



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Rowlett Community Centre
5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT Chair: Mike DeLatte, **Vice Chair:** Dolores Henning; **Members:** Richard Kull, Eve Johnson, Donna Ferguson, Rebecca Day, Michael Schupp; **Alternates:** Elise Bowers, Kristy Andrade

ABSENT: Bernadette Hagmeier, Corrie Cabral

VISITORS:

STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Aaron Cleaver, Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Chairman Mike DeLatte called meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Consider approving minutes from the regular meeting held December 8, 2021.
 - A. Eve Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
 - B. Michael Schupp seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 7 - 0.
3. Citizen Input.
No Citizen
4. Rowlett USSSA Softball Presentation.
 - A. Mike DeLatte shared website, rowlettadultsoftball.com, information. The 2019, 2020 and 2021 participant numbers by the season were presented. Covid-19 pandemic affected the 2020 numbers in the spring and summer. The 2019-2021 financial statements were shared with members. The Fastpitch tournament is a new activity. The highlights from 2021 are 1) Promote family environment, 2) 4th most active USSSA park in North Texas - this rating dropped because other areas are turning to use, 3) Is the largest sports organization in Rowlett, 4) Good number of tournament sponsorships, 5) Sent 9 teams to USSSA World Tournaments, 6) 5th Annual Toys for Tots Tournament - 718 toys which surpassed last year, and 7) Implements a Wall of Fame.
 - B. Moving forward in 2022, they 1) Are looking for continued new expansion of league format, 2) Will host a Winter State Tournament in February, 3) Will host USSSA NTX Men's E State Tournament, 4) Will continue partnership with DFW Fastpitch, 5) Will host several NIT and State Fastpitch Tournaments, 6) Will expand vendor opportunities - maybe a proshop, 7) Will continue exposure for Rowlett on National USSSA Committees, and 8) Will continue to have an ATM available at games.
 - C. The challenges have been COVID-19 and rain out issues since the turf is dirt. Other challenges are 1) The field maintenance: The fields are above average, although there could be improvements, 2) Asset deterioration because of the amount of use; and 3) The increase cost of business such as umpires, trophies, shirts, softballs, and concession supplies. USSSA will continue to improve communication with the City, Outside Associations, and USSSA National Office.



5. Parks Board event updates.

The next event is Kid Fish and Cardboard Boat Regatta but as of right now there are no board events in the works. Will discuss more at the next meeting.

6. Social Media subcommittee update.

Kristi Andrade reported a meeting was held Monday. The committee likely needs to look at a different way of promoting parks. YouTube Channel for Parks and Recreation is now set up and members can share with others to encourage persons to follow the channel.

7. Review this board's established committees.

Mike DeLatte summarized that the committees established are the Urban Forestry and the Social Media, as well as a representation for the Dan Robert's Environmental Learning Center, and two representatives following the Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. There is a need for other members to be on the Social Media committee since Derrick Culpepper is no longer a board member nor able to commit to this committee. Eve Johnson offered to assist the social media committee. Richard Kull voiced he would like to be involved with the DRELIC. Michael Schupp mentioned engaging Oncor regarding their tree donation program in preparations for the Arbor Day event this year, therefore there may need to be a committee meeting next month. Social Media committee: Bernadette, Kristy, Eve; DRELIC: Dolores, Richard; RDEIC: Mike and Eve; Urban Forestry: Michael, Becci, Elise, Kristy.

8. Update from City Council Liaison, Blake Margolis.

Blake Margolis was unable to be present, therefore no updates.

9. Assistant Director's Report

- A. Events: A list of events through July, as well as a January and February calendar were provided in member folders. An upcoming event is the Little Sweetheart Dance to be held February 5th at 7:00pm. Diamonds and Denim is the theme. If anyone wants to volunteer inform S. Monroe.
- B. Rowlett Community Centre: The repairs are complete. The City's server is being maintenance and will affect the Community Centre which will close early on Friday, January 14th with the possibility of reopening on Sunday, at the latest Monday. Erin Mudry was promoted to the Recreation Programmer position. Youth basketball begins January 22nd and there are many participants signed up this year and there is a waiting list. Staff began a pickleball pilot program this month in response to the number of players participating in tournaments. The league play will expand over the next few months and most other cities are not offering leagues at this point.
- C. Parks/Projects: Lake Highlands Trail has 70% of the stonework completed for the stone façade on the retaining walls and estimated completion is within the next 90 days. Staff is working on winter projects. Tree work in Pecan Grove Park is completed to ensure the safety and health of older trees. Although the yard expansion project at Community Park is completed, the next steps is to update the restrooms and staff areas.
- D. The Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission is promoting a Martin Luther King event on January 17th from 2pm-3pm at City Hall. They are collecting winter caps, socks, and blankets for the community.
- E. Staff and Senior Advisory Board have put together the final touches on the AARP Livable City Action Plan and this will be presented to City Council on February 15, 2022.
- F. Questions asked about crime in the parks and response is there are incidents of graffiti, bathroom troubles but not aware of any more major recent incidents.



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

A. No announcements

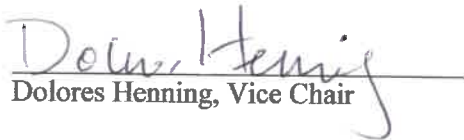
11. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.

A. Michael Schupp asked for an Urban Forestry Committee update for the Oncor and Arbor Day.

B. Michael Schupp inquired if the Parks Superintendent could speak about the field maintenance, etc.

C. Elise Bowers asked for an update on Coyle House.

12. Adjournment at 7:48 p.m.


Dolores Henning, Vice Chair


Aaron Cleaver, Parks and Recreation Director