



## PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

June 2, 2009

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

### MINUTES

Members Present: 10

Henry Stokes, Chair, David Turner, Vice Chair, Jeannine Kennedy, Matthew Carroll, Rodolfo Troncoso, William Medrano, Michael E. Armstead, Carl R. Pataky, Fred J. Shuford, Francoise A. Feliberti

Members Absent: 6

Brian D. Wickstrom, Trinidad Munoz, James H. Tolbert, Richard I. Falvo, Ralph Cloud, Ruben S. Robles

Member Vacancies: 3

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Director, Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Agenda Item # 1. Meeting Called to Order

Henry Stokes, Chair, called meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

NOTE – No quorum present

The meeting proceeded in a discussion and information only format. No action items addressed.

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

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, announced that El Paso was not chosen for the 2013 Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) Conference, but were encouraged to submit a bid for the 2014 Conference.

Agenda Item #4. Petitions and Communications from the Public

Henry Stokes, Chair, informed of constituent complaints about long lines at Veterans Swimming Pool.

6:25 p.m. Carl Pataky arrived – The Board achieved a quorum

Henry Stokes, Chair, called the meeting to order - regular forum.

Agenda Item # 2. Approval of Minutes: May 5, 2009

Motion by William Medrano to approve the May 5, 2009 minutes as written. Second by Jeannine Kennedy. Motion carried (unanimous).

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Agenda Item #5. Discussion and Action: Appeal of a 2 month suspension from After School Program as recommended by the Grievance Committee for minor child Cesar Najera by guardian Yolanda Gutierrez (Ruben Robles)

In the absence of Subcommittee Chair, Ruben Robles, Judy Weiss reported that the Grievance Subcommittee met on May 4 and discussed an issue with a 10 year old whose conduct was found to be disruptive and problematic. Grievance Subcommittee recommends upholding the 2 month suspension.

Motion by Matthew Carroll to accept the recommendation by the Grievance Subcommittee and uphold the suspension. Second by Carl Pataky. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Information: Status of Recommended Revisions to EPC 2.20, Board of Parks and Recreation (David Turner) and status of new Open Space Board (Nanette Smejkal)

David Turner reported on two issues discussed at the May 18 LRC meeting; the size of the board and the length of terms. LRC recommended that the board be reduced to 9 members.

Discussion was held on the proposed Open Space Advisory Board to be a stand alone committee. Clarification was made regarding the LRC direction to survey PRAB members interested in becoming a member of the Open Space Advisory Board. Nanette Smejkal presented the board with the preliminary survey results taken prior to the meeting. The survey was circulated among the board members for review and changes.

Nanette Smejkal explained the process for ordinances: introduction and hearing/action. Today at city council was the first phase, Introduction. Second phase is the actual hearing and action which will be next council meeting, June 9. Actual appointments to the proposed Open Space Advisory Board will need to be a separate agenda and may take several council meetings. The way the ordinance is drafted each council member can make a nomination but the ratification comes from the entire City Council on consent agenda.

Agenda Item # 7. Discussion and Action: Advisory Board meeting Location, Day and Time.

Nanette Smejkal informed the board of the pilot program which altered the hours of operation at City Hall for the summer months (4/10). The city council will consider altering their council meeting to a later start time which will affect PRAB meetings.

Henry Stokes, Chair, recommended conducting the board meetings at City Hall. Discussion ensued regarding convenience, parking, practicability and consistency.

Motion by Matthew Carroll to hold the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings at City Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Second by Michael Armstead. Motion passed (9 Ayes and 1 Nay)

The change will be in affect with the July meeting.

Henry Stokes, Chair, announced that all financial statements are to be submitted no later than June 30, to City Clerks Office.

Agenda Item # 8. Discussion and Information: Fees and Charges Policy and Fees Community Meetings (Judy Weiss).

Judy Weiss presented the board with a meeting schedule to inform the public of proposed changes in fees, charges and various associated policies. Board members were invited to attend. Meetings to be publicized through website, public service announcements, and bulletins. Judy Weiss and her staff will conduct the meetings. Matthew Carroll and David Turner complimented Judy Weiss on her efforts in coordinating the meetings. (Handout)

Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Information: Potential Revisions to Park Design and Construction Standards (Joel McKnight)

Joel McKnight gave the board an update on potential revisions to park design and construction standards. Last June Council adopted the standards which traditionally focused on developers and neighborhood parks. Staff is meeting with developers. Changes include landscape and field lighting (turf and infrastructure).

Discussion ensued regarding the varieties of turf and multiple use fields. Joel McKnight commented that the purchase of a laser level helped staff renovate and fine tune fields. Francoise Feliberti commented on the City of Tucson, where she saw examples of not fencing softball fields and would the City of El Paso consider this implementation to promote multiple uses of parks.

Michael Armstead complimented Parks and Recreation on the Salvador Rivas Park, mentioning several compliments on the park turf.

Agenda Item # 10. Subcommittees:

- a. Discussion and Information: Naming committee update from recent meetings (if needed)

Michael Armstead reported the next meeting will be Monday, June 8, at City Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room to discuss the naming of a linear park.

- b. Discussion and Information: Open Space Committee update from recent meeting (if needed)

Carl Pataky reported that Nanette made a presentation at the June 1 meeting regarding the Open Space ordinance and how it works. Everyone was in agreement. Next meeting June 22, 12:30 p.m. 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

- c. Discussion and Action: Appointments to Subcommittees (if needed)

None

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.