



# MINUTES

## PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 12, 2005  
6:00 p.m.  
Memorial Park Senior Center  
1800 Byron Street

### **Members Present**

Eileen Karlsruher, Vice Chairman  
Yolanda Cordova  
Cherilyn Dorsey  
Alma Wilson  
Charlotte Johnson  
Jose L. Gutierrez  
Kelly Duke  
Salvador Quintanilla  
Henry Stokes  
Alice Davis  
Robert Gonzales  
Olga Holguin  
Alejandro Sanchez  
Walt Phillips  
Julio Norman  
Daniel Delahaye

### **Members Absent**

Bernie Sargent  
Brent Sanders  
Mitchel Doblado

### **Staff Present**

Dr. Norman C. Merrifield  
Linda Martin  
Lucy Martinez  
Joe Rodriguez  
Richard Garcia  
Pete Dunavant

### **Others Present:**

Juan Contreras, P+3

1. **Meeting called to order** by Vice Chairman, Eileen Karlsruher 6:05 p.m.
2. **Motion to approve minutes of June 7, 2005; Motion made by Salvador Quintanilla, seconded by Henry Stokes; all in favor motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Petitions & Communications from the Public Sector:**
  - a) Ms. Rosaleigh Dutton a vounteer with the community youth basketball at Nations Tobin Park stated several of her concerns regarding Nations Tobin Park.
    - 1) The basketball nets were torn and tattered but the Parks Department replaced with metal nets.
    - 2) Water fountains are needed
    - 3) Restrooms are not accessible to the kids
    - 4) A couple of benches are needed on the Northeast side of the park

Responding to the concerns, Richard Garcia, Parks Operations Manager stated that the coaches were encouraged to supply water for their players due to vandalism and hygiene issues with drinking fountains have not been recommended. As for park benches the project has been closed out about 1 1/2 years ago so it would be a matter of coming up with a way to do that. Portable toilets are provided for organized athletics. Dr. Merrifield, Director for Parks

and Recreation Department stated that these concerns will be addressed and the departments will be providing benches in the near future.

**b) Discussion and Action on Creating a Disability Hall of Fame at the Multi-Purpose Center:** Speaker was unavailable at this time. **Item Tabled.**

4. **Discussion and Action on Allocation of \$445,000 from the Park Contingency Fund:** Juan Contreras, Program Manager of P+3 explained that the Park Contingency Fund that was not been allocated was identified and totalled \$464,000. Coordinating through the Parks Department the following Parks were identified: Northeast Regional Park for \$140,000, Chelsea Pool \$100,000, Memorial Pool \$62,000, Grandview Pool \$40,000, Rose Garden \$33,000 and backtracking to complete projects such as Marty Robbins and Blackie Cheshire adding chainlink fencing around some of the fields to avoid damages of unauthorized use for a total of \$445,000. **Motion to approve the allocation of funds made by Salvador Quintanilla; seconded by Jose L. Gutierrez; all in favor, motion passes unanimously**
5. **Information and Discussion on Status of QOL Projects managed by P+3:** Juan Contreras, Program Manager of P+3 stated that final architect selection process for the Pavo Real Pool is July 28, and it will take a month to negotiate and finalize the contract and proceed by August. The next project is Westside Community and Recreation Center out of the bid phase also toward the end of July. Under construction are the Rose Garden, Northeast Regional Park, and Veterans Park. Park package 6 are 22 small parks which are under design phase grouped to identify functional groupings that will go out to bid. They will go out in three or four construction packages. One construction package can include park furniture (benches, picnic tables) another would be the parks that need tennis court/basketball resurfacing. The needs for each park are requested by Park staff. Any concerns or needs for the Parks can be addressed to the Park's Director or the Park's Operations Manager. Henry Stokes, Park Board Member stated his concern about Quality Assurance for each project. Juan Contreras stated that there are three teams that oversee each project. P+3 oversees the whole program, the architectural team, city inspection team and the Park staff. One is the designer, user department and the city inspection team to supervise the construction. Under P+3 the program managers, there is a project manager assigned to each construction project.
6. **Update on Attracting Sporting Events to El Paso by Brian Kennedy of the El Paso Sports Commission:** Speaker not available. **Item Tabled.**
7. **Discussion and Action on Placing Ice Cream Vending Machines at Recreation Centers:** Rafael Fernandez owner of FM Vending discussed placing ice cream machines at all Park's Recreation Centers. As per Mr. Fernandez, the electrical bill by month would be approximately \$12 and their company offers \$15 rental fee per month plus 15% commission on their net sales. The Park Department would be free of any charges or liabilities. His line of ice cream consist of Blue Bonnie and also the Frutiki Bars both made in El Paso. Dr. Merrifield stated that state law and local ordinances require services to be bid out. Mr. Fernandez is here for the Boards support for his proposal. **Motion made by Kelly Duke to further investigate ice**

**cream vending machines in Recreation Centers; seconded by Cherilyn Dorsey; opposed by Alice Davis; motion passes by 15 votes**

8. **Discussion and Action on 2006 Proposed Budget Presentation and User Fee Presentation:** Dr. Merrifield stated that the 2006 Proposed Budget must be presented to City Council before presenting it to Park Board. Friday, June 15 Parks will present the budget to City Council at City Council Chambers approximately at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcomed to attend. Parks is requesting \$17,375,908 which is a 4.9% increase. Some of the workforce for the new facilities won't be coming on until the latter part of the year.  
**Pete Dunavant, Financial Analyst for Parks Department** discussed the 2006 User Fee proposal. The Fees will change for the Memorial Park Reserve area that is in the process of upgrading. The Columbia Heights Reserve area and the Memorial Reserve Park will be the same fees. The small Logan Heights will stay the same level. When the user charges an entry fee then Parks will charge to use the facility. The Community Center fees will increase for Club Rec and adding new boxing fees. Carolina skate park will have a fee associated with the Carolina Rec Center currently there is nothing in the ordinance to cover skate parks. Room rentals, fees proposed to change are for the evenings and the weekends only where the demand is. Gym rental rates will be raised also. Charging a fee or requiring a donation for admission to the event is a charging rate however, if you collect a donation of your people outside the building and pay in advance you do not get a charging rate. Fee changes include boxing fees, skate park, and the rewrite of the user fee ordinance. The processing fee for the gym and room rental is \$10. As per Dr. Merrifield, Director of Parks and Recreation Department, a proposal was presented to the school board at EPISD/YISD for a comprehensive Park/School Agreement. This will allow the school total use of Park's facilities in exchange for total use of their facilities at no cost unless a particular program on the part of either entity has a cost to assume for the particular organization. For use of the swimming pools, the school must provide a licensed life guard. More discussion will be held next month on this agreement. **Motion made to approve the user fee changes by Henry Stokes; seconded by Cheryl Dorsey; all in favor; motion passes unanimously**
9. **Information and Discussion on Comprehensive Parks Master Plan:** Dr. Norman C. Merrifield, Director of Parks and Recreation Department stated that a meeting was held two weeks ago with the consultant Jim Carillo, Vice President, Director of Planning for Halff and Associates which went very well. Another meeting will be held around the 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> of July. The subcommittees will be included but the primary purpose is to meet directly with the council and the mayor. Community meetings will be planned with a survey on the consultant's next visit. If there are questions the board would like the consultant to ask the public please write them in. A symposium is being planned for the near future to talk about parks and open space. Proposal are being written to foundations and community organizations that might help fund this symposium. An agenda will be made available to the board on the consultant's next meeting.
10. **Discussion and Action on Facility Naming Request:** As per Dr. Merrifield there is a Moratorium on naming facilities. A naming request has been made by Representative Presi Ortega of District 5. He was advised that there is an ongoing

moratorium on the Park naming policy which will be included in the Master Plan. A first draft may be available for the Board on the next meeting. **Motion to table this item made by Julio Norman; seconded by Kelly Duke; all in favor; motion passes unanimously**

11. **Discussion and Information on Recreation Walk:** Joe Rodriguez, Recreation Services Manager at Parks and Recreation discussed Healthy Hearts with Parks walk and recognized Park Board member Alejandro Sanchez for attending all the walks Parks has organized. So far there has been four very successful walks. Channel 9 has a commercial with the Director, Dr. Merrifield advertising these walks. The next walk will be on the westside at Marwood Park, August 13 starting at 9 am. Providence is the sponser with T-shirts available. The walk consist of approximately 30 minutes. The sponsor raffles a DVD at every walk and include health checks. There will be a banquet in December honoring those who have continued faithfully doing our walks.
12. **Motion to Adjourn made by Julio Norman, seconded by Charlotte Johnson; all in favor. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:00 pm.**