

DRAFT



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

April 8, 2013

5:30 p.m., Pat O'Rourke Conference Room
901 N Virginia St., El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

David Turner, James Tolbert, Theresa Welch Fordham, Deanna De La Cruz, Alisa Jorgensen, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino

Members Absent: Ralph Cloud, Frederick Caldwell, Francoise A. Feliberti

Member Vacancies: 0

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Tracy Novak, Assistant Director, Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Joe Rodriguez, Special Programs Manager, Richard Garcia, Park Planning Manager, Joel McKnight, General Services Deputy Director, Steve Lunsford, General Services Land Management Superintendent, Sandra Hernandez, Secretary

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order

Dave Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2013

Motion by Dave Turner to approve minutes. Second by James Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

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

None

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino arrived 5:40 p.m.

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 provided information about upcoming events and alerted the Board to the "Arbor Day Celebration" which will be held April 26, 2013 at Armijo Park, 10:00 a.m.

Motion by James Tolbert to move item 11 up to in the agenda order. Second by Alisa Jorgensen. Motion carried (unanimous).

5. Agenda Item #11. Discussion and Action: Review of Plan for Radford (Hills) Park

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Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Construction Manager, gave a powerpoint presentation of the site plan for Radford Park. Discussion was brought up regarding parking. Madeleine Haddox, Radford Hills Neighborhood Association, suggested that the neighborhood would prefer parking space over some of the amenities. She mentioned that without enough parking, it will be hard for people to get to the park and this area doesn't have enough sidewalks for residents to walk to this park.

Motion by David Turner to continue Item 11 to May meeting to discuss solutions for parking. Second by Alisa Jorgensen. Motion carried (unanimous).

6. Agenda Item #5. Discussion: General Services Report on Maintenance Activies

Steve Lundsford, Land Management Superintendent, gave a brief summary. He mentioned preparation for Spring and Summer season. Fertilization is under way and turf is already being mowed. Questions were asked regarding some dry turf in Memorial Park. Joel McKnight, Deputy Director General Services, explained that it was due to irrigation repairs.

7. Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Senior Center Staff Training and Conflict Resolution

Joe Rodriguez, Special Programs Manager, gave a power point presentation of the Senior Center Operations. He talked about the purpose of the centers. He mentioned how the staff is trained and what their duties are. He also provided results from a 2013 Customer Survey.

8. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Turf Reduction

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, presented a powerpoint presentation on the City of Henderson, Nevada regarding Drought & Water Conservation. He explained the Drought Response Plan, which included plan response, turf reduction, conversion projects and staff training. Questions were asked on what would be the method of targeting parks in El Paso for this. Tracy stated that the next step would be for General Services to identify potential sites. Steve Lundsford was asked to return in June with recommendations.

9. Agenda Item #8. Cost of Irrigation Control Systems

Joel McKnight, Deputy Director General Services, explained that at this time they do not have any cost figures. They have met with local reps to discuss their goals. Field investigation work is being done to determine the best way to communicate. They are focused on sites 10 acres or larger, and sites that have weather stations are being evaluated. Mr. Mcknight will provide more information at a future meeting.

10. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Tree and Plant Replacement Schedule

Steve Lundsford, Land Management Superintendent, gave an update on the tree replacement process. In 2012 75 trees and numerous land scaping plants have been replaced, about \$10,000.00. So far this year, 30 sites have been targeted, 350 trees will be planted; to date 200 trees have been planted.

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11. Agenda Item #10. Reports on Recent Activity

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, went over lists included in the agenda packet.

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

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, informed the board that a park naming application has been submitted. She is hopeful it can be presented to the subcommittee and board in May.

13. Agenda Item #13. Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Options for parking – Radford Park Design

14. Agenda Item #14. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sandra Hernandez, Secretary