



## City of Belton – Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center, Simpson Room  
401 N. Alexander Street  
Belton, TX  
Monday, July 10, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

The City of Belton Parks Board held a meeting on Monday, July 10, in the Simpson Room at the Harris Community Center. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Daniel Bucher, Ted Smith, Jason Wolfe, and Chair Josh Pearson. City staff in attendance included Director of Parks Recreation, Matt Bates, and Assistant Parks Superintendent, Al Godderz.

### 1. **Call to Order.**

Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

### 2. **Administer the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board members.**

Matt Bates, Director of Parks and Recreation, administered the oath of office to newly appointed board member, Ted Smith, and re-appointed board member, Jason Wolfe.

### 3. **Public Comments**

Two people signed up for public comments, each was given 3 minutes to speak.

*Nancy Mullins:* Ms. Mullins addressed to the board concerns she has within the Belton Youth Sports Association (BYSA) organization. Ms. Mullins felt as though she had hit a brick wall with addressing concerns, and has seen a noticeable decline over the past few years. Ms. Mullins explained that her son in law, Bear Updyke, had been fired for a year over a social media post that he had commented on. Ms. Mullins told the board that by-laws had been removed from the website the night Bear was fired, and placed back online the next day with amended language. Ms. Mullins explained that she has been unable to get any response from the BYSA board after multiple attempts. Ms. Mullins submitted a list of concerns and recommendations that she would like the City to view.

*Marsha Updyke:* Ms. Updyke told the board that she also visited with Mr. Bates regarding concerns about BYSA. Ms. Updyke explained that upon meeting with Mr. Bates and City Manager it was conveyed that they do not intervene in association business, and work through a lease agreement on reporting etc. Ms. Updyke explained that she too felt like the bylaws currently posted on the website were not implemented correctly. Ms. Updyke told the board that through searching online, it does not appear that BYSA has an active tax ID or evidence of the association's non-profit status. Ms. Updyke referenced that there has been a noticeable decline in participation and volunteer coaches. Ms. Updyke explained that she understood the relationship that the City has with youth sport associations, but would appreciate any help or assistance that the board would be able to provide.

Chair Pearson thanked Ms. Mullins & Ms. Updyke for their comments.

Mr. Bates said that he would take all information that was presented and begin staff review.

### 4. **Consider the minutes from the March 6, 2017, Parks Board Meeting.**

\*\*A mistake was made and this agenda was skipped. Minutes will be presented at a future meeting for action.

### 5. **Receive a presentation from Matt Bates, Director of Parks and Recreation concerning the department's mission, annual accomplishments and goals for FY 2018.**

Mr. Bates informed the board of the department's missions and showed a picture of the Parks and Rec department staff. Mr. Bates went on to highlight some of the department's accomplishments during FY 2017, which included:

*Expanded the current Parks yard at Heritage Park.  
Built a sustainable greenhouse.  
Implemented upgrades to the circulation pump at Harris and Tiger Splash Pads.  
Completed construction of Jeff Hamilton Park.  
Installed the new park at the rear of the Library.  
Numerous upgrades to Athletic facilities including: new handrails, backstops, covered seating at Jace Jefferson Baseball Complex, and upgrades and cosmetic improvements to Jaycee & Heritage concessions.  
Installed two covered equipment storage bays.  
Increased number of Harris Center Rentals.  
Increased revenue from Harris Center rentals.  
Launched new Harris Center website.  
Installed Christmas lights for first time at Harris Center.  
Installed new projectors in Evans Room.  
Re- Landscaped the Harris Center flower beds/shrubs.  
Christmas on the Chisholm Trail- 158 Vendors- Event rained out.  
Daddy Daughter Dance -2 nights.  
Family Fishin' and Fun.  
Offered Open Gym basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Disc Golf.  
Successfully ran the 10th annual OCOD. A record of 23 homes and 4 parks were served.  
Each plot at the Community Garden has been claimed.  
Hosted NNO Party at Bell Oaks and won 'Best Block Party'.  
Movie in the Park, Tubing, National Parks and Rec month.*

Mr. Bates then went onto to list the goals for the department in FY 2018, which included:

*Increase HCC Rentals.  
Provide outstanding customer service.  
Continue to improve facility and yard aesthetics.  
Continue to expand and grow the number of events offered through the Parks and Recreation Department.  
Increase the number of recreational programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.  
Manage field use agreements and scheduling with leagues and associations.  
Enhance the use of social media and increase website content to expand services.  
Continue to implement updated Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan.  
Continue to explore parkland acquisition and development.  
Explore final phases of Parks Yard expansion to include new office building/training center, and storage building.  
Explore retrofitting existing light poles at athletic facilities with LED lighting.  
Design phase II of Jeff Hamilton Park.*

**6. Board and/or Staff comments.**

Mr. Bates notified the board of the upcoming City softball game and asked all board members to participate if possible. Also that the Parks and Rec Department would be showing the movie 'Secret Life of Pets' at Heritage Park the same day on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bucher asked Mr. Bates that staff look into the concerns addressed in the public comments and report back to Parks Board at a future meeting.

**7. Adjourn.**

Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.