

Minutes
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
September 13, 2017

On this 13th day of September, 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:

Albert Garza
Linda Gunn
Mary Cadenhead Allison
Jennifer Schott
Debra Randall

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: Marly Davis, Devine News; Mayor Herring; Councilwoman Kathy Wilkins, District #4, Councilman Cory Thompson, District #5; and Eva Thompson 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 ratifying and confirming appointment of Vice-Chair Person.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Randall to ratify the appointment of Board Member Albert Garza as the Vice-Chair Person.

Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider approval of minutes for Meeting on September 6, 2017.

Board reviewed minutes.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Gunn to approve minutes for Meeting on September 6, 2017.

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Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider the Swimming Pool.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez wanted the Board to know that we have not dropped the ball on this. She said she has been calling TML about this; however, she was told by TML that they cannot do the inspection because the swimming pool is not owned by the City and they do not go on private property. This would have to be done by a private engineer who specializes in this. Ms. Rodriguez explained that due to Hurricane Harvey, TML has been very busy but they assured her that they haven't forgotten us; they will be sending her a list of engineers, and as soon as she gets it, she will give it to the Mayor.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Vice Chairman Garza to table this item until the next meeting.

Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider Asking for Donations for Parks.

Board members reviewed sample form provided by Judy Langford to use for donations; however, Board members were expecting a promotional letter explaining to people what we are working on and discussed using the sample form provided for when they do commit to a donation.

Lengthy discussion was held by the Board members. Board Member Randall suggested coming up with a rough draft generic letter letting the people know "this is what's going on with the new Parks Advisory Board," and that in the future, we will be asking for their participation and then later asking them for donations. Board Member Garza commented that we do need to consider the Master Park Plan first before even coming up with a letter and asking for donations.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Vice-Chairman Garza to table this item.

Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

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

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Board members held lengthy discussion on Master Park Plan. Some of the comments made are as follows:

- Vice-Chairman Garza – suggested we consider eliminating the splash pad and going with a pool instead. After conducting a survey, he reported that most of the people in his district prefer to do this.
- Mayor Herring – stated that the Master Park Plan is a comprehensive plan for the entire City of Devine.
- Board Member Gunn – we need to try to implement this Master Park Plan.
- Board Member Randall – the pool can be our stepping stone.
- Board Member Allison – threw out some figures/percentages in Devine; mainly that the median income in Devine is \$36,250.00 and 32% of the people in Devine are under the age of 19. There is no recreation for the people of Devine. She pointed out that whatever we do goes back to taxes and we have to remember that people can't afford much.
- Chairman Schott – How are other cities doing this?
- Discussion was held on other neighboring cities with pools, like Castroville, Hondo and Jourdanton.
- Councilwoman Wilkins – Curious on what Fred Morales had to say about the pool not making money. Lengthy discussion was held on this regarding membership fees. Chairman Schott felt it put a bad taste in everyone's mouth, and not enough people were coming to the pool.
- Board Member Allison – stated that Fred Morales made it clear that he would back up or support whatever the City does.
- Chairman Schott – feels we got caught in a vicious cycle of splash pad vs. pool.
- Vice-Chairman Garza – we have the Plan; we just need to bring in more businesses to town or we'll end up like Moore or Natalia. He added there is nothing nice to see in this town.
- Chairman Schott – the City has neglected beautifying Devine for a long time.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Allison to postpone the Master Park Plan until the next meeting.

Board Member Allison pointed out that she wanted to make an amendment to the motion. She wants the Master Park Plan to be on our agenda because this is our bible and needs to be our guide that we can always have and use as a reference.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Randall on amending the main motion to have the Master Park Plan at every meeting.

Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

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Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Allison to postpone the Master Park Plan until the next meeting.

Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The sixth order of business was to discuss and consider Grant Application.

Chairman Schott inquired if it was possible to table this grant application and not send it by October 1st, at least not the way it is now. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez advised that would be up to City Council and there would need to be a Resolution.

Chairman Schott inquired if it's necessary that we apply for the amount of \$500,000.00. She held discussion on taking out the splash pad and putting in a basketball court but possibly lessening the amount of the grant, and repaving the park just to make it better, to give the people something. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez explained that removing the splash pad would take away a whole lot of points and we don't get points for repaving, and we wouldn't get the grant. She informed the Board that we don't have to apply for the \$500,000.00 and explained that they can go for a smaller grant if they want. She will coordinate with Judy Langford tomorrow to find out more information.

Lengthy discussion was held between Kathy Wilkins, Councilwoman-District #4, and the Board regarding the splash pad and bringing in something to the park for the kids.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that Ms. Judy Langford was just trying to go through the motions to see where the City ranked, knowing that we may not get funded. She told them that that's going to help them for when they start whatever they want to do. It was pointed out that Langford's would get paid only if we get the grant.

Board Member Randall stated, "Let's go ahead and move forward with submitting the application by October 1st because there's nothing for us to do about that because that's already in motion since it's not going to cost us money." She added that we need to find out what other grants we can go for in a smaller amount that we could do something at both parks like a basketball court in each one, or a new walking trail at each one, but said let's go for something less than \$500,000.00, and possibly get the money before 2020.

Motion by Board Member Allison to recommend to Council for City not to submit the grant application this October, and then for the Board to move forward with whatever grant is next.

There was no second, so the motion died.

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Motion by Board Member Randall, seconded by Board Member Allison to recommend to Council to let the City handle this grant, and for the Park Advisory Board to move forward with the February 1st deadline for the hiking trails.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	One – Board Member Gunn

Motion carried.

The seventh order of business was to discuss and consider Available Land.

Mayor Herring informed the Board that we have two properties of land available; we have 40 acres behind Triple-C, and we have the property behind the old Independent Grocery with access to different entrances.

Councilman Cory Thompson, District #5, addressed the Board and expressed his opinion of wanting to keep the parks that we have now and also build a fantastic park facility along IH-35. He stated that we are land locked except for the land by the highway. Vice-Chairman Garza liked this idea and commented that it would be perfect.

Board Member Gunn felt we are being premature and suggested that the Board visit land properties that are available.

More discussion was held by the Board on trails and the existing small parks.

Motion by Board Member Gunn, seconded by Board Member Allison to visit all available lands and all parks.

Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The eighth order of business was Informational Items.

- Board will tour available lands on Wednesday, September 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

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 Vice-Chairman Garza to adjourn the meeting.

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Ayes	--	Five
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

Chairman

Secretary