



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

May 9, 2011

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

MINUTES

Members Present: 5

David Turner, Janet Selzer, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Ralph Cloud, Frederick Caldwell

Members Absent: 3

Brian Wickstrom, James Tolbert, Carlos Bombach

Member Vacancies: 1

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Richard Garcia, Planning/Development Manager, Stuart Eds, General Services Director, Joel McKnight, Deputy Director of General Services, Shamori Whitt, Smart Growth Coordinator, Lucy Calderon, Senior Secretary

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order

David Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2011, April 27, 2011

Motion by Frederick Caldwell to approve both 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 reminded the Board that the spring version of Art in the Park is this month and also a new event National Kids to Parks Day, with a proclamation from the Mayor prior to that event.

5. Agenda Item #5. Discussion and Action: Naming Recommendation for Tres Sueños #1 Park, based on protocol advice from Fort Bliss, as Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez USMC Park.

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that after consulting with Fort Bliss officials the recommended title is the appropriate military protocol.

Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to adopt the recommendation and forward to City Council to approve renaming Tres Sueños #1 Park at 12930 G.R. Campuzano Drive to Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez USMC Park. Seconded by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

6. Agenda Item #6. Subcommittees:
 - a. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Representative Meeting Report – City Plan Commission Subcommittee for Comprehensive Plan Rewrite (Jennifer Barr-Ardovino)

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino reported that the Subcommittee has not met but a meeting has been scheduled in two days.
7. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

None
8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Appointment of a representative to the low impact development (water harvesting) subcommittee
Item postponed (*revisited later in the meeting*).
9. Agenda Item #9. Presentation and Discussion: Future Park Locations within Subdivisions (Richard Garcia)

Richard Garcia, Planning/Development Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on El Paso's growth, subdivisions and land studies. He reviewed future parks and acreage.

Discussion ensued on development, land study process and smart growth implementation that would impact future park development.
10. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Appointment of a representative to the low impact development (water harvesting) subcommittee
(*Revisit item*)

Shamori Whitt, Smart Growth Planner, reported that there are no plans to create a subcommittee.
No action taken.
11. Agenda Item #10. Presentation and Discussion: Status of Escobar Fields, Citywide Turf, and Recommendations for Park Maintainability (General Services)

Stuart Eds, General Services Director, discussed assessment and maintenance plan for turf areas.

Joel McKnight, Deputy Director of General Services, reported on the irrigation. A Powerpoint presentation was presented on land management updates on specific park status and recommendations. (Handout)

Stuart Ed described recommendations such as over seeding, fencing reduced use; and our option to help turf health. Another strategy would be enforcement, such as park rangers to monitor fields.

Discussion ensued on the assessment of the freeze (late January/early February) and sod production.
12. Agenda Item #11. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas
 - General Services Presentation
 - Senior Center Staff Training
13. Adjournment – 7:10 p.m.