



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, September 10, 2012 – 5:30 pm

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, September 10, 2012, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board Chair Diane Ring and members, Mike Ratliff, Josh Pearson, and Tyson McLaughlin. City Staff in attendance included Recreation & Events Director Sandy Slade, and Parks Superintendent Dennis Browning.

1. Call to Order.

Board member Mike Ratliff called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

2. Consider the minutes from the August 6, 2012, Parks Board meeting.

Mr. Pearson referenced the word “more” regarding the surplus funds of BCYC from agenda item # 5, asking what that word meant and for staff to provide clarification. The reference was as follows: *Ms. Rider told the Board that she believed those funds go towards buying goals, paint and more for the next season.* Upon researching the recording of the meeting, the following is the verbatim statement: *“I think it is used for buying goals and paint and things like that for the next season.” – Ms. Rider*

With no further corrections or questions, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Consider the minutes from the August 17, 2012, Parks Board meeting.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Receive end of spring season soccer report from Raymond Cenicerros for Lonestar Soccer.

Mr. Cenicerros gave the Board a brief review of the season. He said that the league produced 8 teams for spring and indicated that fall registration is currently at 14 teams. Cenicerros said that the amount of growth from spring to fall, and in the future, must be handled carefully for field management. He said that if the league grows by just 4 more teams by fall 2013, they will have to begin to find more field space for games. Cenicerros said that the league is already struggling for practice space, but is aware that this is an issue for all sports in Belton. Mr. McLaughlin asked about creating more fields by reorganizing the space at Heritage. Cenicerros explained that he had already developed more fields out of the existing space available even utilizing the drainage area when possible for this fall season to accommodate the growth and now the space is maximized. Mr. Browning said that he could look into the area on the south side and see if in the future there would be space available, but was unsure due to the drainage area needs.

Chair Ring asked about administrative fees indicated on the financial spreadsheet. Cenicerros said that those fees are built in to the per team to cover the costs of paper, player cards, ink cartridges and items needed for the administrative side of the league. He said that what is not used then rolls forward for tournaments. Further discussion continued regarding particular expenses and revenue variances per team.

Mrs. Slade gave the Board the resident versus non-resident percentages at 98% outside city limits and 2% inside city limits.

The Board asked that Lonestar’s financial report be presented with better description and more of the required information moving forward. Slade told the Board that she had discussed this with Cenicerros and would follow-up to ensure that it is done for the next reporting cycle.

Upon arrival, Chair Ring took over the meeting from Board member Ratliff.

5. Receive end of spring season baseball report from Wade Miller for Belton Youth Baseball Association.

Slade gave the Board the resident verses non-resident percentages at 66% outside city limits, 33% inside city limits, and 1% unknown with post office box addresses.

Chair Ring commended Mr. Wade Miller and the Board on the great job on the financial reporting and the ability to be good stewards with the funds for the league. Miller informed the Board that there is still money in the account for the purpose of capital improvements and that they are waiting to hear on the repair of the sprinkler system at Heritage. He also said that the Association will need to purchase a new golf cart this next season.

Browning informed the Board that the City is still looking into the system. Miller said that it should occur after the fall ball season and could look at a quick fix to get the spray heads off the base areas, which create a "mudding" problem. Browning and Miller continued to discuss the changes that are to come regarding the sprinkler system, with Browning concluding that the work would need to be done as a permanent fix to the system. Pearson clarified the timeline for sprinkler repair again and if they could wait until after fall ball, with Miller and Browning both agreeing.

Miller expressed that the league would like to see addition of a 5th field to the complex down the road at some point to accommodate the younger league. It was mentioned using the practice softball field for that purpose. Miller explained that it is too far from the existing and would need concession and restroom facilities.

Miller said that the Association will be "farming out" the registration because of time constraints and have been in discussion with BCYC to take that on as a part of their computer system, etc. Miller said that nothing will be finalized until after the new Board takes office. Miller said that a per-player fee would be paid to BCYC for this service. Chair Ring clarified with Miller that the Association will assign a liaison to the City.

6. Receive end of spring season softball report from Cori Drake for Belton Youth Softball Association.

In the absence of Mrs. Cori Drake, Mrs. Gwenda Thompson, former Secretary, gave the Parks Board a review of spring season. Thompson told the Board that the remaining Board members had resigned prior to the general membership meeting, leaving one remaining Board member. Mr. & Mrs. Thompson said that they will stay around as interim members to make sure that the Board gets filled. Slade asked about a requirement from TTAB on the number of Board members. Mr. Thompson said that there has to be a President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. Mr. Thompson said that the Association By-laws call for 11 total Board members. The lone Board member is Mr. Brandon LaRue.

Pearson asked if there was turmoil or in-fighting. Thompson said it is always hard finding and keeping members. She also said that there was a problem with family members on the Board favoring an override of other Board members in a decision. Chair Ring expressed a concern about the finances, relating to maintaining a diverse group of Board members. Chair asked that Mr. & Mrs. Thompson inform new Board members to keep Parks Board up-to-date on progress of filling remaining Board positions and on the financial transition once the Board has been established. Chair Ring followed up by asking that the organization attend the next Parks Board meeting to give an update. Mr. & Mrs. Thompson agreed to attend.

Thompson continued to give her overview of the end of season report. Thompson said that they offered community service hours to those students that would help at tournaments. Pearson asked if there were no Board, can there be a season. Thompson said yes. Thompson said that there are a couple of prospects already and they believe that it will work out and that fall ball is taken care of and under way. Both Mr. and Mrs. Thompson said that the finances are still in the

hands of Mr. Thompson, who is the past President and will not go off the account until a new President is in place.

Slade asked if there was a deadline for the new Board to be in place and Thompson said no. Both Mr. & Mrs. Thompson said that they will have to work quickly to get recruits, as the planning for spring season begins in November.

Chair Ring thanked the Thompsons for the very descriptive report. Pearson asked if there were any concerns about the funds and Mr. Thompson said that there was no tampering with the account and the funds are in really good shape right now.

Browning updated the Association on the installation of bars on the concession stand for added security measures. He said they will be installed within the week.

7. Board and/or Staff comments.

Slade told the Board about the Day on the Creek event helping to support the Nolan Creek Recreational Improvement Project. The day will consist of vendors, music, food and fun. Slade told the Board that it is an event to raise awareness and fundraising.

Slade said that the department is in search of a new Recreation Coordinator and should have someone in place soon.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.