

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 5, 2021

Call to Order

Doris called meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Travis Coggin	<i>present</i>	Charlie Mattair	<i>present</i>
Nora Hahn	<i>present</i>	Sierra Brown	<i>present</i>
Ashley Brown	<i>present</i>	James Singleton	
David Lock	<i>present</i>	Josh Rodrigue	<i>present</i>
Bridget Martinez	<i>present</i>	Robert Basford	<i>present</i>
Doris Michalak	<i>present</i>	Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>

Approval of Minutes from 4-7-21

Minutes were amended as requested by Travis. Motion was made to approve minutes by David. Motion was seconded by Charlie.

Citizen Comments

Citizen Susan Edwards talked about water aerobics and pool fees. She stated that when Kimberly Terrell was the director the fees were structured so that if residents had a family pass, they were not required to pay for the water aerobics pass, and that family pass holders were allowed to swim laps during the water aerobics class. Persons who wanted to do water aerobics only, could purchase a water aerobics pass without having to purchase a pool membership as well. She stated that things changed when the subject was brought up at city council meeting and it was voted that persons doing water aerobics were required to have both a water aerobics pass and a pool membership. The decision made it so that anyone wanting to swim laps during water aerobics also had to purchase a water aerobics pass. The family pass used to cost her \$50 and she was able to do water aerobics and her husband was able to swim laps. Now she has to pay \$200 to be able to do the same. She would like for the fees to go back to the way they were structured before where the family pass would cover the water aerobics, and also give people the option to purchase a water aerobics pass without requiring a pool membership.

Citizen Scott Schubring commented that he appreciated the new activities that were offered this spring – volleyball and kickball. He also said that he would like to see a second season of kickball. He talked about the mobile skate park, the requirement for a smooth concrete slab, and possible locations, including the JV Baptist church basketball pavilion. He said he would like to see more information on the available options. Would like to see a flat concrete surface with permanent ramps and eventually a real skate park with contours built into the design.

Items for individual consideration

- a. Skate park discussion and committee feedback
Doris asked the committee members to relay the comments about the portable skate park. She said that the kids that she spoke to said that they would not use

it but that others might be interested. They expressed greater interest in the multi-use fields at Clark Henry Park.

Nora said that the comment she received was that a permanent skate park was preferred and there was a question as to how a portable skate park would look and whether it would be an eyesore.

David received no comments.

Travis received no comments but expressed that he would prefer that a permanent skate park be built.

Sierra stated that no one had a real opinion about it.

Bridget received no comments.

Ashley said that she saw some adult feedback that stated that they wanted a permanent skate park.

Charlie stated that perhaps people could not envision or visualize a mobile skate park.

Additional comments were added stating that a temporary skate park that was to be moved around would lead to confusion. Based on feedback the preference is for a permanent structure. Would need to determine cost and location and it would push the project further out for budgeting.

Ashley asked if it could be located at the new city hall location across 290.

Robert stated that it could be considered. He also said that the plan would be to use the mobile skate park as a tool to gauge interest in a permanent skate park - to test for feasibility and see if there would be demand. Location of the portable skate park would need to be advertised. He is looking to see if the manufacturer will attend a conference or come to the Houston area, preferably Jersey Village, to set up a demo.

Committee members and citizens talked about permanent skate parks located around the Houston area and Robert talked about looking into what the costs were to have them built. The bayou was brought up as a potential location for a permanent skate park. Robert explained that because it is a flood zone, no fill can be added, but since a skate park is essentially bowls, there might be potential. He will continue to research.

A question was asked about playgrounds located in flood zones. Robert explained that mulch is not defined as fill and that studies can be done to ensure that there is no restriction on water flow.

b. Clark Henry Park discussion and committee feedback

Doris mentioned that the people she spoke with liked the idea of having something for older kids, such as the boulders, but also expressed interest in multi-use fields.

Nora said that she received input from parent who said that their kids were interested in a zip line and a giant slide.

David received no comments. Travis received no comments. Bridget said that the fields were what she has received input on. Doris commented that the fields are something that have been talked about quite a bit. It was explained that the budget that is available is specified for a play structure.

Robert talked about how the boulder is a larger play structure that would attract older kids and would look into different customization options to make it more challenging. Second option is a larger more natural play structures with larger slides. The mega slides are outside of the budget that is set aside for this particular play structure. He also talked about fitness courses, and natural activities. He added that the Via Ferrata structure that was included in the packet may work well at Philippine. Also considering an elevated ropes course or zip line for that park. Would have to research on requirements for floods

David brought up the lack of parking at parks. Ashley asked if the play feature could be the basketball courts but Robert explained that the courts are in the CIP, but that the money for this specifies a play structure at Clark Henry Park. He stated that we needed to make sure that we don't put the same kind of structure at Clark Henry Park that will eventually be going in at Philippine park.

