



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

May 5, 2009

6:00 p.m. Memorial Senior Center
1800 Bryon, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 11

Henry Stokes, Chair, David Turner, Vice Chair, James H. Tolbert, Richard I. Falvo, Ralph Cloud, Jeannine Kennedy, Matthew Carroll, Rodolfo Troncoso, William Medrano, Ruben S. Robles, H.W. Bill Sparks

Members Absent: 6

Michael E. Armstead, Carl R. Pataky, Fred J. Shuford, Brian D. Wickstrom, Trinidad Munoz, Francoise A. Feliberti

Member Vacancies: 2

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Director, Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Leonor Wilson, Business Manager, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Agenda Item # 1. Meeting Called to Order

Henry Stokes, Chair, called meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda Item # 2. Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2009

Motion by David Turner to approve the April 7, 2009 minutes as written. Second by Matthew Carroll. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item # 3. Parks and Recreation Staff Announcement and Recognitions

Parks and Recreation Director, Nanette Smejkal, reviewed calendar and newsletter in agenda packet.

Announcements:

50th Anniversary – Rose Garden Celebration Sunday May 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting Event – Monday, May 11, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Public Art Work, Alabama & Harrison

Annual TRAPS Conference – City of El Paso placed a bid to host 2012 Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) Conference.

Agenda Item # 4. Petitions and Communication from the Public - None

Agenda Item #5. Discussion and Information: Status of Recommended Revisions to EPC 2.20, Board of Parks and Recreation (David Turner)

Vice Chair, David Turner expressed his disappointment with the LRC and read to the board a letter he drafted addressing his concerns.

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The issue will be revisited at the next LRC meeting, Monday 18, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., City Hall in City Council Chambers. It is item number 3 on the Agenda. David Turner announced he will attend and encouraged others to join him and sign up to speak.

Nanette Smejkal added that the proposed Open Space Committee is also on that LRC Agenda (Item no. 4).

Chair Henry Sparks restated the duties and responsibilities of the Chair, Vice Chair, board members and the impact of their representation on the community with an emphasis on communication.

Discussion was held on the size of the board and the impact on representation of core responsibilities of the advisory board.

Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Review Draft Fees and Charges Policy and Fees Schedule (Judy Weiss)

Judy Weiss presented a PowerPoint on “Fees and Charges Comprehensive Review,” which addressed guidelines for programming fees, and facility reservation and use costs.

Dialogue ensued regarding goals, city ordinance, sports program equity, and fee classifications. Judy made clarifications on room use fees and affordability for senior citizens. In addition she announced the implementation of automation to facilitate record keeping and efficiency.

Ralph Cloud brought up the issue of insurance requirements, fees, and charges, particularly with third party services, referring to jumping balloons. Leonor Wilson responded with an explanation of the City of El Paso insurance requirements.

Group discussion was held on permits for park use and special events. Jeannine Kennedy stated that she could not recall having to pay for park use. A clarification was made to those concerns with the understanding that the guidelines are still evolving and encouraged participation at upcoming community meetings.

Agenda Item # 7. Discussion and Action: Potential Revisions to EPC 13.24 (Nanette Smejkal)
Nanette Smejkal drew the board’s attention to the packet insert (Chapter 13.24 City Parks and Recreation Areas) for discussion and policy feedback.

Members offered the following feedback on the respective sections:

13.24.010 Sale of goods and services

- Need better control of vendors – competition and monopoly
- How to monitor vendors
- Farmers Market
- Non-profit organizations
- Selling puppies in parks
- Park Partners

7:30 p.m. – *Matthew Carroll leaves the meeting*

13.24.020 Renting vehicles or animals – Maintaining amusement devices.

Renting bicycles - revenue
Scenic Drive is a Park area

13.24.030 Authority to grant licenses, privileges or concessions

Permits and applications

13.24.040 Hours of Closure

Daylight saving time
Exceptions and curfews

13.24.050 Use of baseball fields

Lighted fields – permit required
Procedures
Cost factor
Casual play and restrictions
Specification and classifications of fields

13.24.070 Dangerous amusements

Signage
Mix – high/low speed paths

13.24.080 Horses

Locations of Bridle paths

13.24.090 Motor vehicles

Four wheel vehicles
Examples of vehicles

13.24.110 Play areas for young children

Loitering

13.24.120 – 13.24.180 Alcoholic beverages

Permits
Security

Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Information: FY10 Operating Budget (Nanette Smejkal)

Nanette Smejkal presented the consolidated budget for the department. The target of \$20,412,405 is 5% less than FY09 adopted budget. Reduced budget included personnel (seasonal staff) and attrition. Recreation facilities will have reduced hours of operation.

Chair Henry Stokes concerned with the issue of Lifeguards asked for a clarification. Nanette assured the board the ratio of lifeguards to patrons was not compromised; however hours of operation are reduced.

The reductions also consist of consumable goods and contracted services (mowing).

A discussion reviewed the idea of utilizing volunteers, such as; RSVP – Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, EPCC service learning program, a form of internship (Richard Falvo – liaison), Community Service and juveniles in a community service program .

Nanette stated she would meet with the City Manager and present the budget proposed. The new recreation center will need additional operating funds for 4th quarter 2010, to be considered by City Manager and City Council.

Agenda Item #9. Subcommittees:

- a. Discussion and Information: Naming Committee update from recent meetings (if needed)
None
- b. Discussion and Information: Open Space Committee update from recent meetings (if needed)
None
- c. Discussion and Information: Grievance Committee update from recent meetings. (if needed)
None
- d. Discussion and Action: Appointments to Subcommittees (if needed)
Richard Falvo requested to become a member of the Grievance Committee. Motion made by David Turner, second by William Medrano. Motioned carried (unanimous)

William Medrano complimented the Parks and Recreation Department for the coordination and operation of the Senior Games.

Chair Henry Stokes complimented Maggie Binkley on the documentation of the minutes.

Reminder from David Turner: LRC Monday, May 18, 2009, City Council Chambers 1:00 p.m.

Question addressed to Nanette by William Medrano, on the definition of terms, could there be a term called waivers. Again, referring to neighborhood associations which use the parks once a year and eligible for a waiver of fees. Nanette stated it could be included in the policy guidelines.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.