

Minutes
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
June 5, 2018

On this 5th day of June, 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
Debbie Randall
Lauren Moore

Absent being Vice Chairman Albert Garza and Board Member Linda Gunn; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Ismael Carrillo, Director of Public Works; Tom Cate, City Attorney; Raul Garcia, City Engineer; and Ofilia Pedroza, UB Clerk.

Others present: Mayor Herring; and Councilman Cory Thompson, District #5; of Devine, Texas; and Lyle Leinweber of San Antonio, Texas.

Board Member Randall called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to order.

The first order of business was to introduce newly appointed member from District 4 – Lauren Moore.

Board Member Randall introduced and welcomed our new member, Lauren Moore, representing District 4. She will be taking over Jennifer Schott's position since she got elected to the City Council.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider appointing new Chairperson for the Board.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Moore to table this item and hold off appointing a new chairperson until next month so that we can have more members present to take action.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Vice Chairman Garza and Board Member Gunn

Motion carried.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider approval of minutes for Meeting on April 3, 2018.

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The Board reviewed the minutes.

Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Moore to approve minutes for Meeting on April 3, 2018.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Vice Chairman Garza and Board Member Gunn

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was Update on Pool.

Board Member Allison and City Attorney Tom Cate both stated that neither of them have heard anything from Fred Morales.

According to City Attorney Tom Cate, we've done a title run and we're just waiting on Fred Morales. He informed the Board that the title may be in three different entities. He thinks one may be in the Incorporation, one with Fred Morales and one where they left the corporate name off (the Inc.) He explained that we could wrap it all together but they would need to have a meeting and agree that this is what they're going to do.

The Board held discussion on being under a lot of pressure even before they were appointed as an advisory board. Board Member Moore inquired about Mr. Dorfmeister in the picture. Her understanding is that Mr. Dorfmeister is a shareholder of the pool; he was probably the biggest investor. According to Board Member Allison, Mr. Dorfmeister and Mr. Fred Morales were the two major investors in the pool.

This item was tabled for next month. No action was taken.

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

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

The Board held discussion since Vice Chairman Garza was not present at the meeting. According to Board Member Randall, he has two grills started for sure, and we need a total of five. Board Member Moore told the Board that her father and brother are welders and said she may be able to help out with this.

According to Board Member Randall, the only cost to the City on this is going to be on the plaques that we will be placing on the grills to show who donated them.

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Board Member Moore offered to check with her father, but will coordinate first with Vice Chairman Garza.

b. Update on ADA Compliance for Tables and Sidewalks.

City Engineer Raul Garcia went over maps of the Briscoe Park on Windy Knoll with the Board Members. He talked about putting one handicap space. The area is already paved so he said that all we need to do is put the markings on it. He explained that the slopes are such that we do not have to do anything with the pavement; they are okay for ADA.

City Engineer Raul Garcia spoke of an existing walk which is four feet wide, which also meets the ADA requirements, which then runs into a concrete table. He told the Board that originally he wanted to relocate this table but he stated that the most economical would be remove the existing table at the end of the existing sidewalk, and build a handicap table just north of it. This is where he is proposing to place the handicap table and from there, have a sidewalk to the existing playground. The picnic table would be relocated to the south. He told the Board that this would be very simple to do.

Board Member Randall expressed confusion. City Engineer Raul Garcia explained that all this is away from the pavilion, by the trees. He explained that basically we will be constructing the concrete slab, the sidewalk from the end of the existing sidewalk to the table, and then the sidewalk from the same location back to the playground.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez stated that for the Briscoe Park, we are only doing one table but for the John Curcio Park, we are putting two tables

According to City Engineer Raul Garcia, we are ready to do the sidewalks and the new table will be moved to a new location. He clarified that nothing will be put where the old broken table was. The Board had only voted to have the table replaced; not on the location. City Engineer Raul Garcia stated that this is the best way to get to the playground equipment. The Board was okay with this.

The Board inquired about the cost for all this. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez stated that we do not know. She said we need to find out if this is all we have to do, or if we need to do more. Board Member Randall inquired on the cost if we were to put another sidewalk to the swings. According to City Engineer Raul Garcia, it would be a separate sidewalk and it can be done later, if we need it.

City Attorney Tom said he's already contacted an advocacy group about the cost, and we should know something by the next meeting. He has asked them to provide the requirements for a park to be compliant with ADA guidelines, specifically picnic tables, playground equipment and restroom facilities.

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City Engineer Raul Garcia then went over an aerial map at the John Curcio Park. He talked to the Board about tables and sidewalks. He said that we had wanted to put two ADA tables with the parking lot. He said the city has already paved the parking lot at the top of the map, but we still need to mark the handicap space at that location. We have a sidewalk going back towards the east and we have a picnic table at that location which is ADA compliant. He talked about putting another table a little to the west of it but he ran into a problem with the slope. The slope was so steep that it would cause the ramp or sidewalk to be more than 5%. He explained they decided to look at the other parking area on the Tilley side. This has not been paved yet but the City has put in some base material in that area. According to City Engineer Raul Garcia, we need to re-grade it a little bit but after that, we can put some asphalt there. Then, we can have a new sidewalk run back towards the east towards the playground equipment. There is an existing table below the sidewalk but it is not ADA compliant.

Board Member Allison brought up that the swings at the John Curcio Park do not have a bucket seat swing for the babies, like the Briscoe Park does. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary, we could add one but we'd need to amend the budget and go before Council. City Engineer Raul Garcia added that later on, a sidewalk could be extended to the swings.

City Engineer Raul Garcia told the Board that we have the plans already for the parking lot; we just need to get Council's approval before we can ask for prices. He added that he can get prices from the contractors at any time.

Board Member Randall handed out some pictures that she took and commented that the parks are looking very nice, especially the pavilion and table at the Briscoe Park. However, she said that the sign at the John Curcio Park needs attention; it looks pathetic. She offered to stain it herself. Board Member Moore talked about getting a metal sign donated, and going before Council. Board Member Randall asked her if she could get a sketch or drawing done first. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez commented that our Public Works Department doesn't have the time for this so, if Board Member Moore can look into this, it would be great because it help us. City Attorney Tom Cate stated that Board Member Moore's dad is a welder by profession, and he's done thousands of dollars of work for his business. He vouched that Mr. Moore will do a good job. A plan will need to be presented; a sketch will be done by June 19th to present to Council, and Board Members Randall and Moore will get with Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez first.

- c. Update on Street Lights for both parks.

Board Member Allison stated that she's received comments from people saying that they're happy that there are lights at the Briscoe Park but they're not enough. She inquired if we're getting lights at the John Curcio Park.

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Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez stated that we're supposed to have lights at both parks. She stated that for the John Curcio Park, she and Director of Public Works Director Ismael Carrillo met with AEP. She explained that they were wanting to put it on somebody else's pole but the property owner didn't want to, so we're going to have to put it on our property but we will need to trench for underground electricity. We will be putting two lights at John Curcio Park but will need to trench for only one of them. According to Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo, both driveways will have a light. At Briscoe Park, the lights are already up; one is on Mr. Dorfmeister's side on N. Windy Knoll and the other one is on the side of Hickory Highway. Mayor Herring commented that we're never going to satisfy people with the lights.

d. Pathway change at Briscoe Park – Map to view.

Board Member Randall stated that people walk behind the cars that are parked on the N. Windy Knoll side. She said it was brought to her attention that it may not be very safe. She added that she doesn't even know if there is a way to change the pathway.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told the Board that if they're looking at re-doing the pathway, it's going to affect what City Engineer Raul Garcia plans to do with the sidewalks. Board Member Randall agreed that we can't do anything with the pathway other than maybe having it resurfaced since it's getting very bumpy. According to Board Member Randall, she doesn't think the pathway can be moved due to the other things that we want to put in the park such as the sand volleyball, etc. She inquired if we would need to get bids for the resurfacing.

Board Member Moore suggested if it would be best to do a walking track at the John Curcio Park instead. Discussion was held on this. Board members felt that a walking track is more convenient at the Briscoe Park. Board Member Moore said she's heard of chopping up tires and making roads out of them. She pointed out that there are old tires all over town and we can utilize them.

According to Board Member Randall, the path at the Briscoe Park is an existing track right now. So, we either fix it or have it torn out. She said that personally, she would rather have it fixed. City Engineer Raul Garcia will try to get us figures on getting the pathway resurfaced.

Board Member Allison told Mr. Leinweber that he's not allowed to talk because he's not a resident. According to Board Member Randall, he can still ask questions. Mr. Leinweber asked if this was for Natalia also or just Devine. Board Member Allison told him that it's just Devine. Mr. Leinweber said he speaks for more than himself; he said he's just a representative here. Board Member Allison stated that then she was going to leave. She told the Board that this was a meeting for us, people in Devine, and not for others. Board Member Randall explained that Mr. Leinweber was a longtime resident here and he wanted to say something. Board Member Allison stated that she didn't want to seem ugly, but it's limited and said that she's had a hard time speaking at all.

Mr. Leinweber said he didn't want to interrupt anything; he just wanted to give a brief speech and then he'd be out of here, if we would entertain him for five minutes.

Mayor Herring told Board Member Allison that she needed to stay or we wouldn't have a quorum.

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Mr. Leinweber stated, “Mary, if you just give me five minutes, I will leave.” Board Member Allison responded, “Why don’t you step out and you can give your speech to people that desire to hear it.” Board Member Randall repeated that we wouldn’t have a quorum if she left and our meeting would be over, and she begged Board Member Allison to stay. She said, “Okay, but do we need to hear his speech?” Board Member Randall stated that he drove out here just to talk about his...” “Mary, I’m just here for the best interest of Devine. I grew up here; I spent 20 years here.”

Board Member Randall apologized to Lyle Leinweber and asked him if he could leave, and told him they would discuss it later. She said she was embarrassed.

Mayor Herring asked if we wanted to get him back but Board Member Randall said to just leave it because we needed Board Member Allison to stay for the meeting. She said she didn’t want to cause any more problems.

