



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Wright Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Thursday, February 21, 2013 – 5:30 pm

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Thursday, February 21, 2013, in the Wright Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board Vice Chair Daniel Bucher; members Josh Pearson, Mike Ratliff, and Tyson McLaughlin. City Staff in attendance included Recreation & Events Director Sandy Slade, Planning Director Erin Newcomer, Parks Superintendent Dennis Browning and Recreation Coordinator Matt Bates.

1. Call to Order.

Vice Chair Daniel Bucher called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Consider minutes from the January 14, 2013, Parks Board meeting.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Receive an end of season report regarding fall league flag football from Belton Christian Youth Center representative Michelle Rider.

Mrs. Slade gave the information on the city limit percentages to the Board and explained that the unknown percentage was higher than in the past, which BCYC indicated was caused by a new registration system. Ms. Rider said that this piece of registration is being worked on and is getting fixed for future seasons.

Rider gave the Board an overview to the Board regarding the season. She told the Board that there were some difficulties in getting the make-up games in at the end of the season with the time change, lighting issues and conflicts with coaches that were UMHB students leaving. Mr. Bucher asked if they would be start season earlier, to which Ms. Rider agreed.

Mr. Ratliff told Rider that the communication for the season was inadequate and that he had heard from several parents. Rider explained that there were issues with equipment ordering problems and that the first games were not reflected in the standings as there were meant to be scrimmages introducing children to the game. Ratliff said that information was not communicated to the parents. Ms. Melissa Parker, Executive Director for BCYC, said that BCYC deals with thousands of families during the year and that tons of people say things about BCYC. Further discussion continued on the communication from BCYC to the parents. Parker said that they would look into it, but that she knew the communication was being distributed from BCYC. Parker added that they deal with a lot of volunteers to deliver communication and that sometimes that works well and sometimes it doesn't. She said they do their best with volunteer help and paying coaches is not an affordable solution. Parker said that there is always room to learn and do better. Ratliff said that there was no communication on the games that were completely cancelled. Parker said that the model used as been for many years, that the BCYC communicates to coaches and the coaches to parents.

Pearson asked if the same communication model is used for soccer. Rider said that it is and that they use the One Call Now system. Rider went on to explain how the system works notifying parents and coaches on the day of games by recorded message. Pearson asked if Rider remembered the system being used on the first game day and she said yes. She briefly mentioned that some of the phone numbers throughout the season needed updating; however, the system was used several times during the season.

Bucher said that he feels that flag football could be a great program that is not currently offered at other locations in Belton. He said the NFL Flag program is a good program and can offer a lot of resources. He said he would continue to support the program as a member of Parks Board.

4. Receive an end of season report regarding fall league soccer from Belton Christian Youth Center representative Michelle Rider.

Mr. Raymond Cenicerros gave an overview of the report to the Board, standing in for Ms. Rider, as he was responsible for day-to-day operations of the league.

Bucher said that he wanted to make a record of request for lights in the program needs section of the report and said that he felt this would be a continued discussion in future meetings. He asked that the Board hear input and discussion on the item. Bucher prompted Mr. Cenicerros to discuss how lights would be used and to elaborate. Cenicerros mentioned that he had heard about a baseball field being discussed for lighting. He said that he believes that it is based on how badly someone wishes to push the issue. Cenicerros said he is not clear on how to push the issue, indicating that he is aware of donation possibilities and other options such as Musco lighting that guarantee a maintenance-free option. He said that the City could charge for lighting back to the leagues and that he feels it would be simple to use. Cenicerros said that he would like to know where to go from here and feels that he always receives vague information when asking about the lights.

Mr. McLaughlin asked Slade if the item of adding lights to soccer fields would need to go before City Council. Slade told the Board that the item would come before Parks Board and proceed to City Council. She said that lighting is a very costly item from installation, maintenance and so forth; however, a proposal could be made for consideration. Ratliff said that several years ago, Parks Board felt that the costs associated with lights was prohibitive with the current City budget at the time. Recalling numbers, Browning said that just bring power to the location was around \$40K to \$50K at that time, indicating the total project cost at around \$150K to \$170K. Browning said the project would have to be underground. Cenicerros said he has heard of people willing to donate a lot of money but that it was here-say, and that backs were turned to the idea. He said that moving forward, if he could get some guidance on how to get a door to walk through, he would start the process. Pearson said that everything the Board is hearing is based on cost and that if there are people and/or organization that Cenicerros is aware of, he feels that it would be difficult for the City to turn away from a possible matching fund proposal. Pearson said that he and Chair Ring are on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) committee for the city and they must address current needs throughout the City, including such items as a new fire engine at \$500K. He said that he understands how important the item is to the soccer leagues and if the league has the potential to pull together information on people/resources, then he could move towards that option. Cenicerros said that he is scared of taking those steps if the answer moving forward is no. He said that he wouldn't have the time putting it together, but with the matching fund situation he does feel that there may be potential.

Parker asked if there was a long-term plan for lighting at the soccer fields at Heritage Park. Parker said that she feels that it isn't right for BCYC to pay same costs at baseball without the benefit of lighting. She said that the children deserve the option to play later. Cenicerros did say that the fields do look nicer than past and Ms. Parker said agreed that parks maintenance is doing a good job.

Ratliff asked if the parking was adequate at Heritage Park and both Cenicerros and Parker agreed that it is not adequate. Ratliff asked what we could do to be more proactive to get the people to stop driving on the hike and bike trail. Cenicerros said they are being as proactive as they can be without putting themselves in a bad position. Ratliff asked Slade if the Police Chief could be notified of the issue, with an affirmative answer from Slade. Slade added that she believes parking at Heritage to be another consideration in the CIP list. Bucher said that from personal experience, it is a difficult issue. Further discussions continued regarding parking at Heritage. Parker said that she felt it would be great if the city would have some type of appreciation or encouragement towards the people running the sports leagues for the City. She said that it is not

easy and she would like to see the city have an encouraging role. She feels that we are lucky to have organizations step and run these programs for the City.

5. Receive an end of season report regarding fall league soccer from Lonestar Soccer Club Central Texas representative Raymond Cenicerros.

Cenicerros gave the Board an overview of the report for fall Lonestar Soccer Club. Cenicerros said that from the fall of 2011 to spring of 2013 the number of teams has nearly doubled and the club is looking to double again for the fall; however, not all of those will play at Heritage Park. He indicated that 35 games were played this last fall season. Cenicerros said that the league is not making money right now and that will need to change. He gave a breakdown of the costs involved. Uniforms are ordered through Lonestar website at child's own expense. If teams want to take pictures, it is decided upon by the team.

6. Consider recommendation to the City Council in naming a 1.46 acre lot in the Wright Addition, 905 Carla Kay Drive, to Carla Kay Park, east of Muelhouse Street and north of Avenue M.

Ms. Erin Newcomer, Planning Director, gave an overview of the history of the property and stipulations required by the facility renaming guidelines. Slade informed the Board of the change to the fiscal impact from the report the Board had received, to include a cost associated with production of a limestone sign estimated at \$450.

With a further brief discussion, Ratliff made a motion to approve a recommendation to City Council. Pearson seconded the motion and the item was approved unanimously.

7. Consider an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Park Regulations.

Slade gave an overview of the history of revising the Code of Ordinances and briefly addressed key changes, including park hours, inclusive use, and amplified sound. Discussion occurred regarding use of wheeled vehicles, i.e. skateboards and rollerblading in parks. Suggestion to add the words "or trail" to Section 15-46, #8 to state the following: *segways, golf carts or similar devices on or along any sidewalk "or trail" within or leading to, a park except in areas....*

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Pearson and seconded by Ratliff. The item approved unanimously.

8. Board and/or Staff comments.

Slade updated the Board on the approval by City Council to upgrade the water line in Heritage Park and that the work would most likely begin within the week. She also gave an overview of progress on the Nolan Creek Recreational Improvement Project. Matt Bates and Slade updated the Board on the upcoming recreational events.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.