



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Rowlett Community Centre, Room D

5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT: Dolores Henning, Mike DeLatte, Anthony Scott, Alan Hogan, E.C. Umberger, Bernadette Hagmeier, Diane Perkins, Lonnie Cornwell

ABSENT: Donna Ferguson, Robert Paroski

VISTORS: Ronald Dennis, Ken Romaine and 5 other members of the RC Flyers Club

STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Angela Smith, Parks & Recreation Director; Kari Pacheco, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager

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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 July 10, 2019.
 - A. Dolores Henning made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.
 - B. Lonnie Cornwell seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 5 - 0.
 4. Discuss plans for Herfurth Park.
 - A. Angela Smith shared a little history about Herfurth Park design then introduced Michael Black with laterra studio. Michael Black will present information to this board then to City Council and then present the design to the public.
 - B. Michael Black presented information for phase 1 design of Herfurth Park. The idea is for the park space to be an urban center piece for Rowlett. City Council had a work session on July 15, 2019 information was presented on the different attractions/assets, public engagement, etc. Some main points for the design are the park to be a multi-generational and multi-use park with emphasis on there being programming for junior high and high school age groups. The park space should be non-traditional, tie-in to proposed development to the east, quick win projects, connect with the Main Street Reconstruction project, smart decision making on the costs, and develop an iconic art piece/structure/signature item to help create a strong brand.
 - C. During a council workshop in May 2018 some amenities considered for this park were trails, dog park, spray-ground, parking, temporary stage location, farmers market, pickle ball courts, landscaping, food truck locations, botanical garden area, play area/non-traditional playground, restrooms, signage, outdoor cultural events with public art areas, and multi-use open space.
 - D. Some previous concept plan designs were shown and reviewed. The concept plan and public engagement strategy will be defined. Angela Smith mentioned City of Rowlett will work with Hockey Association as to either relocating the rink or including it somewhere within Herfurth Park. Members were asked for their concept ideas. A few ideas were 1) Have an unstructured skate area which could come off a trail area for roller blading; 2) Natural looking playground area and stones for children to crawl on; 3) Some form of a natural look water concept where there is benches persons can sit and hear water flow; 4) Need to capture idea of connecting Herfurth Park and Dallas Area Rapid Transportation System; and 5) Definitely support the idea of having space for the junior high



and high school youth. la terra will likely get back to this board in about 1 to 2 months with hopes of the project beginning in about a year.

5. Rowlett RC Flyers. (Diane Perkins exited meeting)

- A. Ronald Dennis, President of RC Flyers Club, introduced 6 members of the club who were present. It was explained that the RC Club has been in a relationship with Rowlett for approximately 15 years. Talked about the club membership and presently there are 50 members with a wide range of ages. August 17, 2019 is the 70th birthday for Academy of Model Aeronautics. Shared some information on safety and security. The Springfield Park is used by flyers, fishermen, walkers, and dog walkers. There are a lot of community events such as boy scouts, civil air patrol, Camp Fear, Night Fly. Cub Scout camps and simulator training include teaching principles for children and hands on flight experience.
- B. A RC Club member helps to keep the field mowed. Members put up a safety fence. A good part of the year the field is not able to be used due to the flooding, as well as the parking lot. Some sandy was brought in to fill in water pooling areas on the flying field. Grass seed planted to help improve the area. Recommended park improvements are security lighting, replacement of the 911 location sign, the access road pot holes repairs, parking lot improvements to include pot hole repairs, increase parking spots, and realign access road. Members were invited to come out and fly or watch the flying. Ken Romaine added that this club has a clean safety record.
- C. Angela Smith added there is an amazing relationship with the City of Rowlett and the RC Flying Club. There are few noise complaints. Lonnie Cornwell, on behalf of the board, expressed appreciation for what the RC Club does for the citizens and City of Rowlett. Mike DeLatte concurred these members take care of a lot of things in this field and there isn't much funding.

6. Discuss upcoming board for 2019-2020.

Angela Smith stated EC Umberger terms out as the Chair and did not reapply for a board position. In October a new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected. EC Umberger shared the different components required for the Chair position. Lonnie Cornwell and Blake Margolis shared a few comments of appreciation for EC Umberger's leadership.

7. Recap of Eco-tourism.

Discussed if the board wants to hold a star gazing event in the fall. For this event to be successful the planning cannot wait until October when the new board begins. Members would like to hold this event after the time changes which will be close to November 3, 2019. There may be consideration to hold off until early Spring 2020. The previous program presenter sent some suggestions such as holding the event during the First Quarter Moon, having a back up date if it is overcast, an open area far from lights and close to where equipment can be unloaded. It was suggested to check the Rowlett High School football schedule due to the field lights if having in the fall because of field lights.

8. Update from City Council liaison, Blake Margolis.

- A. The City has been able to secure a development partner, Sapphire Bay Land Holdings I, for the new Sapphire Bay project which will still share the city's vision for a resort, crystal lagoon, conference center, marina, hike and bike trails, shopping, etc. Construction on the bridge will also begin in about a year.
- B. Council had a budget meeting last night and was recorded for public viewing. Another budget workshop meeting is scheduled.



9. Director's Report

- A. Green Ribbon project on Hwy 66 update: TxDOT submitted a plan to the City to get the medians back in good condition no later than August 28, 2019. The City of Rowlett is scheduled to take over the medians in August 2019 but will not until the medians are fully operational and plants have been replaced. For Phase II the entry sign locations have been marked and approved by all parties. The median has been cleared of concrete and work should begin in the next 30 days.
- B. Summer Concert Series began August 2, 2019 and the new mobile stage is being used. Reminder the concerts are each Friday in August.
- C. Fall baseball begins in September. If you know of anyone interested in volunteering to be a coach for the Fall Baseball League, please have them contact Austin Sudack.
- D. The annual board "boot camp" - orientation and goal planning are scheduled for October 19th starting at 8:30am. This will be held in the regular meeting room.
- E. The changes to the Conservation & Landscape Ordinance have been made. Matt Grubisich has the draft document and after he finishes his review it will be brought to this board.
- F. The open grass property across from city hall is now a reservable event space. Parks & Recreation Department will be the central point of contact for these reservations. There are several connections that have to be made with various departments for proper planning.

10. Public Input.

No public input.

11. Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff were made.

- A. Movies on Main begins September 6, 2019 and continues each Friday in September.
- B. Farmers Market event downtown moved from a Thursday event to a Saturday event.
- C. Alan Hogan shared a situation that occurred at Schrade Bluebonnet Park and inquired about the irrigation for the turf.

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

Eco-Tourism

13. Adjournment.

Bernadette Hagmeier made a motion to adjourn at 8:57pm.
Lonnie Cornwell seconded the motion.
Unanimous by all those present to adjourn.

EC Umberger, Chairman

Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation