



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, January 5, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, December 8, 2014, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Daniel Bucher, Jason Wolfe, Diane Ring, and Chair, Josh Pearson. City Staff in attendance included Mayor, Marion Grayson; Recreation and Events Director, Matt Bates; Assistant Public Works Director, Byron Sinclair; and Parks Superintendent, James Grant.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Josh Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Consider the minutes from the August 25, 2014, Parks Board meeting.

Ms. Ring made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously, 4-0.

3. Receive a presentation regarding possible Youth Soccer Agreement amendments, relating to practicing at Heritage Park Soccer Fields, from City of Belton Recreation & Events Director, Matt Bates.

Mr. Bates presented three options that may offer a possible solution to the problem of practicing at Heritage Park, which was brought up at the last Parks Board meeting in December. The three possible options presented to the board were:

Option 1: Open fields up to Practice for all teams. Fields would be available to both associations to practice on a 'first come first serve' basis, except for when games are scheduled.

Option 2: No practice allowed. Post signage discouraging practice, with Parks and Rec Department being the entity which would enforce the rule. A '3 strikes' policy would be implemented with associations being warned for first time violation, fined for the following violations, subsequent violations would lead to being brought before a disciplinary board.

Option 3: Permit associations to practice only at designated times. Belton Parks and Rec Department would handle scheduling. Similar to a park permit, violators would be removed by Belton Police Department.

Staff cautioned the board that Option 1 could lead to quick and lasting field damage if 800+ kids were to spend each night on the fields as with the previous season in Fall 2014. Mr. Bates told the board that Option 2 was staff's recommendation. It would allow for fields to be kept in the best possible shape for game days, while also giving more 'teeth' to the contracts that each association signs.

4. Consider authorizing amendments to be made to the Youth Soccer Agreements, relating to Practicing at Heritage Park Soccer Fields.

Parks Board concurred with Staff's recommendation for Option 2 as the best solution to curtail practicing at Heritage Park. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve staff to make amendments to the Youth Soccer agreements, with the policies outlined in Option 2. Mr. Bucher seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously 4-0.

5. Board and/or Staff comments.

Mr. Bates informed the board of another request that was brought up at the previous Council meeting about the possibility for associations to run tournaments at their particular complex. Mr. Bates told the board that the City is open to the idea and wishes to open up dates and criteria for associations to host tournaments that are outside of league play. Mr. Bates mentioned that together with Public Works, a plan would be put into place by early summer and presented to Parks Board.

6. Adjourn.

Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.