

**Minutes  
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
April 3, 2018**

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 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:

Mary Allison  
Jennifer Schott  
Debbie Randall

Absent being Board Members Albert Garza and Linda Gunn; thus, constituting a quorum.

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

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 March 6, 2018.

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Randall to approve the minutes for Meeting held on March 6, 2018.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Members Gunn & Garza

Motion carried.

The second order of business was an Update on Pool.

Board Member Allison informed the Board that she had spoken with Fred Morales and invited him to tonight's meeting but he told her that he was very busy and couldn't make the meeting because he works very late at night. He told Board Member Allison that he sees himself as one of the guys who holds the major stock but he didn't want to have a problem in the future, so he is trying to get all his stockholders together so that they can have a formal vote in a formal meeting. However, he also told her that he hadn't worried about it because the City had told him that we didn't want to do anything until next year, so he sort of put it on the back burner.

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Mayor Herring commented that was an absolute lie! He said “We never told him that!”

Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, stated that there was a public comment that it probably won't be ready until next year, but it was implied we'd start it this year.

Board Member Allison said she told Mr. Morales that that's not what the Board wanted. She told the Board that Mr. Morales wanted to get an appraisal because his stockholders wanted to know how much the property was worth so they'll know how much they're giving to the City.

Chairman Schott stated that those things are fair enough but said, “Why not be up front and say there's things we need to take care of.”

City Attorney Tom Cate stated that the City didn't know that, going into this deal. He said that we thought that Fred Morales had control over the whole pool and didn't have to answer to stockholders. That is what the implication was.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told the Board that the last time she spoke with Mr. Morales, it was at Triple-C, and he had asked her why we needed to have a meeting. She told him that our City Attorney needed to have some questions answered. He didn't want to meet so she offered to have our city attorney call him so they could talk, and he told her that would be better.

Discussion was held by the Board that maybe he just got too busy and put it off. Board members felt that maybe we should continue trying to get a hold of him either every two weeks or once a month.

City Attorney Tom Cate informed the Board that in the last email which he got from Mr. Morales, he stated that he was getting an appraisal and was going to meet with his stockholders, just like Board Member Allison said. He said that this implied to him that they were going to have to buy the other stockholders out.

Board Member Allison said that is not what Mr. Morales told her. He told her that he thought they would all be willing but that he and another person have controlling interest.

City Attorney Tom Cate stated that the City's premise on this was that they were going to give the swimming pool back to the City. They just wanted to get it off their hands, and we were not going to pay them anything.

According to Board Member Allison, they want to know how much they are donating to the City, probably for tax purposes.

The Board held discussion on this.

City Attorney Tom Cate told the Board that we just need to continue working on it; but right now, it's completely in Fred Morales' court.

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Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, told the Board that they approved it on the intent that it was being taken back for free and Council approved it on the intent that it was being taken back for free and if they, all of a sudden, drop a figure on us, then we're going to have to sit down and reconsider everything because that's not what anybody presumed.

According to Board Member Allison, he just wants to get rid of the pool so he doesn't have to pay taxes. Mayor Herring added that Mr. Morales had said that he didn't care what the City did with it as long as he got out from under it. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez asked Mayor Herring if he thought that Mr. Dorfmeister owned the other part. Mayor Herring stated that the biggest part of that pool was paid for by Mr. Dorfmeister.

A brief discussion was held on Mr. Dorfmeister not liking the City and that he wouldn't give it to us.

Board Member Allison told the Board that Fred Morales had indicated that it was Mr. Dorfmeister who was willing to give us back the pool.

Discussion was held on Mr. Dorfmeister.

No action was taken on this item; it was for information only.

The third order of business was to discuss Neighborhood Parks.

- a. Update on what City Council voted on during last meeting.

The Board discussed that Co-Chairman Albert Garza was supposed to get a hold of Linda Center regarding the triangular strip of land that was discussed at the last meeting; however, he was not here today.

Cory Thompson, Councilman District #5, spoke to the Board about possibly re-touring potential future sites for the smaller neighborhood pocket parks.

Mayor Herring reminded the Board that Council is committed to developing John Curcio Park first before making the effort for these other parks. The Board understood this, and said that this is just a beginning for these other parks. They held discussion on this possible pocket park being too close to the larger Briscoe Park. They talked about the big park taking years to complete.

Mayor Herring commented that the feeling of Council is that we spent a whole lot of money on the property for the John Curcio Park and the kids around there deserve it.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed the Board that the lights have been ordered and we are just waiting on AEP. She told them that the picnic tables are in but she explained that Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo had inquired about doing a concrete pad for the table at the Briscoe Park to be able to bolt it onto. However, in talking to City Engineer Raul Garcia, the concrete pad also needs to be ADA compliant. Superintendent of Public Works Rob

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Flores explained that the pad needs to extend four feet out from the table and must have a ramp leading to it in order to be ADA compliant. The Board discussed that we will need to do this for each table that we add, also for the John Curcio Park. The Board was not expecting this additional cost.