Ashley asked about whether the city is liable if someone gets hurt on a play structure and Robert answered that the structures come with recommended fall depths and that we always add 10%. She asked about age requirements but it was explained that there is no way to enforce that and that structures are designed so that capability determines access. Younger kids would not be able to reach harder activities.

Doris asked for a decision and the committee chose the Summit play structure to be installed at Clark Henry Park.

Robert asked if anyone knew if the tire structure at Clark Henry Park was still being used. Tire structures have been mostly phased out due to safety concerns. The new play structure could fit there and there could be some cost savings by using that location. Another option would be to put a gaga ball pit in place of the tire structure. He asked committee members to get the public's opinion about it for the next meeting.

David asked about benches. Robert sad that he is checking on availability of mis-orders to obtain benches at low cost.

Doris reiterated that the committee has made a decision on the play structure for Clark Henry Park – The Summit, and that the next thing that needs to be done is to gather information whether to eliminate the tire feature or to place the new structure in a different location.

Doris also clarified that the play structure for Philippine will be decided at a later date. Josh added that it is budgeted for 2023.

Questions were asked about the upkeep on the boulders and Robert stated that it can be pressure washed and that the handles are easily replaceable. He will ask more questions of the sales rep.

Bridget asked about the pocket park at the end of Argentina – Welwyn. She would like the slide to be replaced with one that doesn't heat up in the sun and burn.

Staff briefings

Recreation

Josh talked about the pool opening on May 29th after 3. It will be closed the week after Memorial Day. Official opening will be Friday June 4th. Registrations for swim lessons are doing well.

There will be two movies this summer June 11th, July 9th. Won't sell tickets because field is unlimited. Will have concessions for sale.

July 4th event, 3 musical acts, stage & setup are all set up. Have 35 parade entries so far. Would like to see a Parks & Rec Dept. Float if anyone wants to volunteer. Will have 5 food vendors scheduled, bbq, tacos, and snow cones. Will also have a rock wall, bounce houses, dunk booth, games, and farmers market. Josh is looking for a lead to help with the parade or be the contact for the food trucks. Asking for volunteers. There will be a talent show for July 4th so that community can participate. The parade will be at 10:30 and the event will be from 11am to 3pm or maybe 4pm. The Fire chief said yes for fireworks for next year. We don't have money in the budget for fireworks this summer.

The Farmers market will be in the field. Map depends on finishing of the bayou extension. Rain may affect things a bit but Josh has a contingency plan.

Robert brought up that the way they operate in Florida, they would operate until Mother Nature told them they could not.

A car show was discussed for Founders Day. Josh brought up that July is national parks and recreation month. He is planning a Lazy Day 1.5K walk around the retention pond nature trail on July 18th. There will be activities and food. He will send out more information about that.

Adult volleyball is going well and is very popular. There are 5 weeks left. Josh has also heard that people want to do more kickball. Josh plans to have about 3 or 4 adult leagues per year. The need to treat for sticker burs (sand spurs) was also discussed.

Parks

Robert elaborated on his extensive experience eradicating sand spurs and will look into the parks that have them.

The TXDOT revegetation project on Beltway 8 is going well. The company that will

do the planting is Yellowstone. Robert was able to get some plumbing extensions for future fields when the water lines to irrigate the revegetation project were put in by the city and may be done by the middle of June. He mentioned the shortage of PVC pipe.

Robert is also working with Public Works to see what can and can't be done about the fields at Clark Henry Park. We are not able to add any fill because it is in a flood zone. The fields need to be designed with that in mind. All of the high priority projects from the Parks Master Plan were put on the recommended list.

Robert is looking at planting new vegetation around town to replace what was damaged by the ice storm. He is also gathering quotes for the lighting for dog park. He applied for two AARP grants and will hopefully will hear good news in June. The water fountains are an issue because of the cost to run supply lines. Hopefully will be able to obtain benches for \$50. It was suggested that we ask for donations of sponsorships for benches as a fundraiser.

Robert brought up the maintenance challenges of "community built playgrounds" and suggested that we may want to consider "community funded playgrounds" instead. He mentioned the wood sand box surround at Carol Fox Park and his plans to potentially replace it with concrete for durability while leaving a ledge for parents to sit on. It could be painted and the community could add their hand prints.

Bridget asked about the Senate marquee sign. Robert said that the Gateway Phase 2 project just started and he will obtain updates. The font size on the other signs were also discussed.

Ashley asked about the bridge on Lakeview towards Philippine and wanted to know if there was a timeline on the work. There are concerns about the condition of the bridge.

Doris asked what to do to post special meeting agenda to work on Fall Frolic for compliance. Robert said to contact himself and Maria so that the notice could be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting. Doris said she would schedule the meetings on Wednesdays.

Future agenda item request

Next Meeting date

June 2, 2021

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Bridget. Motion was seconded by David.