



## BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

September 10, 2012

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

### MINUTES

Members Present: 7

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

Members Absent: 0

Member Vacancies: 2

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, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

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. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2012  
Motion by Theresa Welch Fordham to approve minutes as written. Second by Deanna De La Cruz.  
Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)  
None  
  
Chair Dave Turner reminded Board members of their obligation to obtain ethics training, pursuant to ordinance, completion deadline December 31, 2012.
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 reported a successful Dog Day Swim at Tobin Nations Park. Fall events and after school programs have begun and she encouraged members to view all activities on the Parks and Recreation website.
5. Agenda Item #5. Subcommittee:
  - a. Parks Naming Subcommittee  
Discussion and Action: Recommendation to name Sunset Heights Park located at 631 Stewart Court as John R. Karr Park.  
  
Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, presented a powerpoint on the park and its amenities.

Stephanie Karr, daughter of the late John Karr, addressed the Board and gave a brief biography of her father and his commitment to the Sunset Heights neighborhood.

Joel Guzman and Victor Villela, residents of Sunset Heights and friends of John Karr commented on his dedication and accomplishments.

James Tolbert, Park Naming Subcommittee Chair, reported that the subcommittee recommended support.

Motion by James Tolbert to forward a recommendation to City Council to name the park located at 631 Stewart Court as John R. Karr Park. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

Discussion and Action: Recommendation to name Tres Sueños #4 Park located at 12961 Enrique Gomez Dr. as Ylairam Park.

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

Alfredo Morga, father of the deceased, gave a brief summary of the family's history and the accident that claimed the lives of his wife and daughter. He requested naming the park as Ylairam Ruby Park in memory of them. The family lives across the street from the park.

Rebecca Brown, Ylairam's aunt, spoke in support of naming the Park.

James Tolbert, Park Naming Subcommittee Chair, reported that the subcommittee recommended support, as Ylairam Ruby Park.

Motion by James Tolbert to forward a recommendation to City Council to name Tres Sueños #4 Park located at 12961 Enrique Gomez Drive as Ylairam Ruby Park. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

Amended Motion by James Tolbert to forward a recommendation to City Council to name Tres Sueños #4 Park located at 12961 Enrique Gomez Drive as Ylairam Ruby Morga Park. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Motion carried (unanimous).

6. Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Presentation: Little Free Library – Lisa Lopez, El Paso Independent School District Librarian.

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, informed the Board that Ms. Lisa Lopez was unable to attend the meeting. She highlighted the article in the agenda packet.

James Tolbert, Vice Chair, explained the Little Free Library concept and potential partnership with neighborhood associations.

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

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, presented the draft revised Park Design and Construction Standards. He noted that an Appendix has been included.

Alisa Jorgensen requested clarification on the preferred surface for trails and the minimum eight feet width along street right of way (pages 47 and 49). Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, stated that along street right of ways it was a wider sidewalk. Concrete is the preferred surface due to durability and minimal maintenance. Trails in open space areas can be natural surface.

Discussion ensued on questions by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino:

- Landscape design (Item 4, page 7)
- General requirements and notes on submittals
- Acceptance of a Park (Item 8, page 7)
- Street Tree centers (Item 12)
- Irrigation system design criteria (duplications)
- Application process with the El Paso Water Company (page 10)
- Water harvesting (Item d, page 11)
- Turf planted on curbs and sidewalks (Item e, page 11)
- Irrigation systems design for turf areas (Item h, page 11)
- Designer water audit (Item I, page 11)
- Initial design phase (Item 4, page 12)
- Specification notes and details
- Protective enclosure (Item 5, d., page 13)
- Initial set times (Item l, page 13)
- Controllers (Item r, page 15)
- Valve wiring (Item s, page 15)
- Pumps (Item u, page 16)
- New section – Sprinkler Heads (page 16)
- Irrigation System Specifications (page 17)
- Sprinkler heads (page 19)
- Maxicom compatibles (page 19)
- General Site Preparation (page 29)
- Soil samples (page 30)

*James Tolbert departed 7:26 p.m.*

- Materials – Fertilizers (page 31)
- Soil samples (page 30)

Lewis Wright, Landscape Architect, commented on landscape design verification, licensing and soil testing. He also suggested considering a two wire systems for irrigation.

Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, that the Board has given input and supports the draft document subject to incorporating input from this meeting. Second by Alisa Jorgensen. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Presentation: Park Partners

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint on the Park Partner Program.

Discussion followed on neighborhood associations and promoting the program.

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

Motion by Alisa Jorgensen to move Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to standing member of the Grievance Subcommittee and Deanna De La Cruz to standing member of the Park Naming Subcommittee. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

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10. Agenda Item #10. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Little Free Library
- Master Plan Update

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

Minutes submitted by Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant