



MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Memorial Park Senior Center

1800 Byron Street

Members Present

Eileen Karlsruher, Chairman
Mitch Doblado
Carl Pataky
Henry Stokes
Matthew Carroll
Hector Munoz
Robert Gonzales
Joel Barrios
Daniel Delahye
Jennifer Matthews
Thomas Carter
Alma Wilson
David Turner
Olga Holguin
Jaime Barceleau
David Turner

Members Absent

Alice Davis
Mary Lyerly
Gail Caldwell

Staff Present

Dr. Norman C. Merrifield
Lucy Martinez
Doug Barnes
Pete Dunavant

Others Present:

Veronica Harris, P+3

Late Arrivals/Early Departures: Henry Stokes arrived at 6:44 p.m.

1. **Meeting called to order** by Chairperson, Eileen Karlsruher at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Motion to approve October 3, 2006 minutes by Carl Pataky; seconded by Olga Holguin; all in favor; motion carried.**
3. **New Park Board Members were welcomed which included: Jennifer Matthews, Jaime Barceleau, Dr. Thomas Carter and David Turner.**
4. **Petitions and Communications from the Public:**

Isidro Barreras with the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association asked for answers to his issues brought up at the Park's Advisory Board Meeting October 3, 2006 regarding Vista Del Valle Park located at 1288 Hawkins Blvd. **Assistant Director, Barry Russell** addressed Mr. Barreras issues in order.

 - 1) **Park Rules signs are placed high due to the amount of vandalism and graffiti.**
 - 2) Safety fenced needed between the walking path and water drainage opening on Darlina Street. **Staff is looking into this issue because it may be a street issue and the Park staff is working with the Street Department to make that area a little safer.**
 - 3) Would like to know if there is a City Ordinance against bicycles using the walking path. **Mr. Russell stated that there is no Ordinance restricting bicycles from using the walking path being that it is a multi use path the problem is being addressed by signs to be careful/be aware and not take over the path. More review is needed at this time where heavy traffic occurs. Robert Gonzales, Park Board member stated that an adequate width of a multi-purpose path would be 10 feet which would accommodate 2 side by side walkers with the intent for kids to use their bikes also but agrees more monitoring is necessary.**

