



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

April 11, 2011

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

MINUTES

Members Present: 5

David Turner, James Tolbert, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Ralph Cloud, Frederick Caldwell

Members Absent: 3

Brian Wickstrom, Janet Selzer, Carlos Bombach

Member Vacancies: 1

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Richard Garcia, Planning/Development Manager, Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator, Shamori Whitt, Smart Growth Planner, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order
David Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2010
Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to approve the minutes as written. Second by James Tolbert. 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 Golden Egg Easter Hunt scheduled for April 23rd at Armijo Pool may be impacted due to a major failure at the pool. Public Service Announcements will be made to cancel the event or change venue if necessary.
5. Agenda Item #5. Presentation and Discussion: El Paso Parks and Recreation Foundation: Mission, structure, and current goals (Lorraine Huit, Chair, El Paso Parks and Recreation Foundation)
El Paso Parks and Recreation Foundation Chair Lorraine Huit gave an overview of the Foundation, their duties, and contact information (link provided on City Parks website). She reported on current projects, goals and past accomplishments. Ms. Huit answered inquiries as to fundraising strategies and opportunities.
6. Agenda Item #6. Presentation and Discussion: Overview of the State Open Meetings Act as it relates to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Kristen Choi, City Attorney's office)

Kristen Choi, Assistant City Attorney, reviewed the Texas Open Meetings Act and laws governing municipalities with open meetings. She apprised the Board of provisions of agenda preparation/posting, walking quorums, executive session, and city ordinances regarding city boards. Ms. Choi informed the Board that a video is also available on the Attorney General’s Website (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us>).

Discussion ensued on a request that General Services provide a monthly report with updates to the Board. Kristen Choi explained that the verbage “monthly report update” as an agenda item is too vague and agenda items need to be specific. She offered her assistance in drafting agenda item language to help the Board comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

7. Agenda Item #7. Subcommittees:

a. Park Naming Subcommittee Recommendation:

1. Discussion and Action: Recommendation Naming Tres Sueños #1 Park at 12930 G.R. Compuzano Drive to a name honoring Marine Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez.

Frederick Caldwell, acting Chair for the Park Naming Subcommittee, briefed the Board and then introduced Mr. Manuel Gameros (applicant).

Mr. Gameros gave a brief biography of Marine Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez and his service awards. He also explained that the park selection was researched by the committee and felt the region of this park was appropriate. The location has several streets around the park named after United States Armed Forces Veterans. The Neighborhood has a high percentage of military and supported the Park Naming Application.

Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator, presented the Board with a powerpoint presentation indicating the location and park amenities.

Motion by James Tolbert to forward a recommendation to City Council to approve renaming Tres Sueños # 1 Park at 12930 G.R. Compuzano Drive to Marine Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez. Seconded by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

b. Grievance Subcommittee Recommendation:

1. Discussion and Action: Reduce the Suspension of Bernie Velazquez from Father Martinez Senior Center From six (6) months to three (3) months.

Motion by James Tolbert to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Subcommittee to reduce the suspension of Bernie Velazquez from six (6) months to three (3) months. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

2. Discussion and Action: Reduce the suspension of Alfredo Saldaña from Father Martinez Senior Center from one (1) year to six (6) months.

Motion by James Tolbert to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Subcommittee to reduce the suspension of Alfredo Saldaña from one (1) year to (6) months. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. Discussion and Action: Reduce the Suspension of Celia Mosqueda from Hilos De Plata Senior Center from six (6) months to three (3) months.

Motion by Ralph Cloud to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Subcommittee to reduce the suspension of Celia Mosqueda from (6) months to three (3) months. Second by James Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

4. Discussion and Action: Uphold the Suspension of Mark Huerta from all Recreation and Sports Centers for six (6) months.

Motion by James Tolbert to uphold the recommendation of the Grievance Subcommittee to suspend Mark Huerta from all Recreation and Sports Centers for six (6) months. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

- c. City Plan Commission Subcommittee for Comprehensive Plan Rewrite – Report (Jennifer Barr-Ardovino)

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino reported that the Subcommittee did not meet.

Lost quorum 6:45 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

None

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Proposed Changes to Parkland Dedication, El Paso Municipal Code 19.20 and 19.50

Shamori Whitt, Smart Growth Planner, presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation on the Smart Growth Implementation Plan which outlined sustainable planning strategies.

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed the proposed ordinance and indicated all the revisions proposed.

Motion by James Tolbert to recommend to City Council to accept staff recommendations for the changes to City Ordinance with special emphasis to support Parks and Recreation Director park approval discretion. Seconded by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

10. Agenda Item #10. Discussion and Action: Identify date and time to convene a Special Meeting to review proposed changes to the Landscape Ordinance, El Paso Municipal Code 18.46.

Motion by James Tolbert to conduct a special meeting of the El Paso Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

11. Agenda Item #11. Information and Discussion: Status of Parks and Recreation Assistant Director recruitment

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that a 30-day recruitment utilizing NeoGov Job Source system was conducted. This is a Civil Service position requiring verification of qualifications and a scored examination. List has been generated to conduct oral interviews. Currently, half way through the process which is estimated to require six months.

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

- General Services Monthly Report
- Senior Center Staff Training

13. Adjournment – 7:40 p.m.