



City of Belton –Parks Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Smith Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, February 2nd, 2015 – 5:30 pm

A workshop of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, February 2nd, 2015, in the Smith Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members T.R. McLaughlin, Daniel Bucher, Jason Wolfe, and Chair Josh Pearson. City Staff in attendance included City Manager Sam A. Listi, Recreation and Events Director Matt Bates, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator Aaron Harris, Parks Superintendent James Grant, and Assistant Public Works Director Byron Sinclair.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Consider minutes from the January 5, 2015, Parks Board meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Bucher seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously, 4-0.

3. Conduct a work session to consider options for permitting/ franchising recreation outfitters who may utilize Nolan Creek in the City of Belton.

Mr. Bates presented to the Parks Board and Staff the options that the City looked at when discussing the role the City had in regulating activity on the Creek. Mr. Bates told the board that the City quickly agreed that it was not the City's role to regulate the activity in or on the water such as other cities that have similar amenities. The discussions that the City had with other municipalities in the state that had regulations for water recreation, staff felt that regulating the shuttle buses or transit vehicles used by companies for the purpose of water recreation would be the best option for all. It would allow the City to make sure those vehicles carrying customers would be safe and carry up to date inspection stickers and insurance. An item that the staff and board deliberated on was whether the Permit would be awarded through a Franchise agreement with a select number of businesses each year being awarded the franchise, or to allow any business to apply for a permit. The board believed it may be wise to only allow a small number of businesses to be awarded a franchise, as to allow those companies to grow and to limit the amount of vehicles on City streets during peak seasons. However both board and staff agreed that there is a lot of 'unknown' in regards to what extent the increase in water recreation upon the creek will be, thus making it difficult to franchise only a select few businesses, as there is no intent to discourage businesses from starting up. Staff mentioned that if there was to be a significant rise in business related activity upon the creek, then it may be prudent in future years to begin looking into the awarding of franchises to control the amount of businesses operating shuttles and services for water recreation on the creek.

The board agreed that there was a need for some type of regulation for water recreation upon the creek, and that by regulating the shuttle buses a business may use would be an appropriate platform to do so. The board was split between whether to have the application be categorized as a permit, or awarded through a franchise. The board asked staff to look into whether there could be some cross over between the two, such as issuing a permit, but only to a certain number. Mr. Bates thanked the board for their input and told them that staff would begin researching possible methods for implementation.

4. Adjourn.

Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.