- 4) Park light on Darlina Street is on at night but lights on Gazelle are not; what is the reasoning? **Mr. Russell stated that park facilities were inspected and found that lights were going out and Parks Department will be checking to see if they are Park's lights or Street Department lights. Work orders are in.**
 - 5) When will the patches of weeds be removed at the park? **As Per Mr. Russell, right now the major projects are replacement and upgrading of the irrigation system. Watering in the spring along with the herbicide program and over seeding will bring back the grass back but not until spring because most of the systems are closed or slowed down for the winter months.**
 - 6) When will the Center at Vista Del Valle Park be equipped with treadmills? **Mr. Russell stated that the treadmills are in and will be hooked up in the next couple of days.**
 - 7) Mr. Barreras stated that new concerns include a new canopy for the playground area. **Dr. Merrifield stated that the canopies are being phased in depending on the age of the equipment.** Mr. Barreras will talk to Barry Russell the Assistant Director about other issues.
5. **Information and Discussion on Vista Del Valle Park Issue:** This item was discussed under the Petitions and Communications from the Public, Item #4.
 6. **Information and Discussion on Status Report of QOL Projects being managed by Veronica Harris, Project Manager at P+3:** Veronica Harris stated that there are no projects in scope development. Ft. Bliss is still under review with City Attorneys. No projects are under bid phase. All projects should be under construction by December 2006. Projects completed this month are the Northeast Regional Park and Cleveland Square. Northeast Regional Park should be opened by May 2007, to allow the fields to be turfed and irrigation to be ready.
 7. **Discussion and Action on Nomination of New Members to BOAC:** Three nominees for BOAC from the Park's Advisory Board members are: **Robert Gonzales, Joel Barrios and Olga Holguin**
 8. **Discussion and Action on the Removal of Eastwood Dog Park by Dr. Merrifield:** Dr. Merrifield stated that the Park's recommendation is to move the dog park to a continuous section of the park located on the west side of the park south of the basketball court. This property is not owned by the Park's Department it is owned by the Public Utilities. The dog park constituents have not been informed but a meeting will be held with them. The dog park will be removed and relocated. **Motion to remove the existing dog park and relocate made by Mitch Doblado; seconded by Robert Gonzales; all in favor; 15 ayes and 1 nay from Olga Holguin; motion carried.**
 9. **Discussion and Action on Decisions made at the Park Board Grievance Committee Meetings held September 18, 2006 and October 26, 2006:** Alma Wilson stated that the committee held a meeting on September 18, 2006 and decisions made as follows: 1) The Premier Panthers would be part of the classic organization 2) To enforce letter of August 22, 2006 letter from Paula Powell, Sports Coordinator, to the WS Classic Soccer League and Premier Panthers 3) Westside Classic Soccer League must comply with item 2 of Paula's letter and will schedule practices fairly according to the number of participants and Ms. Powell will review these distributions in case of conflicts. 4) Paula Powell's decision is final. 5) Premier Panthers must comply with item #4 regarding fees 6) Placed on 2 years probation the elected officers of both organizations 7) the Classic organization must come up with a standard operating procedure for joining their organization. **Motion to approve decision made by the Grievance Committee made by Carl Patak; seconded by Matthew Carroll; all in favor; motion carried.**
Daniel Delahaye discussed the Grievances for October 26, 2006 and stated that Henry Stokes did not participate in the first grievance due to conflict of interest. Mr. Arrichman Hiare's suspension was upheld for playing an over age player not on the roster presented. Second issue was Joseph Delgado suspended for inappropriate behavior, the committee placed Mr. Delgado on a 1-year probation suspending him for 4 games on condition that if he broke his probation he would be suspended for 5 years. **Motion to approve decision made by the Grievance Committee made by Mitch Doblado; seconded by Henry Stokes; all in favor; motion carried.**

10. **Discussion and Action on Aquatic Studies:** Dr. Merrifield suggested bringing in Ms. Youngblood, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for Fort Worth, Texas and former President of the National Aquatics Association, as a consultant to the Aquatics Programming to help determine the usage and programming of each pool along with studying the fees. The McClure Engineering Associates Group is negotiating with the Park's Department to come in as mechanical consultants and inform the Parks Department what exactly is in place right now, the uses and the purposes of mechanical equipment being used right now and what can be done in the future as far as preventative maintenance and longer term in life of the pools. **Mitch Doblado makes a motion to have Dr. Merrifield continue the studies of the two programs outlined; Henry Stokes second motion; all in favor; motion passed unanimously.**
11. **Discussion Only on Update of New Park Zones:** Barry Russell, Assistant Director for the Park's Department explained that the Master Plan outlined the need to expand Park Zones. The current zones are laid out in a one square mile grid system. The new zones would be created along geographic boundaries greatly increasing the zone sizes. When money is received from a subdivision it will now be available to a larger geographic area allowing money to be moved and used where needed.
12. **Discussion Only on Update of Lincoln Center:** Barry Russell, Assistant Director for the Park's Department, stated that the Health Department found the building had 6 to 7 kinds of different mold causing some personnel to become ill. The building has been evacuated and Sports Department is at Delta, Aquatics is at Armijo and Special Events is at Leona Washington. A feasibility study will be made on whether the building should be rebuilt, torn down or relocated. The study will be presented to council.
13. **Discussion Only on Lecture/Workshop by Dr. John Crompton:** Eileen Karlsruher, Chairperson for the Park's Advisory Board stated that the Park's Department and the El Paso Parks and Recreation Foundation have sponsored Dr. John Crompton, a distinguished professor of Recreation Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, to speak December 6, 2006 for two sessions. His primary interests are in the area of marketing and financing, public leisure and tourism services. First session will be for city staff and council attendance and the evening reception for the entire Park Board, Tree Board, Chamber of Commerce, Redco and attendance by the builder/developer community will be promoted.
14. **Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**