



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

WEDNESDAY, June 11th, 2025, AT 4:00 P.M.

**801 Texas Ave., City Building 3
Basement – Thorman Conference Room**

Minutes

Members Present: (6)

Mayor – Deborah Zuloaga
District 1 – Sandra Olivar
District 4 – Benjamin Avalos
District 5 – Luis Terrazas
District 7 – Marcella Carrillo (Chair)
District 8 – Ricardo Bustamante

Members Absent: (3)

District 2 – Anna Alemán (Vice-Chair)
District 3 – Michael Adjemian
District 6 – Timothy Haddox

City Staff Present

Pablo Caballero, Director
Emigdio Gonzalez, Assistant Director
Alondra Navarrete, Office Manager
Jazmine Pullom, Customer Relations Rep.
Raul Diaz, Media Specialist

City Attorney – Legal

Jesus Quintanilla, Assistant City Attorney

Public Present

Theresa Valdez
Raul Valdez

Maria Elena Sarmiento
Rubi Sarmiento

• Call to Order

Marcella Carrillo, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:19 P.M.

Marcella Carrillo, Board Chair, did a roll call.

• Public Comment (for items not on the agenda):

Three (3) members of the public were present to discuss items not on the agenda

Theresa Valdez addressed the Board to further comment on her suspension from the Wellington Chew Senior Center.

Maria Elena Sarmiento spoke to the Board regarding the Jessie Moreno Happiness Senior Center and provided commentary on her experience of the culture at the center.

Rubi Sarmiento addressed the Board to comment on the Jessie Moreno Happiness Senior Center, mentioning the presence of unfavorable treatment and cultural and leadership issues that occur at the Center.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of May 14th, 2025 – Marcella Carrillo, Board Chair

Marcella Carrillo, Board Chair, asked the Board to review the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for May 14th, 2025, minutes and approve them.

Motion by Sandra Olivar to accept the May 14th, 2025, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes as written, seconded by Benjamin Avalos.

AYES: Deborah Zuloaga, Sandra Olivar, Ben Avalos, Luis Terrazas, Marcella Carrillo, Ricardo Bustamante

NAYS:

ABSENT: Anna Alemán, Michael Adjemian, Timothy Haddox

Motion passes.

2. **Discussion & Action:** On adoption of staff recommendation to suspend Theresa Valdez for three (3) months for violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's Behavior Management Policy. – Grievance Subcommittee Member

Sandra Olivar, Grievance Subcommittee Vice-Chair, provided the Board with a general briefing of the Subcommittee's support of the staff recommendation to suspend Theresa Valdez from the Wellington Chew Senior Center.

Motion by Sandra Olivar to approve the staff recommendation of a three (3) month suspension for Theresa Valdez as recommended by the Grievance Subcommittee, seconded by Benjamin Avalos.

AYES: Deborah Zuloaga, Sandra Olivar, Benjamin Avalos, Luis Terrazas, Marcella Carrillo, Ricardo Bustamante

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Anna Alemán, Michael Adjemian, Timothy Haddox

Motion passes.

3. **Discussion & Action:** On adoption of staff recommendation to suspend Maria Elena Sarmiento for three (3) months for violation of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's Behavior Management Policy. – Grievance Subcommittee Member

Sandra Olivar, Grievance Subcommittee Vice-Chair, provided the Board with a general briefing of the Subcommittee's support of the staff recommendation to suspend Theresa Valdez from the Jessie Moreno Happiness Senior Center.

Motion by Sandra Olivar to approve the staff recommendation of a three (3) month suspension for Maria Elena Sarmiento as recommended by the Grievance Subcommittee, seconded by Benjamin Avalos.

AYES: Deborah Zuloaga, Sandra Olivar, Benjamin Avalos, Luis Terrazas, Marcella Carrillo, Ricardo Bustamante

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Anna Alemán, Michael Adjemian, Timothy Haddox

Motion passes.

4. **Presentation & Discussion:** On Upcoming Parks and Recreation Summer Programming

Raul Diaz, Media Specialist, addressed the Board alongside a PowerPoint presentation to share the events the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting throughout the summer.

Board members had questions and comments that were answered and considered by Mr. Diaz.

- **Adjournment:** 4:44 p.m.