

Minutes
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
October 11, 2017

On this 11th day of October, 2017, 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
Mary Cadenhead Allison
Jennifer Schott
Debra Randall

Absent being Board Member Albert Garza; 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 Ofilia Pedroza, UB Clerk.

Others present: Mayor Herring; and Councilman Cory Thompson, District #5 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.

The minutes were not ready; therefore, no action was taken and the Board moved on to the next agenda item.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider Master Park Plan.

The Board discussed they just wanted to keep this on the agenda just for reference. No action was taken.

The third order of business was to discuss Field Trip to see the Martin Well land.

Lengthy discussion was held. Some of the comments made by Board Members were as follows:

- Great location for future planning; has access to highways.
- Great property to use it for what we want and still be able to expand; great parking. But money is an issue; we would need lots of donations.
- Perfect for the long-term plan (5-10 years); would be great for baseball fields.
- There's still plenty of land for the City to use for retail business

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Mayor Herring commented that the City's Master Plan calls for development along the frontage roads and we hope that someday we can have restaurants and a motel. The land has access from IH-35, L.C. Martin Drive and two streets behind it off of FM-3176.

Cory Thompson, Councilman-District #5, commented that he feels we still need to finish up the other two neighborhood parks that we already have. But, he would like to see the new park more as a regional park to be able to host events there like fall festivals, fairs, Fourth of July, baseball events (if there's baseball fields there). He would like to see a plan to just finish up the other neighborhood parks and move forward. Councilman Thompson added that he doesn't think we would want to put a pool or splash pad along the highway; he thinks we should package those two items together and put them somewhere else. He referred to Hondo and Castroville.

Board Member Linda Gunn summed it up with basically they all agree that the land is a good location to develop some kind of long range plan.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider inspection bids for Pool.

Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo informed the Board that he had asked the bidders what they would consider for them to come down and give us a bid on bringing the pool to be ADA compliant, and to bring it up to code. He clarified that this is not for work to be done; it is only for an assessment of what needs to be done; it's only for an inspection.

The Board reviewed three bids.

Mayor Herring informed the Board that our City Engineer Raul Garcia is recommending C.T. Brannon Corporation; he has worked with them before, and they had the lowest bid at \$1,950.00. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that Interpool, Inc. was the last company that came down to look at the pool before it was sold.

Motion by Board Member Gunn, seconded by Board Member Randall to consider taking C.T. Brannon Corporation's offer of \$1,950 to City Council.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Garza

Motion carried.

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

- a. Possible Community Day to Revitalize Park Ride

Mayor Herring informed the Board that our Public Works Department has already started on some of the work orders such as killing ants, grass cutting, taking care of the stickers, and painting the

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restrooms. He explained that these are work order requests and are not needed on the agenda until we come back with the actual costs; and then the Board will recommend to Council.

Board Member Randall suggested having a community work day at the parks and maybe starting off with having a Paint Day, especially with the restrooms. She would like to get the community involved. Discussion was held on possibly needing some maintenance things (like caulking) that need to get done by people who know what they are doing. The Board held discussion on power washing the pavilion, but maybe not having the community involved in this project.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that we did a quote for taking care of the stickers at the parks. She explained that one of the quotes was for \$3,500 for both parks; this was received by Joel Hernandez. He would be spraying and it would be 80% effective. A bid also was received by Ray's Lawn & Landscaping for \$15,000. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, if approved, Mr. Hernandez could do this in December and by spring time we can seed. Discussion was held on pre-emergent brands.

Mayor Herring told the Board that this needs to go before Council for approval and they would need to amend the agenda. However, if there's enough in the budget, it could go under General Maintenance.

b. Sand Volleyball Courts – possible donations

The Board held discussion on doing a sand volleyball court at either park. They discussed sand being really expensive and it would require donations. Mayor Herring reminded the Board that any donations that come in must go through the City first so it can be entered as a Parks Contribution, and also all receipts need to be turned in for accounting purposes. Discussion was also held on whether to put anything below the sand and around the sand as a border, and also the upkeep of the sand and grass spurs. Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo commented that he didn't want to sound negative but informed the Board that it's always going to be a burden when it requires something be done by hand. He explained all the duties that Public Works has already.

