

Minutes
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
January 15, 2018

On this 15th day of January, 2018, at 6:00 p.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
Debra Randall
Mary Cadenhead Allison

Absent being Board Members Jennifer Schott and Albert Garza; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; and Tom Cate, City Attorney.

Others present: Marly Davis, Devine News; Mayor Herring; City Engineer Raul Garcia; Councilman David Espinosa, District #3; and Councilman Cory Thompson, District #5; of Devine, Texas.

Board Member Debra Randall 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 December 13, 2017.

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Motion by Board Member Gunn, seconded by Board Member Allison to approve the minutes for meeting on December 13, 2017.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Jennifer Schott Board Member Albert Garza

Motion carried.

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

City Engineer Raul Garcia was present for the meeting, and Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez tried to get a hold of Mr. C.T. Brannon, the engineer who did the inspection at the swimming pool, via phone, but was unsuccessful.

Board Member Randall told the Board that we're probably looking at \$75,000 - \$100,000 to get our pool up to code and viable to use.

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City Engineer Raul Garcia told the Board that he is not a swimming pool inspector, but explained that the way he understood it, this would be to bring the swimming pool up to code to where it can be useable. He explained that Mr. Brannon mentions the piping in the letter. He said that Mr. Brannon had looked at the pumps, and he's saying that the pumps and the motor should be big enough to turn the water but the piping is not sufficient to do this; it is undersized. Mr. Garcia explained that the water should be turned once every so many hours in order to keep it filtered and for it to be disinfected, so the piping needs to be increased in order to turn the water sufficiently. However, the piping is not included in the price. He explained that what Mr. Brannon is talking about is taking the pool the way it is now and then bringing it up to code, and he told the Board that these are things that need to be done.

City Engineer Raul Garcia also talked about handicap accessibility. He said that right now there are steps going up to the pool, and he told the Board that we would need a sidewalk ramped up to the pool. Another thing that he noticed is the terrain and the elevation. He explained that currently the sidewalk is on the south side but he recommends moving it on the north side because it's less elevation to make up. He told the Board that based on what he knows about sidewalks, it will take around 90 to 100 feet of walk to get this done and we're looking at approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 to do this.

The other thing that Mr. Garcia talked about is the parking area which is a bit tilted and steep and needs to be flattened out, and we need one to two handicap parking spaces to be ADA compliant. He said this would cost another couple of thousand, so we're looking at an additional \$6,000 to \$8,000 to take care of all of this, plus the piping.

City Engineer Raul Garcia told the Board that he knows a little bit about piping but explained that what's underneath there and what needs to be done there, is a big question mark; and he would need to look further into that. However, he guesstimated that it would cost somewhere around \$30,000 to \$40,000 to do the piping.

Board Member Allison commented that nobody knows what the mechanics of the pool is like underneath; the filtering system or any of that. We have no idea.

City Engineer Raul Garcia agreed with Board Member Allison and stated that he doesn't know what is underneath and we need to find out but added that he doesn't know if there are any plans anywhere of that pool or not. He said he would really not put the pool in operation without having sufficient turning capacity.

The Board held brief discussion and pretty much stated that they understood the report to say that the filtration system is sufficient but not sure if the pipes are. City Engineer Raul Garcia agreed with the Board.

Mayor Herring inquired if Mr. Brannon had said anything about fixing the cracks in the pool or re-lining the whole pool. He spoke of a visible crack to the side of the diving board. City Engineer Raul Garcia commented that from what Mr. Brannon saw, he did not see a problem. He explained that he had only seen the surface of the pool but from what Mr. Brannon saw, the pool seemed to be in good condition. But, he added that there are some cracks that are not visible to us; however, cracks can be sealed and the pool can be painted.

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Board Member Allison inquired about a chair-lift device for handicapped people to get them in and out of the pool and asked if this would be code compliant. According to City Engineer Raul Garcia, that is a little overboard. He said they would still need a ramp to get them to the pool. He spoke about a ramp that gradually slopes into the pool and said that is something we might be able to do but he's not sure.

Board Member Allison wanted to know if City Engineer Raul Garcia found it advantageous to take out the diving board because, to her, it seems that most swimming pools these days do not have diving boards. City Engineer Raul Garcia agreed and stated that the pool inspector is recommending to remove the diving board because it would be safer.

Going back to the filtration system and the piping, Board Member Gunn inquired if this was a new piping system put in by Fred Morales. The Board held discussion; they did not know and felt they would need to ask Mr. Morales that question. City Engineer Raul Garcia told the Board that if the pool was operating, the pipes are large enough; however, they are not adequate to get the water into the pool and then to drain it out.

