



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, July 13th, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, July 13th, 2015, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Daniel Bucher, Jason Wolfe, T.R. McLaughlin, Diane Ring, and Chair, Josh Pearson. City Staff in attendance included Recreation and Events Director, Matt Bates; Parks Superintendent, James Grant.

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consider the minutes from the April 6th, 2015, Parks Board Workshop.

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

4. Consider the appointment of Lindsay Fredenburg, Jessica Bozon, and Bill Holmes to the Community Garden Citizens Committee.

Mr. Bates presented the timeline of selection to the Board and explained that before the Garden was opened, it was important that a Committee was in place so that Garden rules and application could be reviewed and approved. Mr. Bates explained that the three proposed committee members were all instrumental in the development and building of the Community Garden, and all three had volunteered to be appointed to the Committee. Mr. Bates also went on to explain that the Committee will be re-appointed by Parks Board each year at the January meeting. Mr. Bucher made a motion to approve the appointment of the Community Garden Citizens Committee, Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Committee appointments were approved unanimously, 4-0.

5. Receive an end-of-season report from Belton Christian Youth Center.

Ms. Kelsie Jackson (Director of Operations) introduced herself, Lori Briere (Executive Director), and Anthony Smith (Sports Coordinator). Ms. Jackson spoke about the transition that BCYC has gone through the past few months with new hires, and new direction through its umbrella organization 'Boys and Girls Club of Central Texas'. Ms. Jackson mentioned that BCYC's soccer numbers were low during the spring '15 season, but that a strong relationship was formed with FC Belton, who absorbed several of their age divisions due to their not being enough players to form multiple teams. Anthony Smith introduced himself to the board, and explained the future outlook for BCYC athletic programs. Mr. Smith explained the any of the past perceptions of the programs are 'old blood', and that he wanted all involved to focus on a fresh start. Mr. Smith told the board he is excited about the programs they are set to run, and is determined to make BCYC athletics the 'gem' of Belton. Chair Pearson thanked the new staff at BCYC for attending the meeting, and mentioned that it is important that a good line of communication is kept between the City and BCYC. Mr. Bates explained that at this point, both BCYC and FC Belton do intend to play fall soccer in 2015.

6. Receive a presentation and consider recommendation to the City Council, regarding an amendment to the City of Belton Fee and Rate Schedule for Tournament Play at City owned Sport Complexes.

Mr. Bates explained to the board that at the December, 2014, Parks Board meeting, it was brought up by both BYBA, and BYSA that they request the City allow for tournaments to be held at City owned athletic complexes. Mr. Bates mentioned that staff recommended tabling the request until it could be further discussed during Summer 2015. Mr. Bates presented to the board, several athletic rental rates from around Central Texas, along with showing the current rates for a complex rental in the City of Belton Fee and Rate Schedule. Mr. Bates explained to the board that the City would be in favor of opening up complex rentals to interested parties; however the City would be looking to implement a Park attendant fee to cover the costs of staff that come in for overtime work. Mr. Wolfe told the board of his experience with select baseball around the state, indicating that many teams will pay the host City a 'gate fee' which is separate to the registration fee. The 'gate fee' would be collected on the day of the tournament by a staff member of the City, and would go to cover the costs of field maintenance, janitorial duties, and trash pickup throughout the day. There was a consensus amongst board members that it would be prudent for staff to research the 'gate fee' option further. Mr. Bates mentioned to the board he was unfamiliar with the 'gate fee' option; however, did agree that the option could be more beneficial the City and those who host the tournaments. Mr. Bates asked the board to table any recommendation, until further information was presented.

7. Board and/or Staff comments.

Mr. Bates thanked all board members who came out to support 'National Parks and Rec Month' on Saturday, July 11th, 2015. Mr. Bates told the board that the day was an overwhelming success with fun being had by all who were involved with the different activities. Mr. Bates went on to inform the board that the next event is 'Summerfest' on Saturday, August 22nd, 2015, where there will be lots of family activities, including live music, and a Movie in the Park to follow.

8. Adjourn.

Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:29pm.