



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Rowlett Community Centre, Room D
5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT: Gregory Craig, Alan Hogan, Maria Dellaplain, Bernadette Hagmeier, Lonnie Cornwell, Mike DeLatte, Matt Grubisich, Dolores Henning, Ken Romaine, E.C. Umberger III

ABSENT: Kimberli Martinez, Jeffery Gray, Blake Margolis

VISTORS:

STAFF: Bruce Hargrave, City Council liaison; Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Angela Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation; Aaron Cleaver, Parks & Recreation Business Manager; Ricky Harris, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager

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1. Chairman E.C. Umberger called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 2. Quorum present.
 3. Consider action to approve minutes from December 14, 2016.
 - A. Lonnie Cornwell motioned to approve the December 14, 2016 minutes as written.
 - B. Gregory Craig seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 9 - 0.
 4. Rowlett Softball Association - Mike DeLatte.
 - A. Information on the 2016 highlights, 2016 income statement and the 2016 league stats were presented. 2016 has been the largest year for Rowlett USSSA Softball and is the second largest active USSSA park in North Texas. Matt Grubisich expressed appreciation for Rowlett Softball Association running the concession stands because it doesn't appear to be very cost effective in revenue for the association and this effort also helps the City of Rowlett.
 - B. Dugouts are being expanded, two new scoreboards being purchased and awarded to hold the 2017 Men's E State Tournament on August 5th and 6th are a few new items for 2017. Has hopes to increase advertising revenue this year. Also for 2017 the partnership with City of Rowlett and USSSA Baseball will continue as well as seeking new vendor agreements.
 - C. Challenges include the increased cost of doing business which includes umpires, trophies, shirts, softballs and utilities. Other challenges noted are asset deterioration, promoting Rowlett leagues through the Rowlett Community Centre and RTN 16, keeping players and fans in the park, concession sales, field maintenance and altered equipment.
 - D. Questions asked and answers provided revolved around the statement and challenges.
 5. Tree Ordinance Discussion.
 - A. L. Cornwell elaborated on his interest in urban forestry and voiced it has an impact on our city, our parks and neighborhoods. He is interested in the city's tree ordinance to gain a better understanding of our practices compared to the different studies by leading arborists he has read. Health and vitality of our trees are important and he would like to be able to provide input on other ideas or suggestions. Concerned about all the new development going up and trees aren't really being preserved. The city's tree ordinance was established in 1999.



- B. Brief discussion held revolved around tracking the number of trees lost, number of trees removed, how the trees are replenished, and whether the city having arborist would be beneficial. Bruce Hargrave agreed the tree ordinance could likely use some updating since Rowlett was much smaller when the ordinance was developed and feels City Council would want to hear the Parks and Recreation Board recommendations on the tree ordinance being revisited.
 - C. Angie Smith mentioned development issues doesn't fall under the Parks and Recreation Department. Planning and Zoning oversee this type of thing. If parks staff removed trees then the department tries to replace the trees. The tree ordinance has little to do with the park system and may need to reconsider this board being identified as the tree advisory board.
 - D. M. Grubisich expressed there is little green space left for natural preservation which is important. He inquired if Bayside has been following the current tree ordinance or were they exempt from mitigation. He would like to see a subcommittee identified to start a discussion on this topic. G. Craig shared his expertise with ordinances and landscaping and supports the idea of the board becoming more active on this topic.
 - E. Discussion resulted in L. Cornwell to make contact with Marc Kurbansade, Director of Development Services, to discuss the issue further and inquire how this board or a subcommittee could possibly share their interest and expertise. L. Cornwell will bring the information back to this board.
6. Clarify possible plans for a dog park.
- A. Dolores Henning expressed some confusion about a dog park being developed for The Villages downtown which will be designated for those who live there. This designated space for dogs will not be open to the public. Inquiries made in regards to their being a public dog park in the near future.
 - B. A. Smith explained the board made a decision to not make have a dog park as a goal this year but the best option will be to wait for the 2018 bond election.
7. Strategies for Board Goals.
- A. Help market parks and recreation through board involvement
 - a. Each member will be active with social media 3 x month to share events, programs, and volunteer awareness needs.
 - b. Willing members will receive weekly newsletter to obtain information and can use this information to disperse to others to promote. Members can use this information to share as mentioned in the above strategy. A request was made to possibly have a monthly blurb sent to them for them to post.
 - B. Support the CIP/Bond projects and increase member involvement.
 - a. Members commit to attend the Community Investment Advisory Board meeting which focus on new bond projects for the 2018 bond election. The first Monday of every month at 6:00pm the meeting is held at City Hall. Members will delay this activity for about 2 months since the Community Investment Advisory Board is only in their strategy process.
 - b. The parks master plan will tie in to this topic.
8. Kids Kingdom fundraising.
- M. Grubisich inquired about the remaining playground equipment piece for still remaining to be purchased and placed at Kids Kingdom. A general consensus was made confirmed to not make this a goal for this year.



