

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
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January 15, 2019

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Call to Order	Peggy Vasquez, Vice Chair of PARC called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Parks and Recreation Offices.	1
Roll Call	A quorum was established with roll call.	1
Approval of the Agenda	Mr. Foreback moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second from Mr. Sidebottom which passed by voice vote.	1
Review and Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2018	<i>Corrections:</i> Page 1 Change Mr. Vasquez to Ms. Vasquez Mr. Foreback moved to approve the minutes as amended with a second from Ms. Freilich which passed by voice vote.	1,2
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Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.	5
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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
Parks and Recreation Offices, 1142 Siler Road, Building C
January 15, 2019 – 5:30PM to 6:30 PM
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Peggy Vasquez, Vice Chair of PARC called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Parks and Recreation Offices. A quorum was established with roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Peggy Vasquez, Vice Chair
Terence Foreback
Patricia Cardona
Loralee Freilich
David Sidebottom
Joseph Cosby

Absent/Excused:

Victoria Bruneni, Chair
Tom Dominguez

Staff & Others Present:

John Munoz, Director Parks and Recreation Director
Richard Thompson, Parks Director
Linda Vigil, Stenographer
Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Katherine O'Brien, Tree Board

NOTE: All items in the packet for all agenda items were incorporated herewith by reference. The original packet is on file with the City Parks and Recreation Staff.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Foreback moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second from Mr. Sidebottom which passed by voice vote.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 20, 2018

Correction:

Page 1 Change Mr. Vasquez to Ms. Vasquez

Mr. Munoz discussed emailing and also printing the minutes before the meeting so that members can review. Mr. Munoz states they will print a few copies for the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Foreback moved to approve the minutes as amended with a second from Ms. Freilich which passed by voice vote.

5. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Thompson states the trails, recreation centers, City Hall and Convention Center have needed snow removal with the recent storms. There were a few special events at the Plaze. The lighting of the tree for Christmas, the farolitos and the New Year's Eve lighting were all well attended.

Mr. Thompson explained they will be formulating budget numbers, and will approach it differently. They are interviewing seasonal employees early and they hope to be ready when the grass starts growing.

Mr. Munoz reported the tree lighting had a record number of 6,000 people. The New Year's Eve event had around 1,500 attendees even with the low temperatures.

Mr. Munoz states they will keep the lights on until after Valentine's Day on the Plaza. They are looking at budgeting for lights that can stay on for other Holidays.

Ms. Freilich states the lights are so different and artistic it would be great to leave them on all the time. Mr. Thompson states they are looking into buying lights that have multi colored LED's combo.

Mr. Munoz states they are considering working with the tree board less to have less events on the Plaza to protect the trees. They can possibly shift some events to different areas and spread it out.

Mr. Munoz discussed some recent articles in the newspaper about some accidents or injuries on the trails. They want to formulate the budget to hire more staff. Perhaps they can place barricades and blocks on trails that aren't serviced yet. They want to keep people safe and maintain without spending too much money.

Mr. Munoz asked some Department heads and some of the City Officials to work with the snow removal team and shovel snow. There was a great turnout and the employees enjoyed it.

Ms. Vasquez asked how many seasonal employees they will hire. Mr. Thompson stated there would be twenty nine (29) seasonal employees.

Mr. Foreback asked if they have ever shoveled snow off the trails. Mr. Thompson explained the concrete trails only, the plow can be what is ruining the bridge decking.

Mr. Thompson explained they use a non-sodium chloride salt.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

There was not any new business to discuss.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Freilich thinks it is a good idea to help form a neighborhood brigade to help senior citizens with snow removal.

Mr. Thompson explained through Community Services they have programs. Mr. Munoz will speak to the new Director.

Ms. Cardona asked if there was a way to track constituent issues by district. Mr. Thompson has a list he can download and will get it to them.

Mr. Munoz will also check with the new Constituent Services Director.

Ms. Cardona asked if they can sort it by category and district. It's a good time to start since it's the beginning of the year.

Mr. Cosby asked what the big issues are. In Ortiz Park it was theft and the folks were worried about it and there are two cameras. But who is in charge of it. People will talk but no one knows anything.

Mr. Munoz states they can have the PD to do extra patrols in that area. The cameras are not functional.

Mr. Munoz will work on getting more patrols and get with IT to see if there are plans to start using them or remove them.

Ms. Freilich asked if it is possible to coordinate with neighborhood watch groups.

Mr. Munoz states they had public outreach it's a great idea they work and gave a good example of what to do.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Otto wanted to attend a PARC meeting until tonight. He wanted to inform members that there will be an event at Frenchy's Park on February 9, 2019 at 10:00 am. It will be Love Your River Day. Rain or shine. The members will share the info.

Ms. Vasquez asked how they advertise it. Mr. Otto states they have posted it in many places and on the radio.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. O'Brien reported at the November meeting at PARC they approved the Tree Board's recommendations. With the caveat that one recommendation was to streamline the tree list on the website. She spoke to the author of the list and asked if there is a way to keep the old list on a separate tab.

Ms. O'Brien states they still will need help simplifying the list. Mr. Foreback will help.

Ms. O'Brien announced the conference "Think Trees" will be in Albuquerque and it is an entire conference about NM trees.

Ms. O'Brien stated the Tree Board only has five members and has had a vacancy for six months. They meet next week if anyone is interested in attending.

Ms. Freilich suggest she contact the SF native plants Society for a member. Maybe they can coordinate field trips.

Mr. Cosby is the newest member and would like to hear from staff about the issues they see.

Mr. Munoz discussed the reorganization and the idea to revamp staff. If there were more people to handle parks and open spaces it would be great for the City and the citizens.

There are 77 parks, 208 medians, municipal buildings and some school properties. They have good hard working team members but they need some support. There is a lot of differed maintenance. It needs to match what the constituents need. They have equipment that needs to be replaced or that is not working.

Mr. Munoz explained there are some issues with the facilities. They proposed funding for improvements.

When they begin work it is a burden on the constituents however it will be nice once they fix the problems. Since there is work being done at some facilities, the GCCC accepts the passes to all other facilities. Also, all Federal employees that are affected by the Government shutdown are allowed to use the facilities for free.

Mr. Cosby asked if the Federal employees know they can use it for free. Mr. Munoz states the press release went out and they will post it on the web.

Ms. Cardona asked about the staffing issues and the recycling problem at Ft. Marcy.

They are going to move it to a PNM Sub Station for now.

Ms. Freilich explained her issue with the medians having nothing on them. She suggested a plant to give it some substance.

Mr. Munoz states there are some areas in the City that they could use as open space for more amenities.

Ms. Cardona asked when they are planning the greening areas if they looking at more native plants. Plants that will self-sustain.

Mr. Munoz states they look at it, another project is to involve private/public partnership they want to work with local business and revamp the "Adopt a Median Program".

Ms. Cardona asked about the monitoring of the watering system. Mr. Thompson explained the water budget system which is run by the SF Water Department.

Mr. Thompson states they are introducing species and monitoring their success. They have an influx with weeds and insects they've never seen before. Mr. Thompson states EMNRD is looking for adaptive tree species.

Ms. O'Brien states the City and Tree Board are working on water harvesting and to add curb cuts natural water to flow from the roads.

10. CONFIRM DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

SIGNATURES

Victoria Bruneni, Chair



Linda Vigil, Stenographer