

MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

The Board convened for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation Administration building at 717 West Main, Arlington, Texas on January 12, 2009, notice of said meeting being posted as prescribed by Chapter 551, V.T.C.A., Government Code, with the following members and staff present, to wit:

Members:

Ms. Lynn Healy	Chair	Place 2
Mr. Tony Powell	Member	Place 1 – arrived at 6:45 pm
Mr. Mark James	Member	Place 3 – arrived at 6:38 pm
Mr. Gene Gehring	Member	Place 4
Ms. Sue Phillips	Member	Place 5
Mr. Glenn Troutman	Member	Place 6
Ms. Lanora Wright	Member	Place 7
Mr. Patrick Wyatt	Member	Place 8
Ms. Susan Eaves	Member	Place 9 - absent
Mr. Eric Walker	Youth Member	Place 10

Staff:

Pete Jamieson	Director - PARD
Matt Young	Assistant Director - PARD
Bill Gilmore	Assistant Director - PARD
Gary Packan	Assistant Director - PARD
Jennifer Chadwell	Assistant to the Director - PARD
De'Onna Garner	Parks Planning Manager - PARD
Shannon Rudiger	Business Services Manager – PARD
Maria Campbell	Aquatics Manager
Olivia Ramos	Aquatics Program Coordinator

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairwoman Lynn Healy called the Board Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Jamieson introduced the Center Stage award recipients and provided a brief update as to why they were chosen for their particular awards.

III. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chairwoman Healy asked for approval of the November 10, 2008 minutes. Ms. Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS (other than Items for Action)

Concerned citizen, Walt Lounam, approached the Board in regards to the mountain bike use trails at River Legacy Park. Mr. Lounam would like to see the multi-use trails designated as such and felt that they are currently over-utilized by the mountain bikers. Mr. Lounam stated that the trails and trees are being damaged and that wildlife has abandoned the area. Mr. Lounam also informed the Board that there are markings on several trees and would like to know what these are. Mr. Young informed Mr. Lounam that these markings are affluent utility markings and are in no way damaging the trees. A representative with D.O.R.B.A. (the Dallas Off Road Bike Association) addressed the Board and informed Mr. Lounam and the Board that these renegade mountain bikers are not part of D.O.R.B.A.

V. ITEMS FOR ACTION

a. Comments from Citizens (about Items for Action)

N/A

b. Items for Action

i. Park Naming Options

Mr. Young provided the Board with a map of the parks with naming opportunities. Staff needs to provide options to AT&T for their consideration. Once a park is chosen, the recommendation will be brought back to the Board for approval. Mr. Wyatt motioned to submit Valley View and a portion of Lynn Creek as the first two choices in the proposed naming sites for AT&T. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Outdoor Swimming Pool Operations

Mr. Gilmore asked the Board for their endorsement to close city pools one day a week during the summer season. Mr. Gilmore stated that Tuesday closings would have the least fiscal impact based on historical usage reports. Mr. Gilmore proposed either closing all pools on Tuesdays or staggering pool closures. The Board favored staggering the pool closures and wanted to ensure that the large water parks would never be closed at the same time. Mr. Wyatt reported out of the Policies and Operations Committee who agreed with Mr. Gilmore's plan of action and stated that this would allow for more adequate staff and safety training. Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that currently, 40% of all cities in the metroplex close pools once a week. Mr. Wyatt motioned to approve the recommendation of staggered pool closures once a week. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PARD INFORMATION ITEMS (for discussion)

Our Community/ Our Kids

Mr. Gilmore updated the Board on an effort to organize a community umbrella organization for the purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring a youth strategic plan. The foundation of the plan would be based on the five promises of America's Promise Alliance (Caring adults, Safe places, A healthy start, Effective education and Opportunities to serve others). Mr. Gilmore indicated the City and AISD are close to recommending the formation of an executive committee to develop a youth strategic plan.

Mr. Gilmore also reminded the Board of the January 23, 2009 breakfast sponsored by the Arlington Alliance for Youth. Bill will co-present results from the November 1, 2008 Success in Schools Summit held at Fielder Road Baptist Church. Our Community, Our Kids will be presented as part of a larger move ahead plan.

Operating Budget Adjustments

Ms. Rudiger updated the Board on the current budget situation which included methods for reducing operating budgets. Staff anticipates direction from the City Manager's office in February to identify budget reductions.

United Way Family Resource Center

Bill Gilmore reported that discussions are currently underway with Tarrant County United Way and several other community partners to establish a family resource center at Hugh Smith Recreation Center. These agencies include the Arlington Independent School District, John Peter Smith Hospital, Arlington Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Lena Pope Home, MHMR of Tarrant County and Santa Fe Youth Services. All Church Home for Children has taken the lead to write the application for the \$50,000 grant, which will help start up and operate the resource center for a period of six months. Staff anticipates that additional grant funds would be available from United Way if the center is successful. All Church Home will be the grant administrator once the center is set up. The Parks and Recreation Department will receive monthly fees as part of a facility use agreement. Information and costs relative to building modifications is needed before a firm start is announced.

Ms. Garner presented the conceptual eco-restoration plan for Johnson Creek to the Board. The plan includes construction of a vortex weir, retaining walls, a gabion restrictor and landscape plantings for creek bank stabilization. The Board asked Ms. Garner to arrange a guided tour of the Johnson Creek area including the new Cowboys Stadium.

Interpretive Signs

Mr. Packan informed the Board about the interpretive park signage grant. There are currently 16 signs in production. Three signs have been completed and have been placed in their respective parks. There will be 12 signs installed at the Martin Luther King Jr. Sports Center at the perimeter of the new trail. There will also be new signs at the Lake Arlington Golf Course and at the demonstration garden at the Southeast Library. There will be a total of 51 signs purchased between the two Arlington Tomorrow Foundation grants and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant. Signs will be mounted on fabricated metal posts that stand up well to vandalism and sunlight.

Needs Assessment Update

Mr. Packan updated the Board on the updated draft of the facility needs assessment. Ms. Healy expressed her disappointment in the report. Ms. Healy also asked the Board members to let her know who would like to serve on the ad-hoc review committee along with several previous Board members to review the corrected draft. Ms. Phillips volunteered to serve on the AdHoc committee.

Trail Master Plan Project

Mr. Young informed the Board about the trail master plan project. It is the mission of the project to connect people on and off the street and make bicycle/pedestrian friendly ways throughout the City. Kurt Beilharz, Parks Project Manager, will be leading this project.

VII. PARB COMMITTEES

Planning and Development

Nothing to report

Policies and Operations

Nothing to report

VIII. REQUESTED INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (for distribution)

Staff distributed several informational reports to the Board. There was no discussion.

IX. ITEMS FROM PARB MEMBERS

Mr. Wyatt asked Board members to please schedule committee meetings after 5:30p.m. to allow everyone to be able to attend at a timely manner. Ms. Healy asked for a volunteer to replace Ms. Eaves on the sports committee due to current scheduling conflicts. Mr. Gehring volunteered to serve on the sports committee in Ms. Eaves place. Mr. Wyatt asked that a representative from the Water Department be present during the next Park Board meeting to update the Board on the Lake Arlington water levels. The Board also asked for an update on the Ventana Grille budget situation during the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Lynn Healy, PARB Chair

NOTE: Taped recordings and minutes of all Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings are a matter of public record and are kept on file in the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office, 717 W. Main Street, Arlington, TX. Any Board member or interested party has the right to review these tapes and minutes at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office.