Board member Gunn commented that personally she doesn't feel that we should put any more money into this pool. She feels we're just spending more money and time and told the Board that, yes, it would be nice to have a pool but at the end of this, she's going to be against it. She told the Board that Board Members Schott and Garza were not here but the ultimate decision is up to Council and, in good conscience, as a taxpayer, she doesn't recommend moving forward with this.

Board Member Randall stated that she believes it is the Board's job to come up with something for the community because she feels they need this; she said that, today, we have nothing for them. She feels that the community needs to know that we're fighting for them to have something. She realizes it's a big expense but if we go brand new, we're going to be spending \$2 - \$3 Million, and we don't have that kind of money. She added that \$100,000 isn't exactly something we want to spend either but said that it's \$100,000 versus \$2 Million, and it would be something for the community that all ages can use. She spoke of a lot of things that can be done with the pool for the City. Board Member Randall stated that, in her opinion, we should bring it up to Council and beg them to take over the pool and get this thing going so that this summer, our community can start using it.

Board Member Allison expressed her opinion next and stated that she would love to see a pool for the community but, like Board Member Gunn, she has a problem of sending good money after bad because this is an old pool, and they do diminish in value and in functionality. She was concerned about the outlay of this kind of money which will probably come out to over \$200,000. She added that she is more inclined to be in favor of doing something else that would not be that expensive, and have the community involved in it. Board Member Allison said she's looked at splash pads which a lot of people are against, but said that they seem to run more efficiently and are more cost effective. She's seen them everywhere in a lot of cities and even though they're geared more for children, she's seen some grown-ups enjoying them. However, she agrees with Board Member Randall in that she feels we need to do something for our community.

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Another problem Board Member Allison has with our pool is that it is not centrally located within the City. She commented that the Southside population has been underserved for many years, and she talked about the John Curio Park needing more for the children so if we're going to do anything, we need to do something for that park as well.

Mayor Herring informed the Board that according to a conversation with Judy Langford, we don't have to go for a \$1-\$2 Million park; we can go for a lot smaller one, not to exceed \$75,000. He explained that it would be different requirements and we wouldn't have to follow the Master Park Plan; the grant would be for \$75,000 and it would be a lot less paperwork, but there's a lot we can do with \$75,000.

Board Member Allison quickly agreed that this would be a much do-able thing to do for the neighborhood parks. She said we could start with this and if successful, we can sell it to get funding for the bigger park. We need to work in baby steps.

Board Member Randall commented that she's looking at the pool as a stepping stone for the community because eventually we want to make the big park a reality where we can put other things in for the community, but this pool is a stepping stone to give them something now until we can make the other things a reality.

Mayor Herring told the Board that if we already have a functioning pool, it makes it difficult to get funding for a new pool.

The Board Members held more discussion on the current swimming pool maybe being sufficient for now and the fact that the pool has always been on the north side of town.

City Engineer Raul Garcia informed the Board that in addition to everything, the bathrooms are not ADA compliant. Board Member Randall suggested just adding a separate bathroom on the outside that could be ADA compliant, and to include it as part of the \$100,000 total cost. She said it would be less expensive than breaking down the old bathroom and trying to make it adaptable.

Board Member Allison inquired of Raul what he thought the year-round figure should be on this turnkey; to get it going with everything that we've discussed. City Engineer Raul Garcia discussed the very minimum required for the men's and ladies' bathrooms in order for them to be ADA compliant, could be in the vicinity of around \$75,000.00 because there's also plumbing to take into consideration. Board Members Randall and Allison told City Engineer Raul Garcia they are just talking about adding one ADA uni-sex family-style bathroom. Mr. Garcia said that would be something he could look into, but he told the ladies that this is something they do need to consider.

Board Member Allison inquired about the cost of maintaining the pool; however, Board Member Randall stated that we need for Council to say, yes, before we can even start the process, and commented that our Board should be taking care of that anyway. She stated that if the City hires someone to take care of the pool, nobody is really overseeing it, so she feels that it should be the Board's job to do this to make sure the pool is being taken care of properly.

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Board Member Gunn commented that we are at a point where we've talked about this so much but wished we had a full quorum. She asked if the Board was ready to throw it out to Council, or do we want to have a full quorum before we make a motion. Board Member Allison inquired if our bylaws allowed them to take electronic votes. City Attorney Tom Cate advised the Board that we are not set up for that. He said they would need to be here or have a Skype arrangement set up. The Board discussed not liking to have to table this again, and feared not being able to have a pool ready for the summer.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that we would be having a Special Meeting on February 6, 2018 for a water meter project.

Board Member Gunn advised that the Board needs to make the recommendation whether we're going to ask Council to move forward with this or say that we don't want to do anything more with this because it's already the 15th of January.

Mr. Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, addressed the Board and mentioned that we have a petition for the pool that was signed by multiple people which was turned in at the same time the petition to form the Parks Board was turned in many months ago. He explained that those people were requesting that the pool be taken back by the City. He said that he feels that those people need an answer in one way or another.

The Board held some discussion on the petition being turned in to City Council. Board Member Allison told the Board that she had asked Fred Morales if he had any caveats or contingencies with this, and he had said, no, that the City could do whatever they felt like doing; they could destroy it, use it for a pool, or use it for something else, but he was going to gift the City this property. More discussion was held on the petition and the Board agreed that they need to come up with a decision.

Mayor Herring and Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez held discussion on possibly having a council meeting on January 30, 2018, rather than February 6th and said the Parks Board could have their meeting on the day before, on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Gunn to table this item and put it back on the agenda for January 29, 2018 to decide on what recommendations we will be giving to City Council.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Jennifer Schott Board Member Albert Garza

Motion carried.

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The third order of business was to discuss and consider Lighting at the Briscoe and John Curcio City Parks.

Board Member Randall told the Board that it's been brought to their attention that there's been some vandalism at the John Curcio City Park. There's been broken glass, trash, etc. At the last meeting, Mr. Phillip Fitch brought up the lighting issue and Councilman Thompson also brought up lighting for the Briscoe Park, and Board Member Randall said it would be nice for us all to have lighting to walk the path at the Briscoe Park and also to have lighting at the John Curcio Park just so we don't have problems.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that she had Public Works go out during the night to check out the lighting situation, and said that right now she has our Code Compliance Officer, Eddie Diaz trying to find out from AEP on what it's going to cost, so the leg work has started on this for Council. She told the Board that two lights need to be installed at each park. Comments were made that this is a safety issue and that the lighting for both parks would be amazing because it is so dark at both parks and hopefully it will cut down on the vandalism. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez will let the Board know when this has been done so that they can put it on their agenda to bring up to Council.

No action was taken on this item.

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

Board Member Randall informed the Board of the mission statement she came up with for the Parks & Recreation Parks Board and handed out sheets of the logo to the Board members. They all seemed to like it. The mission statement reads: "Come Grow with Us." Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez also mentioned that their mission statement was put in the City's monthly newsletter. She also informed the Board that we will have name plates done for all the Boards. Board Member Randall said the Board can use this mission statement/slogan for their letterheads.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Gunn to accept the Mission Statement for the Board.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Jennifer Schott Board Member Albert Garza

Motion carried.

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

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Board Member Gunn commented that she agrees with Board Member Allison in that everything does seem to be over at the Briscoe Park in the Colonial Oaks area, but there are times that she's considered taking her grandson to the John Curcio Park because it's closer. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez explained that before, these grants only allowed us to use the money on one park but now, with the smaller grants, we can work with both parks at the same time.

Board Member Allison talked to the Board about pocket parks which a lot of cities are going with – little pockets within the density of the neighborhoods. She told the Board that this made better sense to her and that it would better serve that population that doesn't get served often. Then, later, we can work on the larger parks.

The Board held more discussion on the parks, namely:

- We need to look into having a Volleyball Court or even more equipment.
- We need to move the sand volleyball over to the Briscoe Park and maybe have the Saathoff boys help out which in turn would help them with their Eagle Scout.
- More benches are needed at the John Curcio Park.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that she is working closely with Public Works to where she's got everyone on the same page and they've started a checklist of things that need to be taken care of. She said they've already contacted someone about getting more mulch for the parks so that basically we'll be maintaining what we already have. They are also looking into painting the restrooms and taking more initiative in taking care of the inside of the restrooms. They will be getting prices for a new water fountain, and she told the Board that we can even look into getting a new water fountain for the John Curcio Park. The Public Works guys have also been trimming trees, and they even fixed a leak at the park that we've had since our last Director of Public Works, Billy Grote, was with us. Public Works is even looking at parks catalogs and checking out different parks tables, and they're even going on-line and checking out the grills.

Board members were excited and felt like things are getting done and we're moving forward. They all thanked Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Secretary/City Secretary and said they really appreciated everything she is doing.

No action was taken.

The sixth order of business was the Master Park Plan.

Board members decided to table this item until the other members are present.

No action was taken.

The seventh order of business was Informational Items.

- Board Member Randall reminded everyone of the next meeting on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion will be mostly about the pool.

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There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, motion was made by Board Member Gunn, seconded by Board Member Allison to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Member Jennifer Schott Board Member Albert Garza

Motion carried.

Chairman

Secretary