



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

April 14, 2014

5:30 p.m. Conference Room
Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center
901 N. Virginia El Paso Texas

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

Mayor – Jennifer Barr-Ardovino
District 2 – Adam Gurrola
District 3 – Deanna A. De La Cruz
District 5 – Theresa Welch Fordham
District 6 – Francoise A. Feliberti
District 7 – Sylvia Carreon
District 8 – Ana P. Roush

Members Absent: 3

District 1 – David Turner
District 4 – Roy Gilyard

City Staff Present:

Parks & Recreation

Tracy Novak, Director
Paula Powell, Interim Assistant Director
Wright Stanton III, Aquatics Manager
Veronica Myers, Recreation Manager
Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

General Services

Joel McKnight, Deputy Director
Steve Lunsford, Land Management
Superintendent

Public in Attendance:

Dan Knapp

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order
Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: March 10, 2014
Motion by Theresa Welch Fordham to approve minutes as written. Second by Sylvia Carreon.
Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)
Dan Knapp wanted to suggest to the Board the possibility of converting the existing Yandell Bridge as a small park. It could also provide access to Paisano by pedestrians or bicyclists.

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director, requested to move Agenda Item No. 6 after Agenda Item No. 4, to accommodate needs of staff.

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

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the following calendar and newsletter items included in the agenda packet:

- Arbor Day Celebration – April 23, 2014, Thomas Manor Park
- Easter Egg Hunts at all recreation centers
- Golden Easter Egg Hunt at Armijo Aquatic Center, April 19, 2014
- Senior Games are continuing
- Summer jobs (lifeguards, pool attendant, etc.)

Ms. Theresa Welch Fordham suggested publicizing summer jobs with UTEP.

5. Agenda Item #6. Presentation and Discussion: General Services Park Maintenance Report – Victor Rivera, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent.

In Victor Rivera's absence Mr. Steve Lunsford, Land Management Superintendent, reported on the following items:

- Planted more than 200 trees this year to include replacements due to weather damage
- First round aerating complete
- Irrigation Schedule applying .6 to 1 inch per acre per week
- Fertilization – using organic and what is in stock
- Replacement of wired irrigation controllers with air cards provides more flexibility and decreases costs and minimizes disruption.

Joel McKnight, Deputy General Services Director, presented the Board with 2014 Water Conservation Plan proposal for the El Paso Water Utilities. The list identified sites in the West-Central and Central areas of well sourced public water. Press release to follow. (Handout)

Mr. McKnight announced that El Paso will be hosting the Texas Recreation and Parks West Texas Regional Conference in October. He explained the concept of the maintenance rodeo to be conducted at the Regional Conference. The regional competition will be held at the Westside Sports Complex in the parking lot. Destination El Paso will be assisting with accommodations. Conference dates: October 23 – 24, 2014.

6. Agenda Item #5. Subcommittee:

a. Grievance Subcommittee

1. Discussion and Action: Appeal of Suspension of Juan Sanchez for two (2) years for Violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's Behavior Management Policy

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Chair Person for the Grievance Subcommittee, reported that the committee's recommendation was to reduce the suspension of Juan Sanchez from two (2) years to two (2) weeks. Discussion followed.

Motion by Theresa Welch Fordham to accept the Grievance Subcommittee's recommendation to reduce the suspension of Juan Sanchez from two (2) years to two (2) weeks for the remainder of the season. Second by Deanna A. De La Cruz. Motion carried (unanimous).

2. Discussion and Action: Appeal of Irene Vargas for two (2) weeks for Violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department’s Behavior Management Policy

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Chair Person for the Grievance Subcommittee reported that the appealant Irene Vargas did not show up, therefore forfeiting appeal.

Motion by Theresa Welch Fordham to accept the Grievance Subcommittee recommendation as recognizing the “no show” as a forfeit, requiring no further action. Second by Adam Gurrola. Motion carried (6 Ayes, 1 Abstain - Francoise A. Feliberti)

7. Agenda Item #7. Presentation and Discussion: Parks and Recreation Summer Programs – Veronica Myers, Recreation Manager and Wright Stanton III, Aquatics Manager

Veronica Myers, Recreation Manager, presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation on the recreation summer programs. This was followed by a presentation by Wright Stanton, Aquatics Manager, on the aquatic summer programs.

Discussion ensued on marketing and social media for the different summer programs. Mr. Novak informed the Board that he has formed a committee to create a marketing plan for Parks and Recreation.

8. Agenda Item #8. 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 List

The reports on recent activity referenced above are included in the packet and are also public record on the city’s website.

Francoise A. Feliberti requested information on Cohen Stadium. Mr. Novak reported that Parks and Recreation is responsible for the site. Parks has secured site and made improvements to include parking lot lighting. Entered into agreement with SMG to operate Cohen for a 30 day period (current events; carnival, car show, etc.). No current plans at present.

Francoise A. Feliberti requested the name of the purchased property mentioned March 3, 2014 City Council Agenda Item 10.1. Tracy reported that was the Las Palmas/Pendale acquisition.

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)
No action necessary.

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

Theresa Welch Fordham inquired on a proposed discussion on pocket parks to change the rule of the new ordinance. Mr. Novak reminded the Board that Planning gave an informative presentation and held discussion and review on the new ordinance at the last Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting held March 10, 2014. It was also reviewed with the City Plan Commission. Assistant Director Paula Powell quoted from the last meeting minutes, “Input was encouraged from the Board prior to proposal to City Council for adoption.” The ordinance was passed by City Council in April 1 2014.

Mr. Novak offered to invite the Planning Director to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to explain how this the ordinance will be implemented.

Motion by Theresa Welch Fordham to request the Planning Director come to the Board and inform us about pocket parks. Second by Francoise A. Feliberti. Discussion ensued on pocket parks, regional and neighborhood parks.

Vice-Chair Jennifer Barr-Ardovino made an amendment to the motion; to request someone from the Planning Department to speak to the Board specifically on how the parks will be accepted in regards to the new ordinance. Second Sylvia Carreon. Motion carried (unanimous).

Sylvia Carreon inquired about the Quality of Life 2012 – New recreation center in Yucca/Lomaland area, specifically when it would go to Council. Mr. Novak informed the Board that it will be presented to BOAC meeting first, dates can be found on the city's website.

Theresa Welch Fordham requested clarification on the Senior Center food program, is it policy to register prior to receiving lunch? Mr. Novak explained that this is a County program and Parks helps with registration on their behalf.

Francoise A. Feliberti inquired about the Parks and Recreation Budget. Mr. Novak explained the City budget process and how the presentations are made to the City Manager. After the department receives an official budget, Parks and Recreation will make a presentation to the Board.

No other items for future agendas.

11. Agenda Item #13. Adjournment.
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.