opportunities with Socorro Independent School District for the purpose of improving park facilities for public use – Mr. John Alarcon, Director of Maintenance and Operations.

John Alarcon, Director of Maintenance and Operations, began a discussion on improvements and expansion on basketball and tennis courts. Would also like to develop some baseball and softball fields at each middle schools. These fields will be open for public use.

Paula Powell, Interim Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, informed the Board that there have been community meetings and open dialog with Parks and Recreation. The tennis courts at Montwood is a joint use agreement with the Socorro Independent School District (SISD) which will be presented to City Council.

Discussion ensued on open facilities for public use and the funds for the maintenance to maintain these school facilities.

Motion by David Turner to forward a recommendation to City Council for the approval of the Montwood Joint Agreement with SISD and pursue future joint use opportunities with SISD. Seconded by Deanna De La Cruz. Motion carried (unanimous).

7. Agenda Item #7
Subcommittee:

Prior to presentation of applications, Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation reiterated the Parks Naming Guidelines.

- a. Park Naming/Changing Subcommittee

1. Discussion and Action: Application to rename Van Buren Dam Park located at Alabama and Harrison Avenue to “Lt. Col. Robert “Bob” Chisolm Park.

Wayne Thornton presented the Board with a Powerpoint with the location of the park and its amenities. He gave a brief biography of Lt. Col. Chisolm and his lifetime achievements and letters of recommendation.

John Ceballos, PIO Benavidez-Patterson All Airborne (BPAA) Chapter, spoke on Lt. Col. Chisolm and reconfirmed the heroism, decorations and awards he has received.

Lee Walker and Mr. Lopez, BPAA Chapter members, spoke on the Lt. Col. Chisolm's community involvement and his patriotism.

Motion by Ana Roush to accept the Park Naming Subcommittee's recommendation to rename Van Buren Dam Park located at Alabama and Harrison Avenue to "Lt. Col. Robert "Bob" Chisolm Park." Second by Adam Gurrola. Motion carried (unanimous).

2. Discussion and Action: Application to rename Tierra Del Este #30 located at 3929 Rich Beem to "Kip Hall Park."

Wayne Thornton presented the Board with a Powerpoint with the location of the park and its amenities. He gave a brief biography of the deceased, Firefighter Kip Hall, and his lifetime achievements.

Fire Chief Sam Peña addressed the Board giving his endorsement to the naming of Kip Hall Park, stating that Firefighter Hall was a true man of character, devoted family man and exemplary Firefighter.

Kipp Hall, son of deceased FF Kip Hall, expressed his sincere gratitude for his father's mentoring and loving guidance. Kipp is currently at the El Paso Fire Training Academy in hopes of following in his fathers footsteps. He will be graduating this December.

Fire Captain Dave Valero introduced an online video on the Firefighter Combat Challenge. The Firefighter's Combat Challenge is described by ESPN as the "toughest 2 minutes in Sports." In 2007 began the National combat challenge which Firefighter Kip Hall participated. November 11, 2007 in Tyler, Texas, was his last combat challenge before succumbing to brain cancer.

Motion by Francoise A. Feliberti to rename Tierra Del Este #30 located at 3929 Rich Beem to "Kip Hall Park." Second by Dave Turner. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. Discussion and Action: Application to rename Pollard Veterans Memorial Park located at 4500 Pollard Street to "Jorge Almada Park."

Wayne Thornton presented the Board with a Powerpoint with the location of the park and its amenities. He gave a brief biography on Mr. Jorge Almada and his dedication in public service, enhancing the quality of life in the community. Mr. Thornton read letters of recommendation from Congressman Beto O'Rourke and State Representative Marisa Marquez.

Representative Larry Romero addressed the Board to recommend the approval of the application due to Mr. Almada's dedication to his neighborhood and the community as a whole.

Motion by Adam Gurrola to rename Pollard Veterans Memorial Park located at 4500 Pollard Street to "Jorge Almada Park." Second by David Turner. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #8. Presentation and Discussion: General Services Park Maintenance FY15 Budget – Joel McKnight, Deputy Director.

Larry Nichols, Interim Director for General Services, in place of Joel McKnight presented the Board with the FY15 General Services Department Budget. Mr. Lunsford was also on hand for any questions.

Discussion followed on the budget for park maintenance.

9. Agenda Item #9. Update and Discussion: Kern View Estates Open Space Acquisition – Paula Powell, Interim Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Paula Powell, Interim Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, reported that the developer for Kern View Estates met with staff in May, City is currently having property appraised for the possibility of Open Space acquisition. The acquisition would keep the land in its pristine condition. There is also the option of a PID. Dave Turner made a recommendation of including a conservation easement. Paula also mentioned community meetings are pending.

10. Reports on Recent Activity

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

Paula Powell, Interim Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, stated the reports on recent activity referenced above are included in the packet and are also public record on the city's website.

Paula Powell gave an update on the Eastside Regional Park. Community meetings will be forthcoming. Discussion followed on the Master Plan, the scorecard and the Westside pool.

11. Agenda Item #11. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)
No action taken.

12. Agenda Item #12. Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Kern View Estates

13. Adjournment - 7:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant