

MINUTES OF SEHNA BOARD MEETING

Saturday, April 23, 2005

In Attendance

Board Members

John Pate
 Phyllis Taylor
 Debbie Stover

Richard Macpherson
 Glenda Armstrong
 Norm Gagne

Mary Carter
 Mary Jane Willis
 Yvette Klinkmann

Ex-Officio

Kim Armano
 Catherine Aves

Millie Barnhart

Mike Klinkmann

Agenda

1. Presentation by the City of Albuquerque regarding Off-Leash Dog Park at Burton Park North
2. Spring Garage Sale
3. Zoning and Conditional Use updates – Board Policy
4. Other SEHNA Business
5. Public Input

Discussion

1. Off-Leash Dog Park Discussion

In response to the public's request for more off-leash dog parks, the City of Albuquerque (COA) representatives presented an option for converting a north section of Burton Park to such a facility. Colleen Frenz (Dept. of Municipal Development), Jay Hart (Parks & Rec), Brian Delaney (citizen advocate), Nina Bruce (Animal Control), Steve Sierra (Parks & Rec) were attendance. COA invited approx. 25 residents who live in close proximity to Burton Park to the meeting and several were in attendance.

As background, the City stated that it is considering the public's request for more parks to minimize overuse of the 6+ current dog parks. Several have already been approved. They are looking for a committee of citizens to direct what the park would look like, if Burton Park is selected. The discussion of Burton Park's "fitness" for a off-leash dog park brought many comments from the people in attendance:

- The strip in question is too small and narrow (much smaller than the 2 acres, linear shape preferred for this use)
- Lack of parking
- Will ruin turf
- Chain link fence is unattractive/spoil look of park
- Don't want to displace current usage (walking, running)

The general consensus from the public in attendance was that Burton Park is not well-suited for an off-leash dog park. Alternatives proposed included:

- Hyder Park – request for off-leash hours similar to Roosevelt Park

- Using Open Space areas (COA response was that effect on wildlife in Open Space is the #1 issue)
- Using rough areas of city golf courses
- Consideration of open hours in all city parks – this would minimize traffic, parking, and overuse of the few dog parks.

Discussion followed on maintenance and management enforcement. A permanent crew for maintenance of dog parks has been proposed in next year's budget. "Mutt mitts" will be provided for dog owners to clean up after their dogs. The city is also looking for citizen volunteers to be "eyes and ears" for maintenance and safety issues. Few problems have been reported in the existing dog parks.

Colleen Franz (COA) said she would take this input for further discussion.

2. SEHNA Garage Sale

Date set for Saturday, June 25th at Bandelier Elementary, north parking lot. On Friday, June 24th we'll collect drop-offs & pick-ups. Will put announcement on web site and create a flyer (Yvette's son to deliver). Also put ad in paper and Bandelier newsletter. Will arrange for a charitable org. to pick up leftovers on Monday.

3. Zoning & Conditional Use Updates

The Board voted to continue opposing most requests for zone changes for high walls in front setbacks, as these change the essential character of the neighborhood. Also discussed weed & litter problems, abandoned vehicles and other zoning enforcement complaints. Forms are available on the COA and SEHNA web sites for citizens to file complaints for these issues.

4. Other SEHNA Business

The Board discussed that it has approx. 168 members, with 84 on the email list. Treasurer's Report: \$1268.26 bank balance. Phyllis said she is changing the Vanguard account to a CD at a local bank for easier management.

5. Public Input

Discussed memorial tree for Monte Doyle.

Discussed speeding issue. City's response to SEHNA's concern in several locations was to install "speed humps." John to follow up on the process.