



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Rowlett Community Centre

5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT (remotely): Chair: Mike DeLatte, Vice Chair: Dolores Henning, Richard Kull, Eve Johnson, Derrick Culpepper, Donna Ferguson, Lonnie Cornwell; Alternates: Michael Schupp, Kristy Andrade

ABSENT: Rebecca Day, Bernadette Hagmeier, Anthony Scott

VISITORS: Robert Stockard, Mark Egan, Kathy Kirk

STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Kari Pacheco, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager; Blake Margolis, City Council Liaison

Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was held via teleconferencing. The public was provided an opportunity to submit comments for a specific agenda item or general comment through citizen email address.

1. Chairman Mike DeLatte called meeting to order at 6:33pm.
2. Consider approving minutes from the regular meeting held January 13 , 2021.
 - A. Eve Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
 - B. Donna Ferguson seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 6 - 0.
3. Citizen Input.

No input.
4. Keep Rowlett Beautiful presentation on Coyle House - Mark Egan and Kathy Kirk.
 - A. Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB) has taken an interest in revitalizing Coyle House. Briefly shared the significance of Coyle Farmstead to provide history information. In 2020 a pollinator garden was added in which Covington's donated some of the flowers. The hope is to see butterflies next fall. During the process of planting the garden some things were noticeable such as mold, drainage issues, a need for a permanent electrical box, the house needs a power washing, exterior & interior painting, and the carpet needs replacing. Example photos were shown of the outside and inside of house. Volunteers spent several hours cleaning the front entrance. KRB set up the house for Christmas by adding some decorations. KRB would like to see the house used for Christmas 2021. One suggestion is to possibly host one public day for folks to tour the house with Christmas carols. Some other ideas are for the house to be used for community activities such as a Rowlett Historical Day so folks can experience what farming was like in the 1800's or a garden class. Appreciation expressed to Parks Board with help in taking care of this property and would like to see this board join in a bigger vision for this house to be useful again. Some additional funds were approved by City Council to help with renovations. KRB is open to ideas to help improve the house. With Rowlett on the rise, KRB would like to become a partner to help restore for historical purposes as well as to help generator some



revenue for the city. KRB would like to return in front of this board to provide an update for the Coyle House along with update on the Dan Robert's Environmental Learning Center.

- B. Kari Pacheco expressed appreciation for the volunteerism and interest in bringing a new life to this house. Richard Kull asked if there are any ideas for parking. Mark Egan said events can be chosen at a particular time of day to utilize the existing Rowlett Community Centre parking lot so that it doesn't interfere with the Community Centre or other events. Mike DeLatte said when the house was moved the goal was to keep the history of the house although recognizes it needs some love and funding is commonly a barrier. Michael Schupp shared some positive compliments but inquired if Parks & Recreation has Coyle House on any type of priority list. Kari Pacheco responded Coyle House is something to be highlighted and partner with Public Works to keep it up, but with KRB's involvement it will bring more opportunities to help build the house as a greater priority.

5. Rowlett Hockey Association (RHA) annual presentation.

- A. Robert Stockard, founder of hockey 21 years ago, shared that the hockey rink started at Shorewood Park and then moved to Herfurth Park. RHA does their own repairs, although the Parks Division provides most of the supplies. The 2020 highlights include 1) Started a food drive in 2010 for Rowlett Needy Children's fund then in 2014 started donating to Life Message; 2) Traditions - Trophy Day, Skills competition is in doubt this year because of COVID; end of season pizza party in doubt; All of the parent/child games have been cancelled due to social distancing, as well as the skill camps. For 2020 twenty six percent of the youth league are Rowlett residents and shared other statistics of the 8 other cities involved for the youth leagues. The adult hockey has 8 games for each season; Seventeen percent of the adult league players are Rowlett citizens and come from Ferris, Murphy, Sachse, Josephine, Scurry, The Colony, and Celeste. RHA works with Parks Department to help make the season a success in spite of COVID. Reviewed the challenges COVID19 placed on the association. RHA considers themselves good stewards with lights. Some of the other challenges are soccer kids playing on the rink, kids want to excel to play ice hockey. RHA wants to finish early enough for baseball and soccer. Many adult players play ice and most who play in this league play both but with the kids it is one or the other. There will be a future meeting to discuss the new location and what a new rink can be offered. Photos shown of "dream rink".
- B. Michael Schupp asked in relation to the budget is it worth spending the amount of funds needed for a rink compared to the small percentage of Rowlett residents involved with this sport. Kari Pacheco reiterated that the hockey rink will not be torn down until there is another location. There is a smaller rink at Twin Star Park renovated for multi-purposes and one at Shorewood Park too. Mike DeLatte asked questions about the hockey financials. Eve Johnson asked who RHA partners with to build participants. Maybe recruit from Boy Scouts who can possibly work towards badges. Robert S. replied they do have scouts who play but not sure about possibility of earning badges.

