



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Rowlett Community Centre
5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT: Dolores Henning, Mike DeLatte, Alan Hogan, Lonnie Cornwell, Donna Ferguson, Robert Paroski, Richard Kull, Anthony Scott

ABSENT: Bernadette Hagmeier

VISTORS:

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

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1. Chairman Mike DeLatte called meeting to order at 7:00pm.
 2. Quorum present.
 3. Citizen Input.
No input.
 4. Consider action to approve minutes from December 13, 2019 minutes.
 - A. Dolores Henning made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - B. Anthony Scott seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 7 - 0.
 5. Herfurth Park Design public meeting to be held January 9, 2020. (Lonnie Cornwell entered)
 - A. Angela Smith explained there will be four 30 minute sessions tomorrow night.
 - B. Michael Black, Robert Cunningham, and Brad Moulton with la terra studio, Inc. provided a brief overview of what the new Herfurth Park draft design such as the park should be a Multi-Generational park, multi-use and flexible space, and a non-traditional park. An amenity list consists of trails, dog park, parking, food truck locations, outdoor event areas, restrooms, etc. The previous concept plans were reviewed too. A brief overview, breakout sessions of Active Play, Central Green and Main Street, visual preference survey on park elements and closing remarks will be included during the 30-minute public work session.
 - C. The draft Master Plan for this park includes a dog park, splash pad, restroom, pavilion, adventure playground, plaza, agility course, game lawn, parking, Chamber of Commerce, art park, a great lawn, picnic open seating event stage, multi-court, and trail. Each of these components were briefly explained. The board members separated into groups for a brief work session to help plan for tomorrow's public meeting. This project will be completed in phases and the first phase was briefly described. The final Master Plan will be presented to City Council for approval.
 6. Landscape Ordinance Update.
Munal Mauladad, Director of Community Services, spoke about the draft conservation and landscape ordinance and how the process will be phased. The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment was a useful tool in helping to make the changes with this draft. This is a three-part ordinance: Tree Preservation and Mitigation, Landscaping Requirements, and Conservation Requirements. The



purpose of this ordinance was explained. Several key components that this ordinance intends to accomplish for public purposes were identified. The existing survey was compared to a sample new survey then explained what is trying to be achieved through these changes. A visual example of the existing requirements for commercial and residential use for the Landscape Plan was compared to the proposed new requirements. A few exemptions were shared with members and alternatives were provided. This draft ordinance will go before the Planning and Zoning Board during a work session on February 11, 2020. M. Mauladad expressed appreciation to Matt Grubisich for assisting with this project. The Landscaping Requirements and the Tree Preservation and Mitigation components will be emailed to board members who are encouraged to provide feedback.

7. Rowlett USSSA annual presentation.

- A. Mike DeLatte, President of Rowlett United States Slowpitch Softball Association (USSSA) and Assistant State Director of North Texas USSSA, shared the total number of teams by season and year from 2016 through 2019 for Rowlett USSSA. The 2019 income statement was provided for board members.
- B. A few of their main highlights for 2019 are: 1) 3rd most active USSSA park in North Texas; 2) expanded the league format from 5 to 7 leagues; 3) Hosted 24 teams for the Men's B/C and Women's State Tournament; 4) Installed 2 new playground features; 5) Expanded banner promotions; 6) Held 3rd annual Toys For Tots Tournament and donated 609 toys; 7) Added a Pro shop and this building was donated by a sponsor; 8) Established Rowlett USSSA LLC; and 9) Sent 9 teams to World Tournaments.
- C. For the year 2020, there are plans to work toward increasing the advertising revenue, to find other revenue opportunities, and to expand vendor opportunities. Rowlett USSSA was awarded the Men's D State Tournament to be held August 8th and 9th, 2020. An ATM was delivered to the ballpark.
- D. Future Challenges for USSSA continue to be rainouts and affecting schedules of games, therefore would like to see a movement to turf. Other concerns is asset deterioration, field maintenance and increased cost of business in relation to umpire fees, trophy costs, shirts, and softballs. Keeping players and fans in the park rather than going outside to purchase items is a challenge.

8. Follow up discussion of Eco-tourism events.

Members discussed possible dates for upcoming events and the outcome is:

- A. Star Gazing will possibly be held in late February. For this event it was asked if information can be added to the flyer so folks know they can "come and go". The same location behind Wet Zone will be used. There was a suggestion to hold one during the summer and include the educational portion again. Lonnie Cornwell is taking the lead of this event.
- B. Scavenger Hunt at the Nature Trail should look at being held in September or October.
- C. Paddling event schedule may possible be held in June, but this needs to be confirmed with Dave Holl of Kayak Instruction, Inc. to make sure there are no conflicts. It was suggested to call this event a tour of the lake rather than only a paddling event. Alan Hogan and Anthony Scott are leading this event.
- D. Cardboard Boat Regatta is April 25, 2020 and if this board is participating 3 persons will be needed to be in the boat. At this time there are no commitments. Dolores Henning is leading this activity.

9. Discuss board meeting start time.

After a brief discussion, members agreed for future meetings to begin at 6:30pm. Robert Paroski made a motion for regular monthly board meetings to have a start time of 6:30pm. Lonnie Cornwell seconded the motion. Approved 8 to 0.



10. Update from City Council liaison, Blake Margolis.

- A. A Townhall meeting is scheduled for Jan 28, 2020 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Rowlett Community Centre.
- B. City Academy begins on January 23, 2020 and these will be afternoon classes from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Food will be provided.
- C. The Friday at 5 newsletter is posted each week on the city website and on media resources.
- D. Last night the City Council meeting had 28 speakers regarding a rezoning request. Council denied the request. The streaming of the meeting is very informative of the situation and members were encouraged to view the recording.

11. Director's Report.

- A. Main Street Fest and Holiday Parade was held Saturday, December 14th. Special thanks were relayed to those board members who volunteered with this event. The attendance was amazing. The Twelve Days of Christmas event was held for the second year and considering there is no registration involved, it was successful.
- B. Restrooms at Shorewood Park are now complete. A few areas in Shorewood and Twin Star parks will be receiving some cement repairs over next 30 days.
- C. Little Sweetheart Dance will be held February 1, 2020 at \$45 per couple and \$15 per each additional child. The event will be held at the Rowlett Community Centre from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. If a member is interested in volunteering, contact Lindsay Prasifka.
- D. Senior Advisory Board will be hosting a Self Defense seminar on January 14, 2020 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm at the Rowlett Community Centre.
- E. Rowlett has been selected as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities as of January 2020. This is a project for the Senior Advisory Board which will include an age-friendly survey to citizens over the age of 45 and developing an action plan for Rowlett among eight domains of livability. Members encouraged to help get this survey out to others so we can receive as much feedback as possible.
- F. Hwy 66 medians are still being maintained by TxDOT and if you hear of issues, such as leaks these are still reported to TxDOT. Phase 2 of this project regarding the signs is through TxDOT but a different contractor.

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

Some plans are in the works for a new event downtown in early May and this will be held on a weekday during the daytime hours. If any member knows of any food truck persons to please send the information to the Parks and Recreation department.

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


No requested topics.

14. Adjournment.

- A. Lonnie Cornwell made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 pm.
- B. Richard Kull seconded the motion.
- C. Unanimous by all those present to adjourn.



Mike DeLatta, Chairman



Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation