

Minutes of the Wednesday, July 8, 2009
El Paso County Park Advisory Board Meeting
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room
27 E Vermijo, 3rd Floor
Colorado Springs, Colorado

	<u>Members:</u>	<u>Staff Present:</u>
Present:	Jane Fredman, Chair	Jerry Westling, Parks Div. Manager
	Kimberly Tyler-James, Secretary	Todd Marts, Recreation & Cultural Serv. Mgr.
	Warren Hill, 1 st Vice Chair	Nancy Bernard, Interpretive Specialist
	Ed Browne, 2 nd Vice Chair	Sandra Daughtry, Staff Liaison
	Jim Mariner	
	Barbara Remy	
Absent:	Robert Altenbernd	
	Martha Johnson	
	Chris Meyer	

The following minutes are a summary of the proceedings. An audio duplication is available upon request at the El Paso County Parks Administration Office.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Jane Fredman.

2. Approval of Agenda

Jim Mariner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Ed Browne seconded the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Members voted unanimously in favor of approving the meeting agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

Barbara Remy questioned the use of the word “center” in reference to the equestrian area in item #8; the last sentence of the second paragraph of the June minutes. It was agreed that the word “center” should be replaced as it would more likely be an equestrian gravel parking area instead of a building. **Barbara Remy moved to approve the June 2009, meeting minutes with the change. Warren Hill seconded the motion to approve the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.**

4. Introductions

Introduction of new PAB Member: Mr. Altenbernd was not present.

May staff spotlight: Nancy Bernard was introduced later in the meeting.

5. Citizen Comments / Correspondence:

None

6. Monthly Report

Jerry Westling began by pointing out park and fairground revenues, various fundraising projects, and the number of volunteers. It was decided that a new column would be added to the report indicating last year's rental numbers for comparison.

Board member, Barbara Remy, asked questions pertaining to Rock Island Trail, the June volunteer numbers, and the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup program. Members and staff discussed the importance of visiting the parks and a decision was made that a park board retreat and a park tour would be scheduled to take place after all new members are present.

Jane Fredman made reference to Park Advisory Board Members' discussion during the April meeting about whether conservation easements could be placed on park properties and inquired about the progress of researching the park files. The Parks Division lacks sufficient staff to perform the records research necessary to determine the funding sources for each property. Jane Fredman, Jim Mariner, and Barbara Remy volunteered to help perform the necessary research.

Various topics were talked about including: potential funding, conveyance of the Pineries property, Cathedral Pines, the Black Forest Master Plan, the GOCO grant, the Maxwell Street trail wash-out, the Black Forest Section 16 Pipeline Trail, the Black Forest Trail Association, and the OHV Park. Members were informed that a "Fishing is Fun" grant was received for Homestead Regional Park.

It was related that a new Parks Planner has been selected and that the vacant Parks Administrative Manager position was being downgraded to an Administrative Supervisor position and may be advertised soon. Jane Fredman requested that Todd Marts be a part of the interview team for this position. Ed Browne pointed out the number of spectators that attended the Sand Creek Sports national event held on the Bear Creek Regional Park west trails and advised that spectators should be reported in the facility use numbers.

Barbary Remy wanted to publicly congratulate Dana Nordstrom and those involved in receiving the \$43,000 GOCO grant to construct a pavilion at the Fairgrounds. Jane Fredman acknowledged Nancy Bernard for her efforts in requesting additional financial support from the Fountain Valley Foundation for El Paso County Parks and Nature Center needs.

Conversation ensued about: signage for the mountain bike trails in Bear Creek Regional Park, the Ute Pass Trail System, the possibility of vandalism at the Section 16 picnic table pad, credit to the Boy Scouts for placing signage in Black Forest Regional Park, Cathedral Pines, the playground replacement at Fox Run Regional Park, and the idea of

using Adopt-a-Highway at Grinnell Blvd. It was suggested that someone from the Parks Division contact Ann Carson of the Conservation Core to help with Grinnell Blvd.

Next, sub-division reviews were talked about and it was affirmed that the new planner will screen the requests and keep the board aware of the reviews.

At this time, everyone's focus was turned back to Introductions and Nancy Bernard from Fountain Creek Nature Center was introduced. Ms. Bernard was chosen as the "Caught in the Act" May Staff Spotlight recipient. Ms. Bernard was recognized for her many contributions to El Paso County Parks, and for her recent creativity and initiative in finding new funding sources, building relationships, and keeping the nature center going.

7. Subdivision Recommendations

None to review

8. Information/Action Items

A. 2009 NOCO Achievement Award

Todd Marts presented the NOCO Achievement Award highlighting the partnership between the County and the Docent organization. The uniqueness of the relationship was stressed and how more non-profits need to utilize this type of approach and promote change. Jeff Green will accept the national award on behalf of Mr. Marts, as El Paso County won six awards, one being Mr. Green, who received the County Manager of the Year Award!

B. Pikes Peak Council (BSA) – Fees

Tom Jensen, District Executive of the Pikes Peak Council of the Boy Scouts of America, addressed Park Board Members telling them of the fifteen year history of the Cub Scout Camp being held in Fox Run Regional Park. Mr. Jensen asked board members to consider a 50% reduction in the facility use fees that totaled \$2,310.

Mr. Jensen shared his views for making the request and Park Advisory Board Members examined some possibilities. Jane Fredman expressed her concern about setting precedence, and the effect any fee reduction would have upon the Parks Division budget.

Warren Hill made a motion that the Parks Advisory Board not support a waiver of the fees. Ed Browne seconded the motion not to support a waiver of the fees. The motion passed with a vote of four in favor and two opposed. (Kimberly Tyler-James and Jim Mariner opposed)

9. Board/Staff Comments

Todd Marts reminded members about the upcoming Ice Cream Social at Fox Run Regional Park and the events to be held at the County Fair July 18-25th.

Suggestions were made to reduce the amount of paper being used to prepare the board packets by printing double sided and eliminating the title pages. An effort to reduce the pages and maps for the sub-divisions will be made as well.

10. Adjourn

Jim Mariner moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 p.m. Ed Browne seconded the motion, with members agreeing unanimously to adjourn.

Kimberly Tyler James, Board Secretary