



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, April 6, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, April 6, 2015, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Daniel Bucher, Jason Wolfe, T.R. McLaughlin, and Chair, Josh Pearson. City Staff in attendance included Mayor, Marion Grayson; Recreation and Events Director, Matt Bates; Assistant Public Works Director, Byron Sinclair; Parks Superintendent, James Grant; Finance Director, Brandon Bozon; and Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, Aaron Harris.

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Public Comments.

Former Mayor of Belton, Bill Holmes, signed up for Public Comments to voice his support for the proposed Community Garden. Mr. Holmes spoke about how there is a high demand for Organic vegetables in Texas, and that often the supply cannot keep up with demand. Mr. Holmes did request that the Parks Board and City staff look at making the Community Garden available to residents of Belton only, or at the very least be sure that the residents have priority.

3. Consider the minutes from the February 2nd, 2015, Parks Board Workshop.

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

4. Receive a presentation from Leadership Belton- Class of 2015, and consider a request to establish a community garden in Heritage Park, including:

Amendment to the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan 2010-2020 to show the addition of a community garden at Heritage Park.

City employees Brandon Bozon (Finance Director), and Aaron Harris (Grants and Special Projects Coordinator), gave the board an overview of the proposed 'Community Garden' that was to be built by Leadership Belton's class of 2015. Mr. Bozon discussed the layout of the Garden and where it would be located, along with how the plots would look. Mr. Bozon further went on to explain the budget for the Community Garden including a contribution of \$10,000 from the City of Belton for 'seed money'. The total project Mr. Bozon stated would be around \$13,125.00 and Leadership Belton was actively looking for sponsors to contribute towards the project. Mr. Bates explained the process requiring the Parks Board to amend the Parks Strategic Master Plan to show the addition of the proposed Community Garden. Mr. Bucher made a motion to amend the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan, Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

Approval of a concept plan and location selection for a community garden in partnership with Leadership Belton- Class of 2015.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the concept plan and location for a community garden. Mr. Bucher seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

5. Receive a presentation and consider recommendation to the City Council, regarding the proposed 'Nolan Creek Water Recreation Shuttle Service Permit'.

Mr. Bates explained the timeline that has led to the Shuttle permit being presented to Parks Board. Mr. Bates explained that staff had met several times, and looked at examples from neighboring cities to see exactly what the city's role should be. Mr. Bates explained that due to the multiple access points along the Creek available to the public, and the large number of property owners, it became quickly apparent that the City shouldn't/couldn't regulate activity in the water such as a 'tube tax', etc. Mr. Bates explained that the shuttle permit was a proactive move by the City, and would establish a framework that could be tweaked or amended depending on the growth of recreational activity upon the Creek. Mr. Bates explained that the permit would be a low cost to businesses (\$25.00) and would create maximum cooperation between the City and the private sector to ensure that ordinances past in the Summer of 2014 would adhere to and lead to a clean creek for all to enjoy.

Mr. Bucher made a motion to approve the Nolan Creek Water Recreation Shuttle Permit, Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

6. Board and/or Staff comments.

Mr. Bates updated the Board on the recent dedication of the 5th Baseball field at Heritage Park. Mr. Bates thanked the board for their hard work and support of the 5th field project and informed all that the field is being actively used by BYBA with lots of positive comments. Mr. Bates also informed the board of upcoming events including the April 11th One Community One Day & Movie in the Park, along with the May 16th Nolan Creek Kickoff Celebration.

7. Adjourn.

Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:41pm.