



MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 1, 2005
6:00 p.m.
Memorial Park Senior Center
1800 Byron Street

Members Present

Bernie Sargent, Acting Chairman
Eileen Karlsruher, Chairman Elect
Mitch Doblado, Vice Chair
Alma Wilson
Daniel Delahaye
Matthew Carroll
Walt Phillips
Jose Luis Gutierrez
Carl Pataky
Yolanda Cordova
Olga Holguin
Henry Stokes
Cherilyn Dorsey

Members Absent

Kelly Duke

Staff Present

Dr. Norman C. Merrifield
Barry Russell
David Ochoa
Lucy Martinez
Joe Rodriguez
Pete Dunavant

Others Present:

Juan Contreras, P+3

1. **Meeting called to order** by Acting Chairman, Bernie Sargent at 6:10 p.m.
2. **Motion to approve minutes of August 2, 2005; Motion made by Mitchel Doblado to approve with amendment to item #6, stating that the Board agreed that a full basketball be the first option rather than ½ a court for the Sherman Park Improvements Project; seconded by Henry Stokes; all in favor; motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Petitions & Communications from the Public Sector:**
 - a. Walt Phillips, Park Board member reminds everyone to support Joe Rodriguez, Recreation Service Manager for Parks and Recreation with the Northeast Veterans Day Parade on Friday, November 11, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Fairbanks and Rushing.
 - b. Joe Rodriguez, Park's Recreation Service Manager announced an Appreciation Banquet, Saturday, November 12, 2005 for the Healthy Hearts with Parks from 11-1:00 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center.
 - c. Two new Park's Advisory Board Members Mr. Matthew Carroll and Mr. Carl Pataky were welcomed.
4. **Recognition and Certificate:** David Ochoa, Land Manager for the Eastside Parks, presented Mr. Joe W. Cadwell and George D. Stout a certificate for their outstanding volunteerism and efforts to better the Parks in the Eastside.

- 5. Discussion of a Neighborhood Park:** John Lyons, Board Member of the Friends of Karl Wyler Neighborhood Association and Chairman, Melody Wilson stated that Karl Wyler Landfill aka Cheryl Ladd Dumpsite located in in the 11500 block of Cherly Ladd Court was a dumpsite for medical waste. The City of El Paso acquired all of the property on September the 6, 2005 during city Council where City Attorney Charlie McNabb made reference to this lot as being a future park along with Eddie Holguin, East Valley Representative. On September 12, 2005 Solid Waste Management Department began remediation of the dump. Friends of Karl Wyler Neighborhood Association would like to participate in any and all phases of the planning, developing and creation of the park. They would like to contribute their time and effort and also investing themselves and their money into the neighborhood park. At this time this property is still being investigated before officially becoming a park. Mitch Doblado, Vice Chairman for the Board's Advisory Committee suggested the neighborhood wait for approval that the land belongs to the City and at that time meet with Dr. Merrifield and the staff to come up with tentative plans for a park and then present it to the board to proceed with any recommendations or suggestions.
- 6. Discussion and Action:** Barry Russell, Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation Department spoke in behalf of Dale Clarke, Artist and Sculptor, Filmmaker, Activist to exhibit his environmental sculpture, the American, Afghanistan and Iraq Children's Memorial at Eastwood Park. Mr. Russell stated that Dale Clarke was devastated by the effects of 9-11 particularly the children. Over 4,000 children have died because of the war. He has created tombstones for each of the children's names. In some cases he actually has either pieces of hair or clothing memorabilia of the child that is a part of the tombstone. It is a controversial piece and this is the first city park request. The tombstones are 8 1/2 x 11, placed in frames on stands. This request is for Eastwood Park. **Cherilyn Dorsey motions that the Board take no action on this item and send this request to the Public Art's Board to evaluate and give recommendation to view this controversial art piece and brought back to the Park's Board to use the facility; Robert Gonzales seconds the motion; all in favor to take no action until approved by Art's Board; motion passes unanimously.**
- 7. Status Report on CIP Projects:** Rick Talamo, Capital Projects Manager for City of El Paso did a power point presentation on 2000 Quality of Life and 2004 Capital Improvement Program, the Bond Project. Mr. Talamo explained that the City itself had 41 projects, which are city managed. Quality of Life Projects are managed by Perspectiva 3D. Projects are 93% complete. The 2000 QOL overall are 75% complete. Issues include not the best contractors bidding, price increases, weather, reviews and delays, staffing resources, specialized construction needs and scoping versus budgeting. Biggest park project is the Ranchos Del Sol at 30% completion, Memorial Park and Pool 98% , Montwood Heights 70%, Rose Garden Park 45%, Grandview Park 20%, McKelligon Canyon 93%, Irwin Lambka Park 95%, N.E. Regional Park 25% , and Veterans Park 40%. Cielo Vista, Dolphin, Ponsford, Modesto Gomez are 100% complete. Caribe Park scheduled completion for December 7, 2005, Capistrano Park for February 6, 2006, Hidden Valley jog path, December 2, 2005, Mesa Terrace Park construction has just started and the Boys Club Park is at 75% complete. There is \$5,000,000 worth of parks.

8. **Status Report of QOL Projects being managed by P+3:** Juan Contreras, Project Manager for P+3 stated that the Westside Community and Recreation Center received favorable bids below budget and will be presented to City Council on November 15, 2005. As per Dr. Merrifield, Director of Parks and Recreation, the Westside Sports Complex will be evaluated and modified after a community meeting brought up the issue that they wanted to see more soccer fields and not necessarily have softball fields where there is a lower demand. General consensus from the Board was to support Dr. Merrifield to move forward on this effort.
9. **Discussion and Action on Relocation of Funds:** Juan Contreras, Project Manager for P+3 is requesting the reallocation of \$200,000 from the Park Contingency fund approved for the Westside Community Park and Recreation Center project based on favorable construction bids received on 10/19/15. Approval of the reallocation of \$150,000 the NE Regional Park to fund a third soccer field and return \$50,000 to the Park Contingency fund for future projects. Mr. Contreras stated that very favorable bids were received and the program outlook was approved by City Council. The \$200,000 was not required and the bids received were under budget including the 10% contingency fund required for the construction. **Cherilyn Dorsey motions to approve the relocation of funds; Matthew Carroll seconds; all in favor; Motion Passes unanimously.**
10. **Information and Discussion on Youth Football Results:** Jim Rodgers, Texas Extension Agent works with youth development for the County. Mr. Rodgers stated that the survey held during the Labor Day weekend with preliminary report results 67 to 69% but found that there were duplications of individuals. Coaches and teams were surveyed in the minor team division and intermediate. When the survey was reviewed 87% were reached. Satisfaction of the quality of the program itself and services provided were either excellent or very good. The biggest issue is not having suitable bathroom facilities. People surveyed stated that port-a-potties were not acceptable bathrooms. The organization, program and administration had very good responses. The strength of the program are good communication, good response, people were fair quality of the staff, involvement of sports programs and involvement of youth whether its developing leadership or character building programs. Weaknesses include scheduling, games were scheduled at the hottest part of the day, no benches and too many games played at one park. This survey helps to communicate with the people and identify problem area
11. **Meeting adjourned by Eileen Karlsruher, Chairman at 8:10 p.m.**