



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

December 20, 2010

5:30 p.m., 10th Floor Conference Room
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

David Turner, James Tolbert, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Carlos Bombach, Janet Selzer, Ralph Cloud

Members Absent: 1

Brian Wickstrom

Member Vacancies: 2

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Paula Powell, Sports Manager, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order

David Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2010

Motion by James Tolbert to approve the minutes as written. Second by Ralph Cloud. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)

None

4. Agenda Item #4. Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. She reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Westside Dog Park and the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Father Martinez in December were a success. Board members were asked to mark their calendars for January 4th, for groundbreaking ceremony for Pueblo Viejo (CDBG Improvements) and January 19th for ribbon cutting ceremony of the EPISD/Tom Lea baseball/softball fields.

5. Agenda Item #5. Presentation of Award: Excellence in Park Design by a Private Developer to Hunt Communities.

Nanette Smejkal presented the Excellence in Park Design by a Private Developer to Hunt Representative Justin Chapman. (photo)

6. Agenda Item #6. Presentation and Discussion: Rio Bosque Operations and Management

John Sproul, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Program Coordinator/Manager, presented a PowerPoint on the management, progress and goals of the Rio Bosque Wetlands. Mr. Sproul also briefed the board on the responsibilities of the License Agreement with the City of El Paso. Discussion ensued on strategies to provide water to the wetlands. The presentation may be of interest to City Council, possibly combined with requests from UTEP to amend the agreement.

7. Agenda Item #7. Subcommittee Reports:

a. City Plan Commission Subcommittee for Comprehensive Plan Rewrite – Update

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino reported that she attended an introductory meeting and welcome to the City Plan Commission subcommittee.

8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Grievance Subcommittee Recommendation to Uphold the Suspension of Joe Patterson, Adult Basketball, for Five (5) Years.

Paula Powell, Sports Manager, presented a surveillance video of the incident which injured a referee during a basketball game. Joe Patterson, Adult Basketball player, strikes the referee leaving him unconscious.

Motion by James Tolbert to uphold the 5 year suspension as recommended by the Grievance Subcommittee. Second by Ralph Cloud. Motion carried (unanimous).

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Tree Subcommittee Recommendation for Removal of Parkinsonia Aculeata from the Approved Tree and Plant List for the City of El Paso

James Tolbert reported that the recommendation of the Tree Subcommittee is the removal of Parkinsonia Aculeata from the approved City's Tree and Plant List. Letter from Oscar S. Mestas, Texas Forest Service Regional Urban Forester, with a dissenting opinion was distributed to the Board. (handout)

Motion by James Tolbert to uphold the Tree Subcommittee recommendation for the removal of Parkinsonia Aculeata from the approved Tree and Plant List for the City of El Paso. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

10. Agenda Item #13. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

No items

11. Agenda Item #10. Discussion and Action: Determination of January 2011 Meeting Date and Time

Due to the Martin Luther King Holiday, January 17, 2011, the meeting will have to be rescheduled. Motion by Carlos Bombach to forgo January's meeting and to have the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting February 21, 2011. Seconded by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

12. Agenda Item #11. Discussion and Action: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Attendance and Appointments.

Chair David Turner asked the Board for a commitment to make every effort to attend meetings. Discussion ensued on the designated date of the Board meeting. Ralph Cloud suggested changing the meeting to the 2nd Monday of the month instead of the 3rd Monday.

Board requested this item for consideration on the next Board meeting in February as a discussion and action item.

13. Agenda Item #12. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

No action taken

14. Adjournment – 7:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant