



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

June 10, 2013

5:30 p.m., Pat O'Rourke Conference Room
901 N Virginia St., El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

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

Members Absent: Ralph Cloud, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Francoise A. Feliberti

Member Vacancies: 0

Staff Present: Tracy Novak, Assistant Director, Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Richard Garcia, Park Planning & Development Manager, Steve Lunsford, General Services Land Management Superintendent, Sandra Hernandez, Secretary

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order

James Tolbert, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2013

James Tolbert, Vice Chair, requested that the minutes be amended.

Motion by James Tolbert to approve amended minutes. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

Late arrival Deanna De La Cruz 5:42 pm

3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)

None

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director made a recommendation to hear "Addition To Agenda Item" after item 7.

Motion by James Tolbert to change the order of the agenda to move addition to agenda after item 7. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

4. Agenda Item #4. Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. He spoke briefly about the upcoming events including "Club Rec" and Melodies at the Park. He mentioned how Summer is a busy time for Parks and Recreation, with many programs and activities offered.

5. Agenda Item #5. Discussion: General Services Report on Maintenance Activities

Steve Lundsford, Land Management Superintendent, gave a land management and facilities maintenance report (updated handout was provided). He mentioned he is working with Paula Powell on seeding six sites, they are currently on week two and it takes up to eight weeks to complete the task. Temporary fencing is being placed where seeding has occurred. Blackie Chesser is the next site that will they will be working on. Weather stations set up and installation is starting up on Wednesday to be connected to the computerized irrigation system. As for tree maintenance, with nesting season concluded, pruning and other activities are underway. Planting of pine trees from the city tree farm has not been successful, having not survived transplantation. Other varieties will be considered in the future.

6. Agenda Item #6. Presentation and Discussion: Turf Reduction and Drought Options

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, advised that this is a follow up to the turf reduction agenda item from last meeting. A presentation was given by Richard Garcia and Steve Lundsford since they are both working on the project. They explained that the three sites considered were Crestmont, Galatzan and Lambka Parks.

Richard Garcia, Park Planning & Development Manager, discussed that the three sites were identified by GSD as potential candidates for a program to reduce non-recreational turf in an effort to reduce water consumption. Park planning will complete the design in-house and will focus on Crestmont, due to the amount of pedestrian traffic. Once the design is complete, it will be handed over to Steve Lundsford's group for bidding and construction.

Tracy Novak also mentioned that another step to this program would be to calculate the water consumption savings, advertise the results with public signage and request budget savings be utilized for further turf reduction projects.

7. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Park Naming Policy

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Park Coordinator, discussed the Park Naming policy and potential changes of modification to council. She mentioned how the packet included both Resolution from council and Park Naming Guidelines that is given to each applicant interested in naming/renaming a park.

Alisa Jorgensen, had some questions regarding the Resolution. She wanted to know where on the Resolution document does it state that only favorable recommendations are forwarded to City Council. Also, she would like to see a background check done on all names considered if a park is being named after a person.

Theresa Welch Fordham, had questions on what the protocol was for City Council Members who attend a Park Naming Subcommittee meeting to oppose of a name change. Should they be allowed to sit at the Board table or with the audience? Consensus was council members should sit with audience.

Motion to include a background check on recommended park names made by Alisa Jorgensen. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #1 (Addition to Agenda). Discussion and Action: Blackie Cheshier Sports Field PSB Project Field

Richard Garcia, Park Planning & Development Manager, gave a brief description on the Blackie Cheshier Sports Field PSB project. Land was exchanged by the Public Service Board and the City, for the purpose of creating two soccer fields. City Council Representative Holguin created an agreement to formalize the exchange. Problems arose because the field dimensions called for in the agreement didn't match the legal boundaries of the site, including site constraints. The agreement has to be amended and Representative Holguin has concerns about it. PSB is trying to identify other solutions.

9. Agenda Item #8. Reports on Recent Activity

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, went over the lists included in the agenda packet and answered questions. He also explained how phases occur on park projects, and that the Quality of Life Bonds projects are funded for the first three years, and what stage of development.

Richard Garcia, Park Planning & Development Manager, went over the list for the Bond Projects that is included in the packet. He reviewed the project scoping process, and answered questions.

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

None

11. Agenda Item #10. Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Eastside Sports Complex – Ranchos Real Site @ end of Montwood Presentation

12. Agenda Item #11. Adjournment.
Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sandra Hernandez, Secretary