



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 – 5:30 P.M.

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on January 3, 2012, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Tyson McLaughlin, Jim Deeken, Joe Brooks, and Chair Diane Ring. City Staff in attendance included: Public Works Director Les Hallbauer, Recreation & Events Director Sandy Slade, Recreation Coordinator Johanna Long, and Parks Superintendent Dennis Browning.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Ring called the meeting to order at 5:29pm.

2. Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

3. Consider the minutes from the November 7, 2011, Parks Board meeting.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Receive end of season report from Daniel Bucher from BCYC on the fall soccer program.

Tabled until after item #5. Mr. Daniel Bucher gave a brief summary on the fall soccer program to the Board. He said that numbers were down but attributed that to the heat of the summer months. Mr. Bucher also specifically thanked the parks maintenance staff for their attentiveness to issues that arose this summer, including dealing with the cracks in the grassy areas.

He did say that it is hard to read from the financials accounting given due to soccer and basketball seasons are rolled together. Some discussion followed regarding the amount of enrollment inside and outside the city limits. Mr. Bucher said it is similar circumstances with his afterschool program.

5. Consider a proposal by the Associations for use of vinyl banner signage on fences at Heritage Park Baseball and Chisholm Trail Softball Complexes.

Jason Wolfe, Board member for BYBA, spoke on behalf of the Association. Mr. Wolfe provided a proposal to the Board that outlined a possible sponsorship initiative. He said that the Association had been approached by an entity wishing to provide sponsorship to the League with expressed interest in placing one vinyl banner on each backstop facing the concessions stand. The Association feels that the initiative would help to provide additional income to provide for field improvements and/or additional improvements to the league. The proposal suggested no more than 10 ft. in length, 5 ft. width and said that Academy Sports (possible sponsoring entity) would be responsible for replacing the sign, also saying that it would be installed by zip ties. Mr. Wolfe said that the Association would take no responsibility for the banners but would take in the funds provided from the sponsorship. Mr. Wolfe confirmed that the signs would only be in place during the season only.

Mr. Wolfe also made the request to the Board to place a baby changing station in the women's restroom. Mr. Hallbauer, PW Director, told the Board that any item that can be placed would be vandalized very easily. Chair Ring asked if there were any other stronger materials rather than a normal fiberglass installation and Mr. Hallbauer said that the Parks Department would look into a possible structure made of brick with a tile top, but that will need to be researched more. Parks Board agreed that more research should be done.

Banner advertising discussion continued including whether the Association had considered other avenues of advertising. Scoreboards were discussed, but Mr. Hallbauer indicated that the sponsorship of the scoreboards was based on their donation of the boards themselves.

No action was taken on the decision of advertising banners at the facilities; however, the Board said that it would consider the proposal. Mr. Wolfe told the Board that if a decision could be reached by the next Parks Board meeting that would give plenty of time for the Association to find a sponsor, if passed.

Mr. Hallbauer gave the Association a brief update on the field work progress at the Heritage Park baseball complex.

6. Discuss recent visit from Gary Lacy of Recreation Engineering & Planning, on the Nolan Creek Improvement Project.

After Sandy Slade gave a brief overview of the progress of the Nolan Creek Improvement Project, Chair Ring informed the Board about her visit with Gary Lacy and his project manager. Chair Ring expressed the excitement that she saw as Gary spoke about the project and its natural potential. Chair Ring expressed concerns to Recreation Engineering relating to potential revenue and upkeep of the improvements. She told the Board that Recreation Engineering said the potential revenue can be great for the city and upkeep is minimal.

Chair Ring also told the Board that the hope was to have some of the revenue filter back through to support the other efforts prioritized in the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan. Mr. Hallbauer told the group that the leg from 9th Avenue to Burton's Crossing area would be used more so for the avid kayaker willing to make the hike and that Burton's Crossing area would be the "put in" area suitable for most.

Chair Ring asked that Staff continue to keep the Board updated on the progress.

7. Board and/or Staff comments.

Mr. Deeken asked about the progress of the old Leon Valley Golf Course. Mr. Hallbauer said that a developer purchased it for the development of townhouses, but it is on hold due to the economic issues.

Johanna Long gave the Board an update on the latest recreational programs and adult sports beginning in spring. Mrs. Slade congratulated Ms. Long on her efforts for the Family, Fishin' & Fun event that was a huge success with nearly 250 in attendance.

Ms. Slade gave a quick summary on the success of Christmas on the Chisholm Trail.

8. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.