



City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room
401 N. Alexander Street
Belton, TX
Monday, September 21st, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

A meeting for the City of Belton Parks Board was held on Monday, September 21st, 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 Recreation and Events Director, Matt Bates; Assistant Public Works Director, Byron Sinclair, Parks Superintendent, James Grant, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, Aaron Harris, and City Manager, Sam Listi.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Josh Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consider the minutes from the August 10th, 2015, Parks Board Meeting.

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

4. Receive a presentation, and consider a recommendation to City Council, to apply for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Small Communities Grant Award, for a neighborhood park off Ave J, and adjacent to South Belton Middle School.

Mr. Bates introduced the park location to the board and briefly explained the history of park, specifically that the land was donated by BISD to the City via a special warranty deed on January 23rd, 2012. Mr. Bates explained that the deed is set to expire on 1/23/2017 if the land is not developed. Mr. Bates went further to explain that along with the Grant application, BISD has given its support, and would be open to extending deed agreement if needed. Mr. Bates told the board that in 2013 as part of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), \$70,000 was designated for a Neighborhood Park at the discussed location. Mr. Bates introduced to the board the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Grant that the City of Belton is proposing to pursue. Mr. Bates explained the criteria for the grant, stating that the monies awarded in the grant be put towards development of public recreation areas, and is for communities under 20,000 population. Mr. Bates stated that the grant is a 50/50 match grant with the max award being up to \$75,000. Mr. Bates showed the board that in order to go for the full match the City would put its \$70,000 CVIP designated monies, along with \$5,000 of in-kind labor that would be done by the city's Public Works Department- \$75,000 City + \$75,000 TPWD Grant = \$150,000. Mr. Bates showed the board the site concept plan of what could be done with \$150,000. Mr. Bates described several of the parks features, which included playground equipment, 1,200LF concrete loop trail, wood pergola, BBQ pit, picnic tables, water fountain, and that the site would be in compliance with ADA. Mr. Bates moved onto the timeline of the project, explaining that with Parks Board and Council approval, the application would be submitted on October 1st, 2015, with approval/denial of the grant coming in March, 2016. Mr. Bates stated that if the Grant were awarded, the City of Belton would look to begin construction in June, 2016, and completed by December 2016. Mr. Bates finished the presentation by asking the board for a favorable recommendation that could be presented to the City Council at their September 22nd, 2015 City Council Meeting.

Mr. Wolfe asked staff that if the Grant were not to be awarded, would the park project not happen. Staff explained that the Park will happen, with or without the Grant; however the scope of the project may reduce to fit within the parameters of CIP awarded \$70,000.

Mr. Bucher made a motion to recommend to City Council that the City of Belton apply for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Small Communities Grant Award for a neighborhood park off Ave J, and adjacent to South Belton Middle School. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion; recommendation was approved unanimously 4-0.

5. Board and/or Staff comments.

Mr. Bates explained that the Parks Strategic Master Plan Update is scheduled to go forward, pending Council approval of the FY16 budget. Mr. Bates explained to the board that there would be meetings coming in the near future that will explain the timeline and plan of action for update.

6. Adjourn.

Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting at 5:51pm.