Board Member Allison said she didn’t know where the basketball court came from, and she didn’t know it was going to be someone from another place. She stated that this is just for Devine because he had asked if this was for Natalia too. Board Member Randall stated that some people from other places do come use our facilities. Board Member Allison stated that it’s a decision for the City of Devine. According to Board Member Randall, he wasn’t a decision maker, he just wanted to give his opinion about something. According to Board Member Allison, he was giving his opinion about everything. Board Member Allison apologized and said to let’s move on.

e. Update on Mulch for Playgrounds.

Board Member Randall stated that she is so excited that the mulch is in because it looks so beautiful and it was filled in very well. Interim City Administrator Dora V. Rodriguez stated that Public Works had done this, and Board Member Randall complimented them for doing such a great job.

f. Grass Burr Update

Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo addressed the Board and told them that Texas A&M did a study at some town. They found that, yes, it can be controlled but it’s going to be very costly. He said that Interim City Administrator/City Secretary did call other cities – Hondo, Castroville, Somerset and Lytle. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez said that when she called Lytle, their city secretary advised her that they are still trying to fight the stickers at their city park, and they have one person who maintains the entire park. The person she talked to in Hondo used to be the city administrator for Somerset for 10 years. He said that when he was there, they had an expert from Austin come look at their park, but he told them that’s it’s going to take time; you just can’t get rid of them. He told them that you can’t just look at the park; you have to look at the surrounding land because if you have vacant land and there’s wind, the sticker burrs will still cross over. So, it’s going to take time and money but it’s not going to happen overnight. She added that you can try to pull them out but, again, it’s a matter of what’s being blown in to the park. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, at the Hondo Park, they don’t even use chemicals because of the kids and because it’s also costly and because of the liability of the kids. According to

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Director of Public Works, Ismael Carrillo, St. Augustine and Bermuda grass will help but we would have to kill all the existing grass, and then plant new seeds of Bermuda or St. Augustine and hopefully that will take care of the grass burrs, but it still wouldn't take care of the surroundings; it's still going to blow in more.

Board Member Moore informed the Board that she had researched it on-line and the most effective method she found was where they burned the grass and the stickers, which killed the sticker burrs and with the extra carbon in the ground, it allowed the grass to grow better, without the stickers. The Board held discussion on doing this in the winter time.

Board Member Randall inquired what we could do besides the fact that it needs to be mowed. Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo spoke to the Board about only having one employee who does mowing at the parks; he also mows the well yard, wastewater plant and the airport. He explained that we are one man short right now. He agreed that it would help to cut the grass more often but said that they get very behind, especially when it rains. According to the Board, we don't have an answer, but it's an update.

g. Adding Full Basketball Court

According to Board Member Randall, since the person who was going to explain why he thought it would be a good idea to add a full basketball court isn't here, she explained that she received a complaint that the only court kids can use after school is the one across the Intermediate School on Warhorse Drive. The complaint was that it has no nets. They went out and bought chain nets and put them up last weekend. Mayor Herring explained that the reason the school doesn't promote those is because they're nothing but trouble. He stated that basketball courts are great but they seem to attract a fight every now and then.

Discussion was held on John Curcio Park needing more things at that park. Board Member Randall commented that as long as we get a basketball court, it doesn't matter to her which park gets it, but she would like a full court. Discussion was held on the difference between a full court and half court. Mayor Herring suggested that someone contact Devine Youth Sports (DYS); they're looking for a place to practice basketball and may be interested in chipping in.

Cory Thompson, Councilman for District #5, commented that we will probably need some kind of gate and locking mechanism like the tennis courts do, which means that we will need a full fence all the way around it. The fence will help keep problems out but at the same time it will also help keep the balls inside the court. Mayor Herring also added that the neighborhood might feel safer knowing that there's a time limit for kids to be there. Discussion was held on there not being enough light there even with the new lights being installed. So, the Board discussed cut off time being at dusk when the sun goes down. Discussion was also held needing to find out the specs first. Board Member Randall will find out who she needs to contact, and will bring an update to the next meeting to discuss.

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

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Motion by Board Member Allison, seconded by Board Member Moore to table this item for next month since we've been here for so long. It will be discussed next month.

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

Motion carried.

The seventh order of business was Informational Items.

- John Curcio Park – Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez spoke to a lady who owns a house on Tilley Drive beside the John Curcio Park. The lady was complaining because the house is vacant and when they come down on weekends, they saw that things were being done to it. But then, whoever they hired to clean up was causing us some problems because they were dumping trash in our park. This was actually done twice. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told the Board that we found out who was doing this and our Code Compliance Officer Eddie Diaz will be sending a letter to this person.
- Property – Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, mentioned that in talking to this lady, she might be interested in selling the property. Discussion was held on this being a huge opportunity for our park, and the fact that there would be plumbing is great.
- Mosquito spraying – Mayor Herring announced that the City will be spraying for mosquitos on Thursday night, June 7th, the night before graduation. They will be spraying all over town. They should be starting around 9:00 p.m.

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

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

Motion carried.

Chairman

Secretary