9. Update on Environmental Learning Center (ELC).
 - A. A. Smith reminded members that in November City Council approved the relocating of Dan Robert's Learning Center.
 - B. At the City Attorney's request we are putting together a packet that can be presented to the Garland ISD Superintendent and the Dallas County Commissioners. These meetings will happen over the next three months. Once there is a consensus from Dallas County and GSD for full ownership for the property plans will move forward to discuss with City Council with a plan for the property.
 - C. L. Cornwell stated there is a meeting next week focused on ELC and if interested please attend. Notation made about not having a quorum present.
10. Special Events Committee Update - Dolores Henning.
 - A. The last meeting concentrated on the Main Street Fest.
 - B. Upcoming events: Sweetheart dance, Pup-a-Poolza, Easter Eggstravaganza, Kid Fish and Cardboard Boat Regatta.
11. Sponsorship packets - Aaron Cleaver.
 - A. A. Cleaver presented information about a new sponsorship packet. Explanation of the purpose and need for them was given. Information on the different sponsorship levels and benefits were reviewed.
 - B. Members will get a copy of the new sponsorship packet once it is complete and members were encouraged to be involved with promoting the information and obtaining sponsorships.
12. Update from City Council liaison, Bruce Hargrave.
 - A. City Council recently review a number of 2017 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs tax credit applications but none are parks related. He elaborated that one applicant has withdrawn, two other projects were not deemed as something the city wants to move forward with and the other three were senior housing type of projects. This was relevant to being approved for them to move forward with the process for their project, not on the project itself.
 - B. B. Hargrave inquired about Mr. Hessler, the only fatality from the 2015 tornado being honored by means of a tree or a bench at Schrade Bluebonnet Park since this is the designation for the 2015 tornado memorial structure. A. Smith responded there is a sponsorship/donation packet that can be looked at for such requests.
 - C. City Council recently approved a storage building being built at Castle Road and Rowlett Road.
 - D. Tomorrow Chic-fi-la will have free breakfast.
 - E. Appreciation was expressed to all members serving on this board.
13. Director's Report - Angela Smith
 - A. Little Sweetheart Dance will be held January 28, 2017 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm located at the Rowlett Community Centre.
 - B. The RCC Seniors celebrated the New Year with a big party at noon featuring the topic of "Firsts" presented by Rose-Mary Rumbley. Seniors took a trip to Bowl-a-rama and North Park Center. They had a holiday potluck including entertainment from two members of the Ms. Texas Senior American Cameo Club and Santa.



- C. Lakeside Park, Paddle Point Park and Rowlett Community Center have received new signage. Erosion control rock beds were placed around the two signs at Lakeside and Paddle Point.
- D. The parks staff is in the process of installing new dugouts at the Community Park softball complex.
- E. Youth Basketball kicked off January 7, 2017. This is an 8 week league hosting 350 boys and girls.
- F. The RCC has started its Early Morning Workout classes and in January Yoga is being added as an option.
 - a. In the month of November, the RCC had over 22,000 visits by loyal members and visitors which is an increase of 2,000 from November of 2015.
 - b. The art sculpture created by Nic Noblique is now displayed in front of the Rowlett Community Centre. This project was completed in partnership with several city entities along with the Arts & Humanities Commission.
- C. Look for phase 1 of Schrade Bluebonnet Park to be completed at the end of April.
- d. The Tornado Anniversary Remembrance was held December 26, 2016 at Schrade Bluebonnet Park. This marked the 1 year anniversary and the design for a memorial sculpture, The Phoenix, was unveiled.

14. No Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff were made.

15. Members of the Board requested topics for future agenda meetings.

- A. Paddle Point and CIP projects.
- B. Strategies for goals: Promote Eco-Tourism and Involvement with the Master Plan.

16. Adjournment

- A. Mike DeLatta motioned to adjourn at 9:30 pm.
- B. Lonnie Cornwell seconded motion.
- C. Approved 9 - 0.

Handwritten signature of E.C. Umberger in black ink.

E.C. Umberger, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Angela Smith in blue ink.

Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation