



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
7:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Lonnie Cornwell, E.C. Umberger, Alan Hogan, Dolores Henning, Robert Paroski, Diane Perkins, Mike DeLatte, Donna Ferguson, Anthony Scott

ABSENT: Bernadette Hagmeier, Nancy DeVelde

VISTORS: Tamara Williams, RJ Forasteros, Kathy Freiheit, Deborah Crosby, Chad Grant

STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Richard Harris, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager; Angela Smith, Parks & Recreation Director; Blake Margolis, City Council liaison

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1. Chairman EC Umberger called meeting to order at 7:00pm.
 2. Quorum present.
 3. Consider action to approve minutes from December 12, 2018.
 - A. Dolores Henning made a motion to approve the December 12, 2018 minutes as written.
 - B. Lonnie Cornwell seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 6 - 0.
 4. Discuss Arts & Humanities Commission proposal for sculpture installation at Veterans Park.
 - A. Jeff Winget, Arts & Humanities Commission Chair presented pictures to show representation of a possible sculpture to be placed at Veterans Park. The column is 4ft tall and the sculpture would be placed on the column. The column is next to the pole. Eventually a plaque describing the piece and artist, Gary Lee Price, will be placed on the column. Column is about 16 inches across which means the sculpture will extend over, therefore there needs to be some type of landscaping items around it. Arts & Humanities Commission is requesting support from this board. The cost of the piece is approximately \$30,000 and will be purchased through the Public Art budget. The plaque is not considered in the budget at this time and will cost approximately \$1500.
 - B. Angela Smith added that the Parks and Recreation staff do support this recommendation.
 - C. Mike DeLatte made a motion to approve the Gary L. Price art project in Veterans Park as presented. Donna Ferguson seconded the motion. Approve 6 to 0.
 5. USSSA Softball presentation - Mike DeLatte, North Texas USSSA Assistant State Director.
 - A. Information was shared on the total number of teams by season and year since 2016.
 - B. The income statement was shared with board members. The rain was a huge factor in the Fall which caused several tournaments to be cancelled, therefore affected the revenue.
 - C. A few of the 2018 highlights: 2nd largest park in North Texas but anticipating being dropped to a lower rank due to other parks having turf for play; largest sports



organization in Rowlett with 134 dates and approximately 92,000 players and fans; tournament sponsors; hosted the Men's D State Tournament with 38 teams; Sent 11 teams to World Tournaments; Installed a donated playground at Community Park; collecting money by a Tip jar at concession stand for a playground expansion; umpires' office was purchased and now an asset to the city; and added cell phone charging station. Mike DeLatte presented the 2018 Specialty Partner of the Year Award to the City of Rowlett for this year's Rowlett Adult Softball Wall of Fame.

- D. Future challenges: Turf or another option for the playing fields due to rain which would help to keep up with other cities and leagues; field maintenance; asset deterioration; increase promotion; keep players and fans in the parks; concession sales; player conduct; and increased cost of doing business.
- E. Some of the things looking forward to for 2019 is expanding the league format, hosting Men's B/C and Women's State tournament, expanding vendor opportunities to aim for a full-service park, purchase additional picnic tables, partnerships with Outside Associations, continue Rowlett exposure on National USSSA Boards, and use 2 additional fields for tournament play. Rowlett USSSA is being inducted into the Texas USSSA Hall of Fame.

6. Update on the nonprofit organization development.

Mike DeLatte voiced in order to finish developing this nonprofit organization, funds are needed to process the paperwork. Members were asked If an individual or business is known who would be interested in donating to the 501 c 3 to contact Mike DeLatte. Preliminary papers are prepared but the cost will be about \$500-\$800 to start the organization. Once set up then the organization can begin to accept donations.