Discussion was also held on adding parking to the John Curcio Park. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez showed a map to the Board of the John Curcio Park area. The Board inquired if our Public Works Department can pour the cement. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez said that we may be able to do this, but we'll need to check with our city engineer first to find out how detailed it needs to be.

Comments were made by Board members that the renovations at the Briscoe Park are looking very nice. They commented on the pavilion already being stained and the painting of the swing sets. Superintendent of Public Works Rob Flores stated that they are still waiting on the new hardware for the swing sets. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez added that the mulch will also be ordered tomorrow, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and Public Works will be spreading it out. Also discussed was the sidewalk and the restrooms being power washed inside and out, and being able to continue doing this to maintain it since we have a power washer.

Chairman Schott made another recommendation for whenever it is feasible to do. She would like to see the walking path in front of the parking lot moved closer inside the park to keep cars from parking too close to the walking path. Mayor Herring stated that when Gary Pelech, ex-city administrator, was here, he had talked about doing this and placing poles and cables to keep cars from going onto the path. He said this is something that our Public Works Department could do, and he talked about additional parking. More discussion was held on this and possibly putting it on the agenda for next time.

The Board held discussion on the water fountain. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed them that it's been ordered but we are waiting until they are finished with the painting.

The Board inquired how the test patch of spraying the grass burrs is going. Superintendent of Public Works Rob Flores, reported that in the small patch that they sprayed, there hasn't been any new growth. He also reported that in researching around town on these weed killers, he found out that a lot of these contain arsenic. A lengthy discussion was held on this. The Prawl-H20 that we talked about using, however, does not contain arsenic, but he found out that it is not recommended for playgrounds or to be used anywhere where there are people, and it also contains a dye that turns everything yellow. Superintendent of Public Works Rob Flores told the Board that the herbicide which we use right now is what we spray everything with, so basically we are back to square one.

Chairman Jennifer Schott inquired what the schools use for the football fields. She said she has a contact number of someone from Castroville who might know of something to use; she will look into this. Board Member Allison suggested calling the County Extension Office or even A&M. According to Superintendent of Public Works Rob Flores, he is open to any help or suggestions.

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Interim City Administrator/City Secretary told the Board that Eddie has been working and doing a great job at the pavilion; however, it took him over half a day to pull staples out from each of the columns at the pavilion. She said that he just took it upon himself to do this. These are staples from when people use it for parties. She is recommending to put up some hooks instead so people can hang things like banners or balloons and not just put them on the columns but also put hooks on the top rafters. Board Member Randall suggested putting an article in the newspaper after all the work is completed and everything is all pretty, to let people know about the hooks. Chairman Schott also suggested posting up some rules maybe on a plexiglass/post. A lengthy discussion was held on how hard this is to do because these rules are not followed even at the community center.

No action taken on Item a.

- b. Update on Grills from Co-Chairman Albert Garza.

Board Member Randall reported that according to Co-Chairman Garza, he's got two committed to be done and according to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, he is still working on getting the other ones for a total of five grills; two for John Curcio Park and three for the Briscoe Park. The Board is hoping that these get done soon and that Co-Chairman Garza gets the names of the welders so that we can order plaques for them.

Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, inquired if we would also need to place these BBQ Grills on concrete pads that are also ADA compliant. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told the Board that we would need to talk to our City Engineer Raul Garcia first, before we pour any concrete, and also so he can get us a cost. More discussion was held on this.

No action was taken on Item b.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider Sand Volleyball Court for Briscoe Park.

Chairman Schott commented that this would help in taking up space at the park (by eliminating grass burrs). She also commented that she noticed that the one in Castroville isn't even bordered.

Board Member Randall passed out copies of an informational handout that she got from the internet. She said the dimensions of the court is supposed to be 59 feet by 29.6 feet. She told the Board that these were instructions basically on how deep the poles need to be and what types of sand to use, and instructions on drainage. Co-Chairman Garza was supposed to check with Commissioner Beck about getting us sand so we are still waiting on that. Board Member Randall talked to the Board in detail about the border of the court. The Board reviewed the handout.

Chairman Schott commented that she will also ask her contact person in Castroville about their sand/volleyball court because she's noticed that theirs is not bordered. City Attorney Tom Cate told the Board that the gentleman's name in Castroville is Michael Meek.

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The Board felt that this is a good start and now we need to start looking into how much all of this is going to cost and see what we can get for free.

No action taken on this item.

Information handout attached as Exhibit A.

The fifth order of business was Informational Items.

- Mayor Herring stated that there's a tree at the end of the park on Wedgewood and Windy Knoll, close to his house, that got hit by lightning a few weeks ago and split it so it needs to be removed. The Board held discussion on the tree; only part of the tree will be removed.
- Overall, the park is looking very nice.

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

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Board Members Gunn & Garza

Motion carried.

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Chairman

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Secretary