



MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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

Members Present

Eileen Karlsruher, Chairman
Mitchel Doblado, Vice Chairman
Alma Wilson
Alice Davis
Daniel Delahaye
Matthew Carroll
Walt Phillips
Jose Luis Gutierrez
Carl Pataky
Mary Lyerly
Olga Holguin
Robert Gonzales

Members Absent

Kelly Duke
Cherilyn Dorsey

Staff Present

Dr. Norman C. Merrifield
Barry Russell
Lucy Martinez
Joe Rodriguez
Pete Dunavant
Esperanza Yee
Enrique Valadez

Others Present:

Juan Contreras, P+3

1. **Meeting called to order** by Chairman, Eileen Karlsruher at 6:05 p.m.
2. **Motion to approve minutes of November 1, 2005; Motion made by Daniel Delahaye; seconded by Robert Gonzales: all in favor; motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Petitions & Communications from the Public Sector:**
 - a. Barry Russell, Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation Department, stated that El Paso has been one of the eight cities honored by the "Good Sports Program" in 2005 Sport Illustrated sponsored by Dodge. A celebration at Acosta Recreation Center will precede a kickoff of the basketball season on December 12, 2005 at 6:00 pm. Park's Advisory Board and attending public was invited to attend.
 - b. Joe Rodriguez, Park's Recreation Service Manager and Walt Phillips member of the Park's Advisory Board recognized Alejandro Sanchez, former Park's Advisory Board Member for outstanding support and leadership as a Park's Board member and participant in all 2005 Park and Recreation Department's "Healthy Hearts for Parks Walk".
 - c. Joe Rodriguez invited the Park's Advisory Board Members and attending public to the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Westside Community Park and Recreation Center at 7400 High Ridge, Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. There will also be a grand opening for the new Memorial Park Aquatic

Facility, located at 3251 Copper Street on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

- d. Joe Rodriguez introduced an El Paso Times wrap to be used as a marketing tool. The wrap displays a map of each park including activities, phone numbers, addresses and schedule of the activities each center has at each park. It will be distributed at all Peter Piper Pizza locations, El Paso Fitness Centers, banks and other locations. Peter Piper Pizza and Big Boy Ice Cream sponsored this wrap. Mitch Doblado, Vice Chairman of the Park's Advisory Board requested Mr. Rodriguez to draft a letter in behalf of the Board to thank the supporters and sponsors and convey the appreciation of the Advisory Board.

4. **Mary Lyerly, new Park's Advisory Board member, appointed by District 1, was recognized and welcomed.**
5. **Information and Discussion on Status Report of QOL Projects managed by Perspectiva P+3.** Juan Contreras, Project Manager for Perspectiva P+3, stated that there is no news on the Fort Bliss/Soccer Field. The project is being evaluated at the Pentagon. Two design packages that include Sherman Park and Pecan Grove are to be finalized the end of December. Park package 6 has been a challenge with 22-projects but will be ready to go to purchasing by the end of this year. Westside Sports Complex and Pavo Real Pool renovations are long-term design packages. Westside Park, which will be ground breaking on December 7, 2005, Veterans Park and Northeast Regional Park are the largest projects.
6. **Park Contingency Status Update:** Juan Contreras, Project Manager for Perspectiva P+3, informed the board that the monitoring and the allocation of the contingency are going very well. They have tracked about \$154,000 in saving to the contingency allocation fund.
7. **Discussion and Action of the reallocation of \$208,000 from the Park Contingency Fund approved for Park Package 7-Irrigation and Tree project based on favorable construction bids received on 11/16/05. Approval of the reallocation of \$100,000 to Park Project 7 – Arlington and Sunrise Shelter Renovations, \$58,000 to Park Package 8 – Playgrounds and the return \$50,000 to the Park Contingency fund for future projects.** Juan Contreras, Project Manager for Perspectiva P+3, discussed the bid results of three park projects received in November 2005. All three will be analyzed as a group to reallocate funds from the park projects. Bids for Package 7/Irrigation (six parks) and trees came in low with a \$47,000 savings to the construction. There was a \$208,000 allocated for this project. P+3 would like for the board to approve the return of \$50,000 to contingency and allocate \$158,000 to the next two projects.

F.T. James was the low bidder for Package 5/Arlington and Sunrise Shelter renovations. The bids came in high and adjustments will be made to meet the intent of the renovations. The bid negotiation target was \$581,000; therefore, there is an overrun of \$285,000. The proposal is to take \$100,000 from the previous contingency fund to bring the reallocated fund of \$287,000 for this project. Contractors were apprehensive to bid on this project that calls for renovating existing shelters; therefore only two bids were received.

Three bids were received for Park Package #8, which are playgrounds and associated shade devices over the playgrounds. This item came over budget by \$127,000. Seventy thousand (\$70,000) was allocated in contingency and is short \$58,000. There was limited opportunity to negotiate with the contractor but by allocating \$58,000 to all four parks we will have new playgrounds and shading structures. **Motion to approved allocation of funds made by Walt Phillips, seconded by Joe Gutierrez; all in favor; motion passes unanimously.**

8. **Information: Park & Facility Naming Policy/Scheduled (LRC) Legislative Review Committee Meeting.** Dr. Norman Merrifield, Director of Parks and Recreation discussed the upcoming LRC meeting scheduled December 7, 2005. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss expanding the current naming policy to allow for endowments. Everyone is encouraged to come to the LRC meeting which will include guest speaker Bill Koegler who has 30 years of experience in Parks and with the Oglebay Park Foundation with discussion on the present park naming policy and the proposal of an expansion to the policy including endowment program. Also, December 6, 2005 at 6:00 pm, Parks and Recreation Department along with the El Paso Parks Foundation will be hosting Bill Koegler in a presentation at the Dorris Van Doren Library on Redd Road, regarding park foundations in general and how they operate and differ from community foundations and museum foundations and their success and potential for the El Paso Community.
9. **Presentation on Park/School Policy and Programming:** Joe Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Services Manager, introduced Enrique Valadez, Recreation Superintendent and Esperanza Yee, Recreation Specialist staff provided a PowerPoint presentation on the after school programs. Different recreation centers, schools, and areas of the city will have a program that creates a safe and fun environment for youth between the ages of 7 to 17. The purpose of these programs is to be a safe haven for kids to include not only recreation but also a place to learn and health activities. After school programs such as these help to socialize youth in a positive environment.
10. **Discussion on 2005 Forestry Partnership Grant and Information:** Barry Russell, Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation Department, stated that the Parks Department has been working with the Texas Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service and received a \$10,000 grant. This grant will go toward a tree inventory of our public parks. A GPS will be done on every park that consists of the kind of tree, where it's located, the condition, age and expected lifetime of that particular tree. Students will be hired to do this job. The data and the new Vermont System tracking program would facilitate a maintenance management program and allow Parks to take care of the its trees better. The Tree Board will be coming out with a new Tree Care Ordinance that will help with Park's tree management program.
11. **Motion made by Alma Wilson to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Matthew Carroll; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**