7. Urban Forestry Subcommittee Update.

- A. Alan Hogan reported the Rowlett Urban Forest Ecosystem Analysis has been reviewed by this committee. Matt Grubisich with Texas Trees Foundation reviewed the Tree EcoSystem Canopy Analysis with the committee. There is software available to see where trees are needed, where to plant, etc. Mr. Grubisich will present to the Parks Board at an upcoming meeting to explain.
- B. There has been a change with Development Services and the Director, Munal Mauladad, was present to update on the status of the draft ordinances. An explanation was provided as to why the ordinance is on hold which is because they are gathering more information such as bench mark assessments, zoning, etc. The newer version will likely be ready in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April.

8. CIP Project updates.

- A. Trails: Pacheco Koch was selected to begin work on the first section of trail in the 2018 bond funding. The first trail to be developed will be the Lake Highland Trail segment. Task Authorization for design will go to City Council on January 15, 2019.
- B. Environmental Learning Center: City of Rowlett is the official owners of the property located at 6301 Chiesa Road. A task force of city staff, a parks board representative, a Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB) representative and the Environmental Learning Facility Team will establish a scope for the project, as well as select a contract partner. The goal is to begin the design in Spring 2019. Once the design is complete, KRB will begin to fundraise for the project.



- C. Herfurth Park: City Council has given permission to begin the design process in Spring 2019. Community Park, Springfield Park and Shorewood Park's baseball field usage for the spring will be a focus.
 - D. Wet Zone: The new feature slide has been ordered. It will be installed and operational by the park opening in May 2019. A new sound system and new lighting will be installed too.
9. Further discuss plans to achieve this board's goal of Support Eco-Tourism.
- A. EC Umberger explained that a plan of action needs to be developed to accomplish the identified goal.
 - B. Paddling event: Look at holding in late April or early May. Alan Hogan and Anthony Scott. Depending on the success of the event, a second event later in the year may be considered.
 - C. Star Gazing event: Look at holding this event in March or April. Items to consider are constellations, make it a night activity with food trucks, and persons allowed to come and go. Maybe contact a group to come out and bring telescopes, etc. Lonnie Cornwell will research and bring back information to the next meeting.
 - D. Park walk-through activity: One suggestion is there plans to be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Scenic Park on February 2, 2019. As part of this grand opening for the stair case, include a walk-through of the trail and discuss the trees. Alan Hogan can lead the education of the trees. Dolores Henning and possibly EC Umberger can be present to assist with the activity.
 - E. Booth at an event: The Kid Fish and Cardboard Boat Regatta will be held on April 27, 2019 and this is a good event to have a booth.
 - F. Promote at sporting events: Mike DeLatte will set up a calendar but will need assistance. This will be developed after all the dates for these other events are confirmed.
10. Update from City Council liaison, Blake Margolis.
- A. City Academy starts on January 31, 2019 for 13 weeks. Registration is open until January 21, 2019.
 - B. TX Dot is holding a public hearing regarding the proposed improvements to I-30 from Bass Pro Drive in Dallas County to west of Farm-to Market 2642 in Dallas and Rockwall Counties. This will be held January 31, 2018 in Royse City at 7:00pm.
11. Director's Report
- A. Skyhawks Sports Sampler is a new program for children ages 4 - 12 years old designed to introduce young persons to a variety of different sports.
 - B. The youth athletics programs are looking for coaches. If you know anyone who may be interested have them contact Jessica Burch.
 - C. RCC is holding a New Year's Resolution Solution membership drive from January 2nd - 18th.
 - D. The monthly senior birthday luncheon is sponsored by Iris Memory Care and Silverado Hospice.
 - E. The Rowlett Community Centre received a sound upgrade in Rooms A-C that include a new sound system, new speakers and new sound buffering panels.
 - F. The annual Little Sweetheart Dance will be held February 2, 2019 from 7pm - 9pm at the RCC. The theme is Midnight Masquerade and tickets are on sale now.



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

13. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.

A. Rowlett Urban Forest Ecosystem Analysis.

B. EC Umberger inquired about the north side of Bayside trail. Angela Smith will ask for information and share with the board, but it may not need to be an actual agenda item.

14. Adjournment.

Lonnie Cornwell made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Alan Hogan seconded the motion.

Unanimous by all those present to adjourn.


EC Umberger, Chairman


Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation