

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
 PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
 Genoveva Chavez Community Center Conference Room
 3221 Rodeo Rd.
 Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Genoveva Chavez Community Center Conference Room
3221 Rodeo Rd.
Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 5:30 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Victoria Bruneni at approximately 5:35 pm, on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in the Genoveva Chavez Community Center Conference Room, 3221 Rodeo Rd., Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Victoria Bruneni, Chair
Dameon Archuleta
Bridget Wolf
Warren Hix
Linda R. Jackson
Peggy Vasquez

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Stodgel
David Sidebottom

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Thompson, Parks Division Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
February 16, 2016

MOTION A motion was made by Commissioner Hix, seconded by Commissioner Archuleta, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Thompson said he had to amend the agenda to correct the date and amount on agenda number 6 (A). The date of the General Obligation Bond should be 2008. The amount of the reallocation should be \$669,000.

MOTION A motion was made by Commissioner Hix, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Thompson said we lost one of our three supervisors, Donald Marquez. Mr. Marquez had been with the City for twenty eight years and a supervisor for twenty two years. He will be missed.

Mr. Thompson said we are in the middle of the budget process. We have included increases in personnel for MRC in response to our CIP bond maintenance. We have been paying limited maintenance funds for four years but have elected to give it up. We also asked for an increase in GRT funding. The leagues kicked off today all over Santa Fe. Soccer and others.

Commissioner Hix stated that the State is cutting the healthcare budget and facing other cuts. Is there anything happening at the State level that would effect Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Thompson replied that we get grants from the State but are not in a grant cycle at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2012 GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BOND PARKS AND TRAILS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO REALLOCATE \$311,354 CURRENTLY DESIGNATED FOR VARIOUS CITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO OTHER CITY PARKS WITH HIGH MAINTENANCE NEEDS.

Mr. Thompson said the Commission is established to work with the Parks and Recreation staff in an advisory and recommendation capacity. We are hoping that what we present to you for approval by Council you will share with your constituents. Your

obligation is to convey this information to the Council through the Chair.

Chair Bruneni asked are we to vote if we are in support of this.

Commissioner Jackson asked does this have anything to do with what has been in the paper.

Mr. Thompson said this was from the second audit. There was a finding that there was approximately \$2 million not accounted for within the bond issue. We found \$669,000 so we ended up with \$1,300,000 unaccounted for. It was actually accounted for but not clearly spent on the bond issue. This audit should be the final word on it. We have some questions for the Commission and the major question is to the Governing Body. We have recommendations.

Commission members asked for copies of the Ordinance. Mr. Thompson provided those.

Chair Bruneni asked the Commissioners to take time to read the ordinance. The Ordinance is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "1".

Commissioner Jackson said if the amount is double what it was then all these figures are wrong.

Chair Bruneni said we really can't vote on something we don't have.

Commissioner Wolf asked in the future, can we have discussions on things like this at a meeting before we have to act on it.

Chair Bruneni said yes, if we can.

Commissioner Hix said he is generally supportive but is not comfortable voting if we don't understand it or have all the information.

Mr. Thompson said your task is to help us spend this taxpayer money. You can table it and bring it to the next meeting. We have it on the agenda for Monday's Finance Committee meeting, however since the Ordinance has incorrect information, they may not hear it. He has the final memo that goes with the Ordinance.

Chair Bruneni said we can have it for discussion but speaking on behalf of members she is not comfortable voting on something we don't have.

Commissioner Hix asked can we discuss the intent and effect of what these things will be.

Chair Bruneni said yes, let's discuss generally.

Mr. Thompson said it was the intention of the Governing Body and the City Manager to reduce the cost and time and labor requirement in maintenance through refurbishing parks and introducing new items. The finding in the audit was that one of the intentions was to keep the workforce occupied. A large portion of the classified service was moved to a temp force account where they were paid to work on park bond projects. They were actually employees at some time doing standard work not the bond projects. The audit said the City should never have used bond proceeds to pay for maintenance. All of the parks on the list of the original bond implementation plan had some work done in them. Some of the decisions to defer maintenance or to redirect funds were well documented and were presented to the Governing Body. There were surplus funds and these are the monies we are asking to move to other parks. There were other funds not associated with this. Some projects are not feasible to do, such as those that require archeology review. Each park has an explanation of what was completed and what was not and the driver of why we are asking to move that money. In the cover memo submitted to Finance it is spelled out, but he did not bring it tonight. He would like to go through and answer any questions about any parks that were or were not completed as a discussion item. He will provide the Commissioners with the corrected Ordinance and the memo and an accounting of when the decision was made and by whom to round out your understanding of what happened when and why.

Commissioner Hix said you mentioned the Cross of the Martyrs Park. What is not going to be done there.

Mr. Thompson said at the top of the park we put in the gates and benches and improved accessibility and we made the site at the Cross of the Martyrs accessible from Prince Park. What was not done is that there is a drainage issue where water is flowing in a different direction now and we have been charged to redirect that water and we are doing it with foliage

Mr. Thompson said regarding Las Acequias Park, which is where the bulk of the money was going, he met with the Homeowners Association and asked them what they would like to have. They said the last thing they wanted was any more park development outside the park. The Homeowners Association respectfully asked that we not develop this second piece of land. At this time, we intend to put the funds into sprucing up the amenities in the existing park. We will put in a volleyball court in the back of the park and low key lighting on the trails. We will not do the development of the second piece of land.

Commissioner Archuleta said the GCC Park is on the remove current funding list. What is to be removed.

Mr. Thompson said the playground next to the parking lot and a sports field adjacent to that. These properties were also designated to reduce the gopher population with a fence. It was decided that was not a full proof solution to this issue. These monies, \$48,573, is not needed for fence. A different fence was constructed

around the play area.

Chair Bruneni said let's just go through that list.

Mr. Thompson said for Macaione Park, there was to be a drinking fountain. It is in the historic overlay district. The fountain would require tapping into a sanitary sewer and a water distribution line and running a line into the park requiring archeology review. There was not enough money allocated to the project. The audit also found that other projects were underfunded. We abandoned the fountain. It is a niche park.

Mr. Thompson said for the Escondido Park, it was dedicated by a developer to do double duty. To be a Park for the community and to collect storm water and have it flow into a storm drain. Our well meaning staff took the bond money and built a walking path around the perimeter. There are benches and retaining walls. From our measurement door to door, there is very little use for the park. There are no play structures. There was nothing else to spend money on in the park.

Mr. Thompson said for the Monica Lucero Park there were excess funds after the scope of work was completed. The items on the 2012 bond are adding a structure and trail. Where the baseball backstop was removed we are going to restore turf there. We are not going to move 2008 monies to compete the 2012 list.

Commissioner Wolf asked on the Las Acequias Park, who decided previously to put in a ball field in phase 4.

Mr. Thompson said there were a number of people involved in the 2008 Bond issue. POSAC was heavily involved in the scope of work. The Parks Division was under the Public Works Department at that time so they were involved as well.

Commissioner Wolf asked did they consult with the Homeowners Association.

Mr. Thompson said he could not address that.

Commissioner Wolf said it is interesting they didn't want the ball fields.

Mr. Thompson said they don't want the traffic.

Commissioner Wolf said as far as grass fields there is not much on the southside.

Mr. Thompson said SWAN Park is a regional park. We are working on the water reuse issue now.

Mr. Thompson said they are hoping that in the Master Plan exercise that we will all do, to identify where we can impact youth sports and competitive sports most effectively. We have tried to do too much in every park. It is better to accumulate those

lighted, irrigated sports complexes in regional parks and put a backstop and infield in neighborhood parks.

Mr. Thompson said he was pretty sure this will get bounced from Finance on Monday.

Commissioner Hix asked if it would be helpful to get a motion from the Commission to support the spirit of the request.

Commissioner Hix said he could make a motion that there is not enough information to vote on specifics but the Commission could support the intent of what you are trying to do.

Mr. Thompson said we will not take this to Committee without your support.

Mr. Thompson said Rob sent the memo to the City Manager with the amount blank. We did not know what the amount was before he left on his trip. This is not the document he would ask the Commission to consider.

MOTION Commissioner Hix made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vasquez, to table the item until the next meeting, emergency or otherwise.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Thompson said he will call Rob tonight and the City Manager tomorrow and resolve if we need an emergency meeting.

Chair Bruneni said the information will be sent out to us before the meeting and in time for us to look at. If anyone has any questions, please contact her.

Commissioner Hix left the meeting due to an obligation.

B. VICE CHAIRMAN NOMINATIONS

Chair Bruneni said she has received one self nomination. She appoints the Vice Chair and would like to appoint that person, Bridget Wolf. Bridget Wolf was appointed as Vice Chair.

7. DISCUSSION: MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Mr. Thompson said they would like to charge the Commission with helping them to finalize this issue. Basically there is a move afoot to change how Parks accepts donations from the public for the installation of amenities or trees for placement in the Park. They have reviewed three plans from other cities. There was a document

executed by POSAC. He has reviewed it with the Chair and it is repetitive and contains opposing statements. They have decided to remove the detail from the document and put it in the guidelines that are referenced in the document. We did not want to tie the Governing Body or Parks to a flawed policy. They are amendable by the Commission. We will distribute this document to the Commissioners electronically. We have asked the Commission to allow the Parks Division Director to receive an offer from the public, meet with them, go through steps with them and then basically once it is donated it is property of the City. The City has the right to move or alter the Memorial because things change. There is a clause in the guidelines that for major donations they would be handled by the Governing Body and the City Manager. We are asking for permission to accept donations and approve the Memorial.

Chair Bruneni you were also going to streamline what options people have.

Mr. Thompson said we envision in the Master Plan a booklet or catalogue of acceptable amenities. We have seventy two parks with a lot of different styles of benches and furniture. It would be beneficial to meet on site and give them price information. We look forward in the master planning process to develop a specifics book that could also be used for future park designers. One of the benefits for the Park Department to have a limited number of things to stock. We will put this on the agenda and distribute the last version from POSAC and the recommended changes by City Legal and ask you to vote on it at the next meeting.

Chair Bruneni asked didn't we have a request for something at a skate park. She thought we were going to receive follow up on that so we could approve it.

Commissioner Archuleta said it was for the BMX track.

Chair Bruneni said she thought that was time sensitive.

Mr. Thompson said it is time sensitive to get close to the date of death. We are taking the PSA to the City Manager for signature this week. The design presented has been forwarded to Risk Management and we do not have a decision on that.

Mr. Thompson said he will include that question when he distributes the Ordinance. If the Commission wants to rule on every proposed dedication it might become tedious. You can vote on that decision as well at the next meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There was discussion about which district each Commissioner was going to

represent. Jesse said she would email the Commissioners to confirm.

Mr. Thompson said previously, the POSAC members had an active relationship with the Council. That is why we are asking. Can we identify you as the primary contact for Councilors.

Chair Bruneni said we are heavy on two districts and not represented in two. She will follow up with Jesse to get that done.

Commissioner Wolf asked was that a structure put in place by POSAC.

Mr. Thompson said no, it was specific interest groups.

Commissioner Wolf asked was it based on the consumers of the parks.

Mr. Thompson said no, not necessarily. The idea was that we have all of the groups represented.

Mr. Thompson said the district wide representation is new.

Commissioner Wolf said she noticed at SWAN Park that we need another green trash can at the covered picnic area. The one there overflows and trash goes everywhere.

Commissioner Archuleta said now that we are heading into warmer months at DeVargas Park Skate Park it would be nice to have bike police presence on a more regular basis. A lot of the homeless population tends to accumulate at DeVargas by the river. If they could just ride through it would be helpful.

Mr. Thompson said the process for that is that you recommend it and he checks it out. It is a worthy cause.

Commissioner Archuleta said he is down there a lot and sees a lot of shenanigans.

Chair Bruneni said email me the exact details and she will reference that when she calls the Police Department. Everyone make a phone call.

Mr. Thompson said we do meet with the Chief of Police once a week at the City Manager's meeting. He has direct conversations with him. We meet with other officers at various times. We are the City's Homeless Liaison. We meet about that as well. We can ask them about this. They are aware of the homeless situation downtown. They made a presentation to POSAC on the redirection of the cameras based on their most recent crime reports.

Chair Bruneni said she will defer to staff to inform them of the request.

Commissioner Wolfe asked why the regional parks like SWAN did not have any Porta Pottys all winter.

Mr. Thompson said it is a budget issue.

Commissioner Wolfe said some people have issues where they cannot be anywhere without a bathroom.

Mr. Thompson said we do have Porta Pottys all year at some parks.

Commissioner Wolfe said if there are community members who want to use the park but need bathrooms would Parks find money for that.

Mr. Thompson said we can't find money but he can ask about it. We have a contractor and a defined amount of money. We did not ask for an increase this year. We can take it under advisement.

Commissioner Wolfe said having a Porta Potty year round at a regional park should not be a lot to ask.

Chair Bruneni asked in the four phases of SWAN Park are there bathrooms being put in.

Mr. Thompson said in phase 2, a vault bathroom.

Chair Bruneni said we need to work toward getting phase 2 to go into effect.

Commissioner Vasquez said you could reallocate money.

Mr. Thompson said he will put this on the next agenda as an action item.

**10. CONFIRM DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING
(Tuesday, April 19, 2016)**

This was confirmed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Victoria Bruneni, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer