

**Minutes
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
December 13, 2017**

On this 13th day of December, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board convened in a Regular Meeting, and the same being opened to the public at their regular meeting place; thereof, at City Hall, 303 S. Teel Drive, Devine, Texas. Notice of said meeting having been prescribed in Chapter 551, Government Code, and Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, and the following members thereof, being present, namely:

Linda Gunn
Jennifer Schott, Chairman
Debra Randall

Absent being Board Members Albert Garza and Mary Cadenhead Allison; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, City Interim Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; Tom Cate, City Attorney; Ismael Carrillo, Director of Public Works; and Superintendent Rob Flores.

Others present: Marly Davis; Mayor Herring; Councilman Cory Thompson, District #5; Joyce E. Bennett and Phillip Fitch of Devine, Texas.

Chairman Jennifer Schott called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to order.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider approval of minutes for Meeting on September 13, 2017 and Meeting on October 11, 2017.

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Gunn to approve the minutes for Meeting on September 13, 2017 and Meeting on October 11, 2017.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Albert Garza and Board Member Mary Cadenhead Allison

Motion carried.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider Inspection Report on Swimming Pool.

The Board reviewed the inspection report.

Chairman Schott expressed her concern over the report in that she feels this was just a personal opinion based from someone who has nothing to do with our town. Mayor Herring explained that this is just a preliminary looking-over of the pool situation from an aquatic engineer, and said that the report does offer repair costs to bring the pool up to code with and without the bath house.

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The Board held lengthy discussion on the swimming pool and some of the comments made were:

- Once we start going into this, it's going to cost a whole lot more.
- This takes us back to square one.
- Right now, we don't feel that Council or the City has the mindset of going to a brand new pool at any time in the near future.
- For a new pool, we are looking at over \$1.0 Million to \$2.0 Million; then we'd have to find property, and that's a whole new headache we don't want to deal with today.
- We're not sure if the City would even have \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00 to put into this pool and be able to use it for the community.
- Basically, when we run a swimming pool, we're going to operate at a loss, so we're not going to make any money.
- This could be used as a stepping stone to give our community something that it hasn't had in a very long time.
- This is not a perfect pool but it is a pool.
- Whether it's an old pool or a new pool, the issue of operating at a loss would still exist.
- Even though it's a loss to our budget; for example, \$20,000.00; the pool would still be an asset to the community.
- According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, as far as activities previously offered, it was pretty much up to the pool manager at the time; some were more willing to get the community involved.
- It's a risk but is it a risk that we're willing to take to try and better our community?
- In order for TML to insure our pool, it definitely needs to be up to code.
- The pumps for the drain are not commercial pumps; they're residential and would need to be replaced and in replacing the pumps, we'll end up having to repair all the piping.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told the Board that our City Engineer, Raul Garcia, was with the aquatic engineer at the time of the inspection. She said she also had Mr. Garcia call Mr. Brannon when we received this report, and he talked one-on-one with him. She had hoped that Mr. Garcia could've been at this meeting to answer any questions, and apologized to the Board.

Chairman Schott told the Board that she feels like this report is giving the conclusion, in Mr. Brannon's opinion, to the situation, and she feels that the Board did not get the information to assess what their opinion would be.

The Board held discussion on having their meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., so their next meeting would be on January 2, 2018.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Gunn to table this item for the next meeting on January 2, 2018, and to make sure City Engineer Raul Garcia is invited.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Albert Garza and Board Member Mary Cadenhead Allison

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Motion carried.

The third order of business was to discuss the Master Park Plan.

Brief discussion was held by the Board. This is on the agenda every time and they didn't really have anything to discuss right now.

Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, requested a large scale plat or map of the Martin Well land (by the highway) so he can sketch to see what all fits in it. He commented that he doesn't feel that the people in Devine have the patience to wait a few years, but he'd like to see what he can do. City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed Councilman Thompson that we already have one that City Engineer Raul Garcia made, and said he could have one.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider Neighborhood Parks.

Chairman Schott commented that she's been a little discouraged since the last meeting because people were so excited that we were going to get something to give back to our town, and now we're back to nothing. She talked about what we could do as a board to appease them to show that we are trying to move forward and make some changes. She talked of the sand volleyball courts and the grills at the park which she brought up at the last meeting but was met with a lot of negativity. She said she would like to ask Council individually, starting with the city administrator, for their opinions of what their short-term and long-term goals are for parks & recreation because without everyone being on the same page, she feels that they are just spinning the wheels and wasting all of our time.

Mayor Herring informed Chairman Schott that she can always put herself on the agenda or the committee as a whole to address their concerns.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez mentioned that at the last meeting they had brought up doing some things at the park such as painting and she told the Board that we did get some quotes for that. She also added that she agrees with the Board in that we do need more things at both parks, but told Chairman Schott that it's going to be up to the Board and Council.

Chairman Schott commented that she feels that we are just doing this backwards. She said that if she knew what Council's goals are, then we can work with those goals and actually get something done.

Board Member Gunn added that it would be nice to know from Council what it is that they're expecting from the Board. She also told the Board that regarding the issue with the pool, in her opinion, unless something changes overnight, she just can't see putting money into the pool. She also feels that we've started something by looking into doing some painting at the parks, repairs and the sticker issue.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez agreed that it does need painting and repairs, and some the equipment needs to be looked at; and much more. She is going to get with our Public Works Department to make sure that we maintain what we do have.

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Chairman Schott stated that she just wants to know that things are being addressed and that there is a plan of action. She said she would like to put the Board on the agenda to be able to talk to Council to find out what they feel the Board's purpose is. She said that right now, she feels like the Board was created to be the middle man between what the City dreams of having and the City saying "no" because we don't know where we're going. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez assured Chairman Schott that the Administration Department, including her staff and Public Works is not against doing more things for the parks.

A lengthy discussion carried out between Chairman Schott, the Board and Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez regarding reading material she had given to Chairman Schott, and this led to more discussion of what the people want and whether the City can afford it, and nothing being done about it. Board Member Randall commented that we need to base our decisions on what the City needs and letting Council figure out where we're going to get the money.

Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, commented that he feels all the Boards should operate as independently as possible from the City. For example, if the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board comes up with a great idea like for playground equipment, volleyball courts or BBQ pits, he recommended that they go out and have a big fundraiser. He brought up how recent local fundraisers in the community (such as HANKS) have been very successful. He told the Board that they would still need Council approval but encouraged them to reach out and do something like this to be able to move forward. He also suggested better lighting at the parks.

Chairman Schott agreed with Councilman Thompson and commented that she was inspired by his words but feels that if the rest of Council spoke that way, she feels that the Board would have way more energy in getting something done.

Discussion continued by the Board on the negative energy they get when they bring up even small things like BBQ grills. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez questioned the grill issue but stated that if they want to bring up the grills to Council, they can. Board Member Gunn also brought up the lighting issue for both parks. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez added that she agreed that there is not enough lighting and mentioned that the Hester Park is having a lot of vandalism and broken glass issues. She said there was a lot that had to be cleaned up and it took a lot of time, but lighting is definitely something that needs to be looked at.

Mayor Herring inquired about the funding issue if the Board were to raise the money on their own by doing fundraisers.

According to City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, we could have a line item called Park Contributions, like Animal Control does, but strictly to be used for the parks and any monies not used would carry over into the next year, and the contribution would need to be specific as to what it is for; she stated that City Attorney Tom Cate would be able to help us with the donations.

Mr. Phillip Fitch commented about the Briscoe Park being dark around the corners. He recommended for the Board to push the request for Council to get lighting for both parks as a safety concern. He told the Board that at least this shows that they are doing something and once the lighting

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is there, they can start pushing for other things and maybe get a little more public support on moving forward with other items. The Board seemed to like this idea.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Gunn to come together on items that we want to bring to Council and discuss them at our next meeting.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Albert Garza and Board Member Mary Cadenhead Allison

Motion carried.

The fifth order of business was to discuss and consider the Mission Statement for the Board.

Board Member Randall addressed the Board and said she's come up with a statement and even came up with a logo for City of Devine Parks & Recreation Board which has the letter D in gold with a green vine growing through it, inside a maroon block, and then below it is the saying: "Come grow with us" in green lettering.

The Board seemed to like the logo and mission statement, and discussed possibly using this as their letterhead also. Board Member Randall will send the logo and mission statement to Board Members Albert Garza and Mary Cadenhead Allison who were both absent for the meeting.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Gunn to table this item until their next meeting when all the Board members are present to allow them to see the logo and mission statement.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Albert Garza and Board Member Mary Cadenhead Allison

Motion carried.

The sixth order of business was to discuss and consider Informational Items.

- Board Member Randall reminded everyone that their meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- Board Member Gunn told the Board she would like to review the ordinance again on why the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was created, just to get direction.

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Chairman Schott called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Board Member Gunn, seconded by Board Member Randall to adjourn the meeting.

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Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Albert Garza and Board Member Mary Cadenhead Allison

Motion carried.

Discussion was held after the motion by City Attorney Tom Cate. He addressed the Board and said that it's hard work to set policy and it takes a lot of effort but the idea of lighting that they came up with today is a substantial idea. He told the Board that he doesn't want them to get discouraged; he just wants them to accept the fact that it's hard work and it's very time consuming and he wanted them to know that not everything that's brought up is going to be met with open ears.

Chairman Schott commented that her concern is that she just doesn't want to feel the negative energy; she's okay with the discussion and disagreeing but she just wants to know that we are all wanting to move forward.

According to City Attorney Tom Cate, he feels that Council values their opinion or they would've never created the board. He explained that Council has other jobs too and they're not just looking at Parks & Recreation; they're looking at everything concerning the City such as the replacement of the water lines. He added that the Council actually needs help and that's why the Board was created.

Chairman

Secretary