



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, November 7, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, November 7, 2011, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Mike Ratliff, Tyson McLaughlin, Jim Deeken, and Chair Diane Ring. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Sam Listi, Public Works Director Les Hallbauer, Recreation & Events Director Sandy Slade, and Recreation Coordinator Johanna Long.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Ring called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

3. Consider the minutes from the September 12, 2011, Parks Board meeting.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Receive from Tom Reynolds representing the BISD ROTC, a request for permission to construct a mini-compass course along the walking trail at the Chisholm Trail Park.

Mr. Tom Reynolds described the compass course to the Board. Key points include the following:

- Course will contain approximately 12 start points and 24 legs used for the purpose of teaching orienting
- The ROTC group will construct all items needed for the course
- Designed around the large walking track providing for 250 meters
- Would like to have ready for use by January 15, 2012
- Size of the plates will be roughly 10 inches in diameter and be flush with ground
- Plates will be placed inside and outside of the track
- Final design and installation continues to be evaluated; however, any restrictions the City feels need to be considered will be followed by the group
- Course can be used with a produced worksheet by BISD ROTC for any programming the City may have in the future as well
- ROTC contributors will assume costs associated with the production and installations
- Some limited assistance may be available from the City

Mr. Hallbauer asked Mr. Reynolds to follow up with him in the next week or so regarding the final design and install plans.

After some further discussion and consideration, Parks Board conditionally approved the construction of a mini-compass course along the walking trail at the Chisholm Trail Park. After approval Mr. Listi suggested some type of agreement be written as an understanding between the City and BISD for the additional use of the park. Board agreed.

5. Receive a report from Jamie Hearn, owner/operator of Brigade Skate regarding information on the company's fundraising efforts for the purpose of building a skate park in Belton.

(Tabled at original point in meeting)

Ms. Jamie Hearn, owner of Brigade Skate, told the Board about the efforts from Brigade Skate to raise funds for the purpose of building a skate park in the future. Mr. Joe Vinson, representing

Brigade, also informed the Board about a recent meeting the two had with the Waco Parks & Recreation Director about their future skate park plans. Mr. Vinson said that with the improvements Waco intends to make the possibility of purchasing their existing equipment could be a valuable resource to consider for Belton skate park development. The pair told the Board of the research they continue to perform including contacting a non-profit organization called Skate254.org. Mr. Vinson said that Waco did receive a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant as well as a \$10,000 grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation.

Further discussion on the need for the group to investigate non-profit status is important. Mr. Listi reiterated the fact that the skate park is on the priority list but it is currently listed as #6. He added that the City does not want to discourage anyone from donating money to project, while adding that the need to stay realistic to the priorities set forth.

Chair Ring said that the Board is encouraged by the alternate option of perhaps starting with pre-fabricated equipment. Brigade Skate will report back to the Board any future research.

6. Review and approve the Adopt-A-Park Program information packet.

Recreation Coordinator Johanna Long informed the Board of the continuing expressed interest by external entities wishing to lend service to City parks. Ms. Long gave the group an overview of what is required by organizations taking part in the program. Mrs. Slade also told the Board that the information in the packet is based on the knowledge that one group as already made the commitment to adopt Miller Heights Community Park.

Chair Ring asked if there should be a provision in place for larger projects, stating the example that if someone came to the City with a significant funding source and asked the City to match funds to develop a project, would the City need something to back the demand. Mr. Listi said that type of project would need to be addressed on a case by case basis, indicating that the consideration would need to fall within the priorities and, of course, funding would need to be available.

Discussion continued regarding the option of splitting some of the larger community parks into complexes or park areas to adopt and maintenance issues. Mr. Hallbauer did make note that the minor repairs to equipment needed to be removed from the list of opportunities in the City section. Board and Staff agreed.

The Board unanimously approved the Adopt-A-Park program.

7. Board and/or Staff comments.

Mrs. Slade informed the Board on the expanded map of the Nolan Creek Improvement project, with the route from the ASCO property to 9th Street at UMHB. Mr. Listi said that with the current authorization from Council, we have moved from a visual concept to a preliminary design. Listi continued to review the expanded boundaries, including some options for accesses into the water. He mentioned to the Board that there could be an option for an additional meeting with Mr. Gary Lacy during his visit from the 14th to 16th.

Mr. Listi also updated the Board on grant funding, possible private funds and city funds to assist with the project. Mr. Listi explained to the Board the connection of several projects in the future that would respond positively to the first and second priority items in the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan.

Mr. Hallbauer updated the Board on the improvements to Heritage Park through the Memorandum of Understanding previously authorized by the City Council. Infield work is complete and all other materials are currently waiting to be installed at the appropriate time prior to the season.

Ms. Long informed the Board of the new recreational programs within the Harris Community Center and special events coming up in the City, including Family, Fishin' & Fun at Nolan Creek and Christmas on the Chisholm Trail. This year at Family, Fishin' & Fun is a free event that will not require a license through an exemption through Texas Parks and Wildlife. Mrs. Slade told the Board of the success of the Puppy Up! Walk.

Mr. Deeken expressed an interest by the students at the new South Belton Middle School for projects or use ideas for the future park location near the school. Mr. Deeken indicated that when the time comes, the school would like to be involved.

(Board returned to item #5 on the agenda, previously tabled)

8. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.