



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Rowlett Community Centre

5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT Chair: Mike DeLatte, Vice Chair: Dolores Henning, Richard Kull, Eve Johnson, Donna Ferguson; Alternates: Elise Bowers, Corrie Cabral

ABSENT: Derrick Culpepper, Rebecca Day, Kristy Andrade, Bernadette Hagmeier, Michael Schupp,

VISITORS: Rhonda Wolfe, Dave Holl, Stephanie Higgins

STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Kari Pacheco, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation; Blake Margolis, City Council Liaison; Aaron Cleaver, Director of Parks & Recreation

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1. Chairman Mike DeLatte called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Elise Bowers and Corrie Cabral appointed as voting members.
 2. Consider approving minutes from the regular meeting held October 13, 2021.
 - A. Dolores Henning made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
 - B. Donna Ferguson seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 6 - 0.
 3. Citizen Input (Eve Johnson entered)
 - A. Chair Mike DeLatte read emailed comments from the following:
 - Steve Horwitz, Rowlett
 - Deb Shinder, Rowlett
 - B. In-person comments from:
 - Dave Holl, Rowlett
 - Stephanie Higgins, Rowlett
 - Rhonda Wolfe, Rowlett
 - C. Chair Mike DeLatte expressed appreciation for the input received from the public.
 4. Discuss lakefront trails and trail priorities.
 - A. Aaron Cleaver presented the trail plan priorities from the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan. Brief explanation of how this developed, along with funding and citizen survey results. An overview of the citizen survey results was presented, and this included that trails were the most cited "want" of the Parks and Recreation system. Directed to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with trail information along with maps.
 - B. A list of the city's prioritized trail construction with the funds slated for five years were shared with members. General information shared on the Schrade Road Trail and Lakeside North Trail. Dolores Henning asked it to be noted certain trails are neighborhood trails because there is only street parking. City Council will review the suggested trail priority on November 16, 2021 and encouraged members to attend this meeting. Members discussed opinions whether to support the suggested trail prioritization or not.



- C. Eve Johnson started a motion to support the trail construction priority but did not complete the motion. Chair DeLatte asked for a show of hands as to who agrees with the list and a show of hands for those opposed. The consensus of Parks Board is to support the prioritized list. Six agreed and one opposed.
5. Consider the idea of a community garden.
Mike DeLatte presented the idea of Rowlett having a community garden and asked for board members interest and opinions as whether to pursue more information. There is a community garden in Rockwall and in Garland. It appears that a city usually has little maintenance of these gardens since it is run by the citizens on an honor system. Corrie Cabral loves the idea but indicated the maintenance is a challenge and inquires what the goal is to have this type of garden for Rowlett. A group would need to be the lead on this project and citizen's input would be important. Elise Bowers mentioned it could possibly be a partnership opportunity with Keep Rowlett Beautiful. Eve Johnson stated the goal could be it providing opportunities for organizations such as the boy/girl scouts to earn badges or for field trips or student who take cooking classes and students can get fresh produce. All members agreed to move forward in obtaining information on a community garden. Mike DeLatte will gather information to present to this board.
6. Discuss the format for December meeting.
Mike DeLatte shared the history of this board's December meeting being held at a restaurant with a short agenda. Richard Kull volunteered to find a location. Members were notified the expense of the meal is the member's responsibility.
7. Update from City Council Liaison, Blake Margolis.
- A. Veterans Day ceremony is tomorrow at 11am
 - B. Exciting project at Miller Road between Dalrock and railroad tracks. This will be expanded to 4 lanes with sidewalks and street lighting. Construction will begin once Oncor completes utility pole replacement. This will temporarily impact traffic flow.
 - C. I-30 is under construction by TX Dot. Two new bridges are being constructed which will serve as service lanes. As a result, starting tomorrow TX Dot will close certain lanes going westbound I-30 between Bass Pro and Dalrock.
 - D. Last week the Rowlett Police Department lost one of their sergeants and devastated. His service will be in full honor and held next week.
 - E. Rowlett Police responded to an unconscious person in Rowlett and found a deceased male who had been shot to death. An investigation is on-going. Anyone with information is to call Rowlett Police Department Chris Sawyer.
8. Urban Forestry committee update.
Elise Bowers reported a great video for Arbor Day was made and will be presented at the Neighbor Summit on November 6, 2021. There were three trees planted at Katy Railroad Park. The committee would like to begin earlier planning for next year for a bigger celebration.
9. Parks Board event updates.
- A. Trunk or Treat - Richard Kull thanked those who participated in stuffing candy and helping with Parks Board trunk. Eve Johnson suggested for next year to either return to registration or when advertising to use terminology of "until candy runs out" versus a specific ending time. Aaron Cleaver responded that the plans for next year will be set up more pedestrian style. Eve



Johnson inquired if staff ever target larger businesses to participate and A. Cleaver shared how staff solicitates for businesses to participate.

- B. Night Hike at Pecan Grove - All arrangements are ready to go for the event with exception of a couple tasks, but everything will be ready for day of the event. Volunteers were confirmed.

10. Social Media subcommittee update.

Kari Pacheco reported a meeting was not held this month. Any other members who are interested to participate on this committee is to inform S. Monroe. The video for Lakeside & Paddle Point is still in process.

11. Rowlett USSSA Softball's Annual Toys for Tots.

Mike DeLatte announced every year this organization participates in Toys for Tots. A box will be placed at the community centre and at the library. Donations consist of new unwrapped toys for ages 5-8 and 8-11. Toys will be collected at tournament weekend. Toys have to be delivered by Dec. 11th.

12. Assistant Director's Report

- A. Events: Veterans Day on 11/11 at 11am at Veterans Park; tomorrow is the last Fall Market 6p-9p; Main Street Fest/Holiday Parade to be held December 4th. Parks Board members are welcome to be on the department float; There were approximately 400 cars for the Trunk or Treat; Barks/Brats/Brews event was well attended for the 2nd year of holding this event. 12 days of Christmas activities begin December 1st. The board can consider decorating a Christmas tree downtown. Richard Kull and E. Bowers will help decorate a tree; S. Monroe will complete the registration. Information on the parade was provided. Keep Rowlett Beautiful will decorate the Coyle House for the holidays.
- B. Rowlett Community Centre: Repairs to the building are close to complete upstairs and downstairs repairs are estimated to be complete in 2 weeks. The completion of the kitchen may be another month.
- C. Parks/Projects. Lake Highlands Trail estimated completion is December 2021. The work on the parks shop area at Community Park is near completion. Mike DeLatte asked about fencing at Community Park which was vandalized and in need of repair.

13. Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff can be made.

- A. Shelly Monroe shared about a donation event called Share the Warmth being sponsored by City of Rowlett Administrative Action Team.
- B. Shelly Monroe read an emailed message from Lonnie Cornwell, previous long term board member.
- C. Richard Kull thanked B. Hagmeier & Rebecca Day on the set up for Scarecrows on Main.

14. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.
No topics requested

15. Adjournment at 7:53 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M DeLatte", written over a horizontal line.

Mike DeLatte, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "K Pacheco", written over a horizontal line.

Kari Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director