



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

August 13, 2012

5:30 p.m., 10th Floor Conference Room
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 7

David Turner, James Tolbert, Frederick Caldwell, Theresa Welch Fordham, Ralph Cloud, Deanna De La Cruz, Alisa Jorgensen

Members Absent: 2

Melissa Ann Luna, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino

Member Vacancies: 0

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, Paula Powell, Sports Manager, Joel McKnight, Deputy Director General Services, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant, Gregory Edmunds, Recreation Program Supervisor, Alejandro Mendez, Recreation Program Supervisor, Anthony Rodriguez, Recreation Leader, Hiram Samaniego, Community Center Supervisor

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order
Dave Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Introduction: New Board Member Alisa Jorgensen (District 8)
Nanette Smejkal Director of Parks and Recreation introduced new Board member, Alisa Jorgensen, who gave a brief biography.
3. Agenda Item #3. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2012
Motion by James Tolbert to approve minutes as written. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Six (6) Ayes, one (1) Abstention, Motion carried.
4. Agenda Item #4. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)
None
5. Agenda Item #5. Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter
Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. She reported that summer events were winding down and staff is preparing for upcoming fall events. Activities may be viewed on the Parks and Recreation website.
6. Agenda Item #6. Subcommittees:
 - a. Parks Naming Subcommittee
Discussion and Action: Recommendation to Name Riverbend Linear Trail at Little Lane/Riverbend Drive as Jack D. Quarles Park

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, presented a powerpoint on the park and its amenities.

Gene Karam, friend of the family, addressed the Board and gave a brief biography of Jack D. Quarles and his accomplishments as Coach at Coronado High School.

James Tolbert, Park Naming Subcommittee Chair, reported that the subcommittee recommended forwarding a recommendation to City Council to name the Riverbend Linear Trail as Coach Jack D. Quarles Park. Applicant and subcommittee members agreed upon adding the word “Coach.”

Motion by James Tolbert to forward a recommendation to City Council to name the park located at Little Lane/Riverbend Drive as Coach Jack D. Quarles Park. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

b. Tree Subcommittee

Discussion and Action: The Need for Mulberry Trees at the El Paso Zoo

Brent Pearson, City Arborist and Tree Subcommittee ex-officio member, explained that the Zoo is seeking to replace declining mulberries and increase the number planted on Zoo grounds. The demand for browse (fresh foliage), the diet of many of the herbivores, has increased significantly as the Zoo expands. Dr. Victoria Milne, Zoo Veterinarian, explained the nutritional benefit to the animals and limited options of other available trees. The most useful tree for browse is the mulberry.

Motion by James Tolbert to make a recommendation to City Council to allow female mulberry trees to be planted at the Zoo and off-site, at the discretion of the City Arborist. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Motion carried (unanimous).

7. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Sports Grievance

a. Discussion and Action: Appeal of Suspension: Gregory Edmunds for the remainder of 2012 Spring and Summer Adult Hockey Season

Paula Powell, Sports Manager, reported that Gregory Edmunds was caught playing in a game on June 5th and he was not on the roster. In violation of the Rule he was suspended for the rest of the season per the matrix.

Gregory Edmunds concurred with Sports Manager’s report of violation.

Motion by Alisa Jorgensen to uphold staff recommendation for suspension. Second by Deanna De La Cruz. Motion carried (unanimous).

b. Discussion and Action: Appeal of Suspension: Monterey B and Nesta Teams and all players for one (1) year.

Paula Powell, Sports Manager, reported that Monterey B team is not appealing the suspension but the Nesta team was present and appealing. Both benches cleared and a physical confrontation occurred. Immediate suspension was enforced.

Christian Kapuscik, Nesta Assistant Coach, explained that the team had a perfect season and the altercation occurred when they were provoked by the other team. They are appealing because there was only three minutes left in the game.

Nesta Coach Wil Herren expressed remorse and apologized for the incident.

Alisa Jorgensen commended Parks and Recreation Sports staff for managing a difficult situation.

Motion by James Tolbert to reduce the suspension until the end of the current (summer) season. Second by Alisa Jorgensen. Motion carried (unanimous).

- c. Discussion and Action: Appeal of Suspension: Andrew Lozano for the rest of this season and playoffs.

Paula Powell, Sports Manager, reported that the appellant Andrew Lozano was not present and has already served his suspension.

Tracy Novak, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, noted that the Sports Grievance Subcommittee scheduled to meet on July 31st did not achieve quorum.

Motion by James Tolbert to uphold staff recommendation for suspension. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Six (6) Ayes, one (1) Nay, Motion carried.

Frederick Caldwell left at 6:23 p.m.

8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Proposed Revisions to Park Design and Construction Standards

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, reviewed the 2nd draft of the revised Park Design and Construction Standards. Sections briefly discussed:

- Park Projects – designs & landscape architects
- EPWU – reclaimed water requirements & signage
- General and Site preparation - Soil specifications upgraded, referencing trees and shrubs manual
- Park lighting - referenced Ordinance and updated the park lighting requirements
- Trail Standards - Upgraded trail composition and landscaping
- Playground specifications – Reinserted previous specifications and identified fall protection types
- Athletic fields – Upgraded laser level standards
- Athletic field lighting – higher levels of foot candles
- Security lighting – enhanced perimeter lighting

Discussion ensued. Theresa Welch Fordham asked about wood chip fall material. Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, identified the various engineered manufactured materials. He explained that sand becomes hot and compacted which can lead to injuries.

Mr. Novak informed the Board further input will be sought from various agencies, and with input today he will finalize the document.

Nanette Smejkal explained the procedure for the adoption process and proposed a final draft for the Board at the September meeting.

No action taken.

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Information: Status of Blackie Chesher Parkland

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that City Council took formal action regarding lands near Blackie Chesher Park. The parcel on the corner of I10 and Zaragosa will be

recognized as being PSB land. Land within Blackie Chesher Park that had not been formally dedicated as park land will be coming off PSB inventory and will be park land. Additionally, PSB will construct two more soccer fields on park land South of Escobar.

10. Agenda Item #10. Discussion and Information: Parks and Recreation FY13 Operating Budget

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that City Council added \$93,650 to the Parks and Recreation Budget specifically for staffing Happiness Senior Center. The facility is currently leased and operated by the County. It is anticipated that in FY14 the transition will include maintenance.

11. Agenda Item #11. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

Nanette Smejkal explained the subcommittees are only scheduled when members indicate that a quorum can be achieved. Alisa Jorgensen suggested additional alternates for Park Naming and Grievance subcommittees. The following assignments were proposed:

- Sports Grievance: Alisa Jorgensen replaces David Turner
- Sports Grievance: David Turner added as alternate
- Park Naming: David Turner added as alternate

Motion by James Tolbert to approve the aforementioned assignments. Second by Alisa Jorgensen. Motion carried (unanimous).

12. Agenda Item #12. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Park Partnerships
- Master Plan Update

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.