



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**ABSENT:**

**VISTORS:** Taylor Guynes, David Reed, Michelle Reed, Robert Stockard, Omar Sherif

**STAFF:** Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; 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 January 9, 2019.
    - A. Donna Ferguson made a motion to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes as written.
    - B. Dolores Henning seconded the motion.
    - C. Approved 6 - 0.
  4. Rowlett Hockey Association presentation - (Lonnie Cornwell and Bernadette Hagmeier entered)
    - A. Robert Stockard shared information about the rink repairs the league completed and shared the income statement for 2018 with board members.
    - B. A few of the 2018 highlights: Peanut Butter Food Drive collecting 2,046 jars. Briefly shared the league's history on charity donations.
    - C. A few of their traditions: 1) Kids vs parent games which has grown so much that the number of players is having to be limited; and 2) Super Saturday for recognitions.
    - D. Graphics of participants since 2010 - 2018 through the Mites, Pee Wee were shown. Only 26 of 80 kids are residents of Rowlett. Adult Hockey is dropping and 18 of 77 are Rowlett residents.
    - E. Keys to success are growing the youngest Mite Squirt league, signage at the schools, provide a fun league, continue to use clinics in September to introduce hockey, provide used gear and at a low cost.
    - F. Future challenges: Bathroom rink condition; soccer kids seem to tear up the rink, provide safe facility for players, rainouts expand the season; kids that love the game and want to excel so then move to ice; Dr. Pepper/Stars Center are catering more to youth. The main factor for playing on ice versus roller is the cost.
  5. Rowlett Urban Forest Ecosystem Analysis.
    - A. Taylor Guynes and Matt Grubisich with Texas Trees Foundation reviewed the Tree Ecosystem Canopy Analysis. Urban Forestry Management was explained, as well as what an Urban Tree Canopy Analysis is. Public domain software, i-Tree, is an available tool to




- see where trees are needed, where to plant, etc. USDA Forest Service recommends a 40% urban tree canopy. City of Rowlett has 21.5% tree canopy and needs to plant roughly 40,000 trees to raise the canopy by 10%.
- B. Plot maps were shown of the 340,000 trees in Rowlett which capture 1.47 million cubic feet of storm water each year. These trees provide 5.285 thousand tons of O<sub>2</sub> per year. The annual benefits of trees in Rowlett is \$650,000 per a year.
  - C. Highlights of the study is that 42% of Rowlett's canopy is on residential property, less than 1% of the overall canopy is on undeveloped land; 7% is in floodplain and wetlands; top 3 species by % of population are Cedar Elm, Crape myrtle and Boxelder; Almost 10% of the canopy is comprised of Ash; Pecan and Chinquapin oak comprise roughly 4% of the canopy, but account for nearly a third of all benefits.
  - D. A comparison chart of Rowlett and other neighboring cities in relation to tree coverage was shown.
  - E. Angela Smith added that once the final report is complete it will be placed on the city website. Questions were asked about the process moving forward, types of trees, how this affects the city, etc. Matt Grubisich supplied answers.
6. Discuss participation in the Cardboard Boat Regatta.  
Dolores Henning shared last years' experience participating in the boat race which was the first year this board participated. The board briefly discussed whether members would like to participate this year. It was decided this board will participate. The board would like to challenge other boards and commissions to participate.
7. Update on Scentral Bark Buddies.
- A. Donna Ferguson explained the last meeting held was in September 2018 and meetings were supposed to start back in January, but the meeting was cancelled.
  - B. Angela Smith explained that Scentral Bark Buddies is a Dog Park Subcommittee of the Sachse Park Pals, who operates under the 501 c3. After Scentral Bark Park was opened participation declined and moved into the holiday season. They removed from their website the ability to take donations for this park. The leader no longer has time to lead the monthly meetings for Scentral Bark Buddies and there doesn't appear to be anyone who wants to take over the leadership for this committee. Time to renew the signs. Put in a request for this department to contact vendors.
  - C. The dog park is holding up. The plan to switch big dog and small dog fields hasn't happened so the big dog park has some pits but will start flipping them per a quarter. Diane Perkins suggested in placing "warning signs" that the switch will take place to help educate visitors.
8. Follow up on the Park Walk-Through activity at Scenic Point Park Grand Opening.  
Alan Hogan reported this was a nice event, although he would have loved to have seen more folks attend. The trail is described as pleasant and many trees remain. Positive praise shared towards Alan for his educating on the trees and leaves, etc.
9. Further discuss Support Eco-Tourism.
- A. Paddling event: Alan Hogan and Anthony Scott announced this event will be held May 4, 2019. Depending on the success of the event, a second event could be held later in the year. They will soon go out for a pre-ride to determine the best route.



- B. Star Gazing event: Lonnie Cornwell stated he will coordinate with Diane Perkins for this event. A strong possibility of a good location will be at Pecan Grove back behind wet zone.
  - C. Booth at an event: The Kid Fish will be held on April 27, 2019 and begins at 9am. A good time is prior to the event starting. The Parks & Recreation Dept will have a tent and table so the board can also use this space or if need a separate space it can be arranged. Mike DeLatte will help organize this but can't physically be present.
10. Update from City Council liaison, Blake Margolis.
- A. City of Garland is seeking to expand the amount of waste to be accepted at the Hinton Landfill making a permit medication necessary. A Site Operating Plan Permit medication has been submitted to the TCEQ. It's possible this could affect Community Park.
  - B. A question was asked Bayside and question asked about the construction of a senior citizen facility being stopped. Answers were provided.
11. Director's Report
- A. Seven new pieces of workout equipment have been installed at Community Park to replace the old standalone features that were originally installed in 2005.
  - B. Social media event for Reel'n in February being held February 5<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> for rainbow trout stocked at Community Park.
  - C. RETREET will hold a tree planting event on February 23, 2019.
  - D. The Athletics division is starting a Pitch, Hit and Run program at elementary schools this spring.
  - E. There were approximately 215 persons in attendance for the Little Sweetheart Dance on February 2, 2019. New this year there was a teddy bear station.
  - F. Restrooms at Katy Park and Community Park are in final stages. Exploring options for solar power due to the cost of running power.
  - G. The crosswalk installation for Miller Road between Paddle Point Park and Lakeside South Park has been officially approved by City Council. The crosswalk will be accompanied by a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon that will be controlled by pedestrian.
12. Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff were made.
- A. Angela Smith mentioned approval of la terra for the landscape design and architectural services for Herfurth Park will be on City Council's consent agenda February 26, 2019.
  - B. EC Umberger encouraged members when one is out traveling around to look at parks in other cities and take pictures to show this board.
13. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.
- A. Update on the Green Ribbon Project.
  - B. The establishment of a 501 c 3.
14. Adjournment.
- Mike DeLatte made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 pm.  
Dolores Henning seconded the motion.  
Unanimous by all those present to adjourn.

  
EC Umberger, Chairman

  
Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation