

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
BELTON CITY COUNCIL
BELTON PARKS BOARD
MARCH 6, 2012 – 12:00 p.m.**

The Belton City Council met in special session with the Parks Board in the Kinchion Room of the Harris Community Center, with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, Councilmembers Wayne Carpenter, Craig Pearson, and John Agan. Councilmembers David K. Leigh and Clifton Peters were absent. Staff present were Sam Listi, Connie Torres, Cristy Daniell, Gene Ellis, Jerri Gauntt, and Sandy Slade.

Members present from the Parks Board were: Chair Diane Ring, Tyson McLaughlin, Jim Deeken, and Joe Brooks. Mike Ratliff was absent. The City's Park consultant Brent Luck, Luck Design Team, and Mack Parker, KPA Engineers, were also in attendance.

At 12:05 p.m., the Mayor called the City Council meeting to order, and Parks Board Chair Diane Ring called the Parks Board to order.

Presentation of the Preliminary Design Report for the Nolan Creek Recreational Improvement Project and consider approval.

The City Manager introduced Gary Lacy, Recreation Engineering & Planning, Boulder, Colorado, who gave a summary of the report and highlighted key features, and reviewed site maps and potential cost elements. Mr. Lacy stated he remains convinced this project is extremely feasible and could be very popular.

General comments and questions by the Council/Parks Board were as follows:

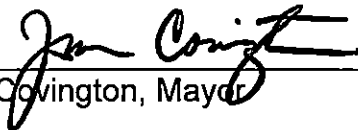
- The Mayor stated the cost for this project has decreased from \$1.3M to around \$800,000 since the pedestrian bridge was included in the Hike/Bike Trail extension project budget. This project can be more manageable if phased, and the City will be approaching corporate sponsors, such as Wal-Mart, Academy, and Dick's Sporting Goods, to gather more private resources, with \$50,000 already donated by HEB. Mr. Listi indicated staff is also actively communicating with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for potential grant opportunities.
- Councilmember Agan stated the City has experienced both flood and drought in the past few years, and asked what effect these situations would have on this project once improvements are in place. Mr. Lacy replied in order to be flood resistant, the features have to be anchored in the bed and banks of the river, and fortunately Nolan Creek exhibits a basement of bedrock which is good for anchoring drops, pools and bank work. Similarly, features can't impede a flood, but these factors are all taken into consideration during project design. Mr. Lacy added this is not a flood control project, though some minor improvements might help flood carrying capacity of Nolan Creek. After flood events, big debris that may have gotten hung up will need to be removed quickly. Otherwise, normal damage to parks, lights, and signage, may still occur during flood events. He indicated during episodes of low water, Nolan Creek has a good base flow, and modest improvements that create depth in navigational areas (6"-8") can only enhance water recreation.
- Councilmember Agan asked Engineer Mack Parker if this project sounds feasible from an engineering standpoint. Mr. Parker indicated if improvements are anchored and flood proofed, with enhancements made along the banks that reduce the Manning's "n" factor, then there will be less impact on the water flow. The more the "n" factor is reduced, the faster the storm water will flow and spread out less.
- The Mayor stated this is not principally a flood control project, but will serve as a flood mitigation project to help get water downstream and clean up the banks, which will also help water flow. He added the area from IH-35 to the other Central Avenue Bridge (where the banks are very trashy and the water doesn't flow well), is not a part of this project, but relief to this situation will need to be addressed in the future.
- Mayor Pro Tem Grayson asked where "flume" locations would be, and Mr. Lacy indicated there would be drop features (not flumes) in the following areas:
 - Harris Community Park at the existing low water crossing;
 - 3 behind the Gin property;
 - Behind City Hall at the existing low water crossing; and
 - Under the Central Avenue Bridge
- Councilmember Pearson asked about the need to dredge pools as part of routine maintenance, and Mr. Lacy suggested the City not do that at all.
- Mr. Pearson also asked about ownership issues, and Mr. Listi stated there are some ownership questions that will need to be dealt with, but most improvements are in-stream.

In summary, the City Manager stated water recreation improvements was the No. 2 priority item recommended in the Parks Master Plan. He expressed appreciation for input from the Council/Parks Board, and stated he looks forward to ultimate adoption of the Report. The Mayor requested any questions or concerns about the project from either group, be directed to him, Chair Ring, or City staff, and thanked Mr. Lacy for his presentation.

Mayor Covington briefed the groups that the City has an opportunity to purchase the Leon Valley Golf Course for potential park land or other recreational opportunities. He indicated if preliminary research warrants, a committee will likely be formed to determine public support, and a bond issue would probably be needed.


Several Councilmembers expressed support of the Nolan Creek recreational project with hopes it comes to fruition. Chair Ring thanked the Council for including the Parks Board in this meeting, and stated she hopes to have other joint workshops in the future. Ms. Ring stated decisions will need to be made about how the recreational project will be managed, and cited its potential for being an income generator, which could in turn, help accomplish other parks projects. The City Manager concurred, stating while this project does bring a clear economic development impact, it does raise a lot of policy issues that will need to be addressed.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the City Council meeting at 1:00 p.m., and Ms. Ring also adjourned the Parks Board meeting.



Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Torres, City Clerk