



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, September 12, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, August 1, 2011, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Mike Ratliff, Tyson McLaughlin, Jim Deeken, Joe Brooks, and Chair Diane Ring. City Staff in attendance included City Manager Sam Listi, Public Works Director Les Hallbauer, Recreation & Events Director Sandy Slade, Recreation Coordinator Johanna Long, Parks Superintendent Dennis Browning and Parks Sr. Maintenance Worker Tony Rose.

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Administer the Oath of Office to new board member. (Changed to “Welcome new board member”. Oath of Office was completed prior to the beginning of meeting.)

Mr. Tyson McLaughlin gave a brief description of his background to the board.

3. Selection of Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Selected unanimously, Mrs. Diane Ring will continue as Chair and Mr. Jim Deeken as Vice Chair.

4. Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

5. Consider the minutes from the June 6, 2011, Parks Board meeting.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

6. Receive report from Police Chief Gene Ellis on park security/patrol plans.

Chief Ellis explained to the Board that the department has been planning for well over a year with a volunteer police initiative. The largest push for the volunteers will be the parks to create deterrence. There are approximately 10 to 12 graduates of the Citizen's Police Academy and they will be conducting some training in the next month. The volunteers will be equipped with the department's golf cart and radios for contact with the department. The idea is that the volunteer will act in the capacity of deterrence (eyes and ears) and not to confront.

Mr. Deeken verified with Chief that graffiti is the largest problem in the parks. Mrs. Ring asked how the rotation of volunteers would work. The Chief said that the volunteers will rotate, based on availability. Some work, some don't and that will be taken into account. Mixing the time frames will allow them to remain unpredictable. Volunteers will have some type of identifying dress. Chief Ellis confirmed first patrols should be up by the first of September.

Mrs. Ring asked about cameras in the parks. Chief Ellis indicated that restrooms are the locations at parks that are vandalized most often and the place that cameras aren't allowed.

Discussion continued about decreased vandalism in the parks.

7. Receive a report from Sam Listi, City Manager, on the Nolan Creek Trail Extension Grant and Nolan Creek Recreational Project.

Nolan Creek Trail Extension Grant Information:

Mr. Listi gave an overview to the Board of the concept plan created by KPA Engineers, which shows an ideal alignment of the trail connection to the future UMHB pedestrian mall area. Mr. Listi addressed the safety aspects of taking out the low water crossing and replacing with a

pedestrian bridge. Also discussed were challenges that Staff is addressing regarding property ownership. He explained to the Board that in order for the plan to work, land would need to be donated. Condemning property is not an option when working with Federal Trails grant money.

Mr. Listi said that the City foresees no issue with the College View Apartments or UMHB. Also, he indicated that with all the work ahead, construction could possibly be a year out. Mr. Listi told the Board that the City was unsuccessful in obtaining the Recreational Trails Grant with Texas Parks & Wildlife.

Nolan Creek Recreational Project Information:

Mr. Listi gave the Board an overview of the project, including the extension of both directions along Nolan Creek. Mrs. Ring verified with Mr. Listi that the preliminary design would include information regarding the banks along the newly added extensions.

Mr. Listi informed the Board that he and the Mayor have met with several large retailers, including Wal-Mart, HEB, Dick's Sporting Goods and Academy Sports to discuss possible partnerships and contributions of funds. Mr. Listi informed the Board that the grant funding has changed application date and could possibly decrease in actual funded dollars.

The Board asked questions regarding operations. Mrs. Slade responded with some information received by a meeting held with San Marcos regarding allowance of alcohol, security and trash disposal.

Further discussion continued regarding benefits for businesses along the trail.

8. Review draft of Recreation Guide.

Mrs. Slade told the Board that the Guide will not be printed initially, but is available online. She told the Board the cost is prohibitive for printing at this time.

Mrs. Ring suggested placing the Guide at the Chamber and at the Corps properties around Belton. Mrs. Slade said a rack card might save in costs and we would be investigating that process.

Mrs. Slade informed the Board that the revisions will be made every three months with the change of program.

9. Board and/or staff comments.

Mr. Deeken asked about the possibility of turning the land area next to HEB into a green space parkland area. Mr. Listi and Mr. Hallbauer said nothing was planned at this time, but that it is something to look at for the future.

Mr. Slade mentioned Movie in the Park on Friday night.

10. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.