



City of Belton - Parks Board
Meeting Minutes
Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, August 2, 2010 – 5:30 P.M.

A meeting of the Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, August 2, 2010, in the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Mike Ratliff, Joe Brooks, Diane Ring, Woody Durbin, and recently appointed Member Jim Deeken. City staff in attendance included: City Manager Sam Listi, Harris Center Manager Sandy Slade, Parks Superintendent Dennis Browning, Assistant Parks Superintendent Rocky Shed and Larry Thorne, also from the Parks Department.

1. Call to Order

Chair Diane Ring called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Public Comments (moved on agenda).

Mr. Frank Diaz addressed the Board on the ability to use Heritage Park soccer fields for adult men's league play with regard to the fees that the league would be required to pay. Mr. Diaz said that now that Lonestar will not be playing on the field, it should be open for them to use. Ring asked for the number of teams that Mr. Diaz believes will start the league. Mr. Diaz indicates 6 to 8 starting, all local teams. He said that the teams are not happy with the league in Temple and want to play in Belton on Sundays only. Ring asked that Sandy Slade address the issue. Slade gave the information on the fees for leagues at \$375 per team (adult league) and a \$500 deposit for damages. Additional discussion involving maintenance issues on the field were addressed. Mr. Diaz said that the league could help with maintenance.

Ring asked if Mr. Diaz had used Chisholm Trail and the response was that the field was "not safe to play on". Mr. Diaz said that it is okay for practice, but not games. Woody Durbin asked Mr. Diaz if one field was the need. Mr. Diaz said yes, one field. There was further discussion regarding rotation of field use. Jim Deeken clarified number of weeks and games. Mr. Diaz then said his use would be during the same season as the youth play, around 10 weeks with 4 games per day on Sundays.

Sam Listi reminded the Board that the fee for league play is set by City Council and maintenance is always a subject of discussion, especially at the end of a season of play. Listi said that staff would research fees at the Boards' request; however, no adjustment may be made at this time because it is an ordinance approved by City Council. Some background into the previous men's league agreement with the City was discussed.

Slade mentioned that we would need a definitive timeframe on Mr. Diaz' intent to play based on the differences between his current request and previous requests from the past. Ring told Diaz that the staff and Board would take all things under advisement. Further discussion continued regarding the fees that the league is required to pay by the state organization (TSSAS) and from the Temple league, if they joined the Temple league. Mr. Diaz indicated that they would form the league through the state of Texas organization.

Ring thanked Diaz for coming before the Board and said the matter would be evaluated.

3. Administer the Oath of Office to new board member (moved on agenda).

City Manager Sam Listi administered Oath of Office to new member Jim Deeken. Diane Ring thanked Deeken for joining the board, and also thanked Ron Hale for his many years of service to the Board.

4. Selection of Board Chair and Vice Chair (moved on agenda).

Diane Ring was voted in as Chair by acclamation.

Joe Brooks was voted in as Vice Chair by acclamation.

5. Consider minutes from the June 7, 2010 Parks Board meeting.

Minutes were approved as presented.

6. Receive Lonestar Soccer End of Season Report.

No representative for Lonestar was present for the report. Sandy Slade indicated that the report was only half of the report. Mike Seiler sent his team's information; however, no information was sent in by Freddy Guerrero, including no pre-season information required per agreement. Mike Seiler said that there would be no teams playing in Belton from Lonestar in the fall. Refund of deposit will be made to Freddy Guerrero, who placed the original affiliate deposit. Ring asked if this would allow for Mr. Diaz' league to play. Slade said yes, it would allow for their games to be played. Further discussion continued regarding the options for Mr. Diaz' potential league play.

7. Receive a report from Sandy Slade, Harris Center Manager, on the following: regarding the new Facilities Module on the City's website; and Recreational Programming progress.

A copy of the new Harris Community Center center's informational packet was given to each board member. Slade mentioned a few changes in the packet that were needed to proceed with recreational programming. Slade also said that recreational forms are currently being completed to use for all pieces of programming from background checks to instructors applications. Slade indicated that scheduling will be the most critical piece and that we are hoping that by October 1st, all of these things will be in place.

Ring said that the Harris fees needs to be examined to determine whether the fees are in line. Slade said that we want to make sure that the rates continue to be affordable.

Slade also showed the Board the handout on the new facilities module on the City's website. She indicated that the information is still being entered, but it will be up soon for the public to search.

Some discussion took place on the attendants work and effectiveness at the splash pads.

8. Receive a report from Sam Listi, City Manager, on the following: Nolan Creek Trail Extension Grant; Corps of Engineers' Lakeview Park; and Nolan Creek Recreational Project.

Listi acknowledged the number one item identified by the citizens in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is trails, and that the City did receive the grant the week prior to allow for the extension of the Hike and Bike trail by about a third of a mile. It will extend up the hill behind Harris and connect to UMHB on University Drive. Project funding is 80% grant with 20% matching funds. Listi said that it is a costly piece to build but is vital to connect the University and the grant is the only way it would be completed. Further discussion regarding the proposed funding of 9th Avenue Bridge continued.

Listi said that the Corps of Engineers continues to work on an agreement option with the City. Listi indicated that it may fall in mid-year before the agreement would be finished. Ring and Durbin voiced a concern for Fiscal year 2011 funding if not finalized until mid-year. Listi explained that it may need to be a budget amendment at that time.

Listi informed the board about the Nolan Creek project. The final draft plan is in hand and Listi said he would distribute to the City Council for review and ensure that the Parks Board will obtain a copy prior to the next Parks Board meeting. Listi told the board that the total cost of the project could be between \$800K to \$1 million. Listi filled the board in on some of the project features as indicated in the plan and explained the possible need to conduct the project in phases. Listi indicated that the consultant's recommendation was to construct the in-stream improvements first.

Listi stressed the importance of the project as it has the potential to change the character of the community and stressed that water recreation is the second priority identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ring said that as much as the water feature is important, there are a number of projects that can be done for well under the single amount of the Nolan Creek project. Listi confirmed that the City of Belton would be competitive for grant funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife with the “new” elements that the plan examines, i.e. skate park, Dog Park, disc golf, etc.

9. Board and/or staff comments.

Listi said that Movie in the Park was very successful. The features of Harris Community Park, along with the parking made it a great setting. Ring agreed on the location making it a perfect place to host that event. Further discussions about the event continued – Time Warner host, TXU giveaways, and Rotary popcorn/drinks.

10. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.