6. AARP Age-Friendly Community Network Presentation.

Senior Advisory Board representative is unable to be present therefore K. Pacheco explained what an Age-Friendly Community is and what is involved. City of Rowlett was accepted into this network in January 2020. There was a survey and listening sessions to obtain feedback. Senior Advisory Board will be focusing on domains of Housing, Transportation, and Social Participation. Stakeholder meetings will begin in April. Teams will be built for each domain. If any board members are interested in being involved with this project, then inform S. Monroe.



7. Update from City Council liaison, Blake Margolis.
 - A. Blake Margolis stated Rowlett has partnered with Garland Health Authority for the vaccination drive and the state has only provided 1000 vaccines per week to this area which is not enough. Visit Rowlett.com/vaccine for more information.
 - B. City Council approved the 2021 bond election items.
 - C. Community Investment Advisory Board was involved with putting together the recommended bond election items and will present information to Parks Board next month.
 - D. Winter weather update provided and explained how the city is preparing for this.
 - E. Michael Schupp expressed appreciation for all the information B. Margolis shares on social media to keep citizens informed.

8. Herfurth Park Design Plan Update.

Kari Pacheco mentioned the most recent meeting was held yesterday. The project is still in Phase 1. The design for the park was shown and briefly explained. The next step will be for the groundwork in the central green area which is located in the middle of Herfurth Park. It is approximately a million-dollar project that will go to bid in May or June then start in August. In the upcoming 2021 bond election there is a request for Phase 2 and 3 funds.

9. Social Media subcommittee update.

Derrick Culpepper reported the subcommittee met on February 8, 2021. The video on Kenwood Park is completed and released to Facebook and sent to board members. It will get placed on YouTube for the city channel and RTN16 channel. The next park to be featured is Twin Star Park followed by Katy Railroad Park in March. The goal is to have next video completed by end of the month.


10. Operations Manager's Report
 - A. An UV system is ordered and will be installed at Wet Zone in about 8 weeks and will allow the water park to operate 7 days a week. Looking to update the shade structures.
 - B. Staff is still working getting restrooms at Lakeside Park.
 - C. Lake highland trails should go out to bid the last week of February or early March. There is more information in the Master Plan as to the order the trail will be developed.
 - D. City Council will be approving a budget amendment and there are some reserved funds approved to install LED parking lot lights, new Rowlett Community Centre flooring and kitchen upgrades which will help update the building to hopefully draw in more revenue through reservations.
 - E. With Aaron Cleaver as the new Director there is some department organizational changes. Kari Pacheco is now the Assistant Director. This month there will be interviews for a Parks & Facilities Superintendent.
 - F. Staff still meeting monthly to make decisions regarding events. There is a plan for Lunch on the Lawn events to begin in March on Mondays from 11am - 2pm. The Sweetheart Dance was unable to be held but there is a date night package for \$7. For athletics there was no basketball, but reservations are being received for youth baseball.
 - G. Michael Schupp expressed disappointed with how Nature Trail has been degrading, although was happy to hear the news about the Eagle Scout project at the Nature Trail and it didn't cost the city any funds. He inquired if there is a way to get more scout projects for different things.



11. Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff can be made.
No announcements.
12. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.
Blake Margolis requested for an update on the Lakeview Green Ribbon monuments.
13. Adjournment.
 - A. Eve Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 8:17pm.
 - B. Lonnie Cornwell seconded the motion.
 - C. Unanimous by all those present to adjourn.



Mike DeLatte, Chairman



Kari Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director