Board Member Gunn expressed that this needs to be researched some more on what it takes to do a sand volleyball, and look into the dimensions and maintenance. She said that for now, we need to work on the grass spurs at the parks, but yet, keep moving forward.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Gunn to postpone any decision or discussion on a. and b. until it's appropriate to put back on the agenda.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Garza

Motion carried.

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The sixth order of business was to discuss Splash Pad information.

Board Member Allison presented the Board with some material on splash pads and pointed out different case studies on splash pads. She addressed different problems encountered, and encouraged the Board to consider looking over all the material to get as much information as possible and to find out reasons why you would like it or not like it.

Mayor Herring held more discussion on the Splash Pad and different price ranges, and also discussed the possibility of going into Stage 1 or Stage 2 water restrictions.

Chairman Schott concluded by stating that she felt we need to fix and take care of what we have.

The seventh order of business was to discuss and consider Harvest Festival Booth.

Chairman Schott said this was her idea to have a booth at the Fall Festival; she thought it was called the Harvest Festival. She thought it would be a good idea to get T-Shirts made for the Parks & Recreation Board and answer any questions that people might have, and be able to let people know what it is that they're wanting to do.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez suggested that this would be a good idea for future festivals when they have more information to offer and possibly get people to sign up and help.

Board Member Gunn commented that this might be too early to do this; they're not ready.

Mayor Herring assured the Board that they are doing a great job and he appreciates them doing it, and added that everything is going to take time. He told them that their job is to make recommendations only to City Council but reminded them that they have no administrative powers. He explained that if, for example, they see a broken swing at the park, they must begin by calling or emailing Dora first so that a work order can be done. He pointed out to select one spokesperson to do this.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Gunn to postpone this until next year or until further notice.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Garza

Motion carried.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez held discussion after the motion. She pointed out to the Board that the City does go out with a monthly newsletter and mentioned that we would be more than happy to put something in there, like trying to get people to be more involved.

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

Board Member Debra Randall is working one. Right now she has: “Bringing the Community Together to Enjoy the Parks & Recreation Areas of Devine.” She said she is still working on it, and just wants something simple. The Board held discussion on wanting a catchy slogan that they can use on printed material or koozies, or whatever.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez suggested they come before Council so they can allow for the Parks & Recreation Board to have a mission statement. She said no other Board has a mission statement, so they would be the first.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Chairman Schott to take it to Council for permission to develop a Mission Statement for our Parks & Recreation Board.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Garza

Motion carried.

The ninth order of business was Informational Items.

- Clarification on restrictions on pool – Board Member Allison informed the Board that she spoke to Fred Morales a couple of times about there being any strings attached to his offer. His response was, “Absolutely not!” He stated that whatever the City wants to do with the pool once they accept it would be fine with him; it would no longer be his and he doesn’t care. He is giving the land to the City with no ties attached.
- Pool & Golf Course – Discussion was held on the pool and the golf course being together. An inquiry was made regarding the original grant to the City and about the two not to be separated. Mayor Herring clarified that it was not a grant; the land was donated by the Briscoe and the Ingram families. According to Mayor Herring we shouldn’t be having this discussion. The pool was deeded to the City but it had to stay as public recreation.
- Zoning change – Fred Morales came before City Council to change the zoning because he wanted to build apartments. Mayor Herring stated that if there are no strings attached, there are still things we need to do to make sure there were no liens, so it’s not that simple.
- Board Member Allison stated that we need to do something for this community. She said it’s going to cost us money but we need to provide something for families.
- Non-profit organization – Spoke of the Golf Course still having to pay property taxes. The City owns the first nine holes of the Golf Course.

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 Allison to adjourn the meeting.

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Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Garza

Motion carried.

Chairman

Secretary