



The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 14th day of June, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

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## **LEON VALLEY PARK COMMISSION MEETING, 7:00 P.M.**

### **1. Call the Meeting to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine a Quorum is Present.**

Chairman Roger Christensen called the Park Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following Park Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Christensen, Vice-Chairwoman Danielle Bolton, and Commissioners Belinda Ealy, Linda Tarin, David Smith, Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith, Kathy Hill, and Jack Dean. Absent were Commissioners Carolyn Gabriel and Stephen Parker. Also present were City Secretary Sandra Passailaigue, Staff members Melinda Moritz and Maribel Mendoza, and Council Liaison Monica Alcocer.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. Review and Approval of the May 10, 2018 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2018 regular Park Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Citizens to Be Heard**

There were no citizens to be heard.

### **5. Presentation on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Events**

City Secretary Sandra Passailaigue and Staff member Maribel Mendoza gave a presentation on the City activities to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She explained that the events would start off with the Leon Valley Historical Society's Pioneer Firecracker 5K run at 7:30 am, the City's parade would start at 9:30 am, and then the Inaugural Soapbox Derby Race would start at 11:00 am and continue until about 1:30 pm. She went on to state that Raymond Rimkus Park would be closed all day and that vendors would start setting up at the park at 2:00 pm, with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Fireworks

Spectacular to begin at 5:00 pm and go until 11:00 pm. She noted that both pools would have activities from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and that the public would be welcome.

Ms. Passailaigue noted that Sponsors included Ancira Chevrolet, Leon Valley Storage, Tiger Sanitation, the Milmo Group, Miracle Body and Paint, Randolph Brooks FCU, and Leon Valley Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee funds. She stated that so far, a total of \$110,641 had been raised to fund the event and that they were continuing to receive sponsorship funds.

A general discussion was held on the event particulars, such as parking, shuttle service, entrances and exits from the park, and the types of food and other vendors in attendance. After the discussion, the Chairman thanked Ms. Passailaigue and Ms. Mendoza for bringing the information to the meeting.

## **6. Discussion and Action – Appointments to the Park Commission and Seating of the 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate as a Regular Member**

Chairman Christensen addressed David Smith, asking if he wished to become a regular member of the Park Commission. Mr. Smith stated that he would. A motion was made by Commissioner Hill to accept the nomination of Mr. Smith as a regular member of the Park Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner Ealy, and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Christensen then asked 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Jack Dean if he wished to become a regular member of the Park Commission. Mr. Dean stated that he would. A motion was made by Commissioner Hill to accept the nomination of Mr. Dean as a regular member of the Park Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith, and the vote carried unanimously.

## **7. Discussion and Action – Park Commission Meeting Time**

Chairman Christensen opened the discussion, stating that at previous meetings, the Commissioners had discussed an earlier start time for the meetings and that 6:00 pm had been mentioned. Two of the Commissioners noted that they would have a hard time getting to the meeting that early. The Chairman asked if 6:30 pm would be acceptable and the Commissioners agreed. A motion was made by Commissioner Ealy to move the meeting start time to 6:30 pm, which was seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Reports on Activities that Impact Parks or Access to Parks**

### **A. Discussion and Possible Action – Park Survey**

Staff member Moritz opened the discussion by stating that the changes to the survey had been graciously performed by Commissioner Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith and that Commissioner Rodriguez-Smith had some questions about two of the entries in the

survey. The Commissioners went over each question in the survey, making a minor change to Questions #4, #8, and 17, changing Question #14, and eliminating Questions #15, 18, and 19.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ealy to approve the survey with the corrections, which was seconded by Commissioner Dean. The motion carried unanimously. Staff member Moritz stated that she would make the changes and have the survey delivered to the residents.

### **B. Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend a Pocket Park for El Verde Road**

Staff member Moritz directed the Commissioner's attention to a map that showed a 1.81 acre parcel of land in the 6200 block of El Verde Road, being portions of Lots 45, 45A, 51, 52, and 53, CB 5955, Leon Valley Ranches Subdivision. She noted that a concrete slab was in existence on Lot 53 that could be used to support a picnic shelter in the future and that Chairman Christensen had the idea that this land could be used as a pocket park for the residents of El Verde Road and also to enhance the future Hike & Bike Trail.

Several Commissioners noted the concerns of the El Verde Road residents regarding the proposed Hike & Bike Trail and how they had specifically requested that if the trail was to be built, that it not be located close to El Verde Road, in order to lessen the impact that trail activities would have on their quiet neighborhood. Commissioner Hill stated that the Park Commission had been actively looking for areas in each neighborhood that could serve as pocket parks and that this park would most probably not be used by persons using the trail for hiking and biking, other than as a rest stop.

Chairman Christensen stated that he was a member of the Hike & Bike Trail Committee and that the discussion of options for the trail had been varied. He noted that this land area was about the same size as the other new pocket parks and that this would benefit not just the El Verde Road residents, but all citizens. The Chairman stated that at the Hike & Bike Trail Committee meeting, he stated the following:

“With my experiences as Chairman of the Leon Valley Park Commission, I may have a different viewpoint regarding the outdoor recreational opportunities that could be included and available to all residents of Leon Valley and not limited to benches and boulders as they go from Bandera Road to the Shadow Mist trailhead.

There appears to be several larger areas behind City Hall, the Fire Station and others along El Verde Road that are relatively flat and out of the flood plain that could have exercise equipment, picnic tables, small athletic fields and a children's play area to mention a few possibilities. It seems like we could do more to encourage people to get out of doors and experience nature.”

Commissioner Dean expressed his concern that, although he was of the opinion that the City couldn't have too many parks, the additional traffic might upset the residents.

Staff member Moritz explained that the County was still in the process of completing the LC-17 project and that after construction was complete, there would be a one year maintenance period. She further explained that the property wouldn't be transferred to the City until after the maintenance period was over.

Chairman Christensen noted that this would give the Park Commission and the City Council time to garner citizen input from that neighborhood and make any future plans for that area. Commissioner Hill stated that acting early would allow planning for future budgetary needs. A general discussion was held on the Hike & Bike Trail amenities and the proposed park.

## **9. Commissioner and Staff Comments**

Commissioner Hill stated that she was looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and invited the Commissioners to attend the 5K run. She noted that they could start out healthy by running and then not feel guilty about eating junk food at the celebrations.

Commissioner Tarin stated that she was looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events and that she was anxiously awaiting the opening of the Evers Road bridge.

Commissioner Ealy stated that she had stopped by the pool and noticed that they had started having swimming tournaments and that the streets were loaded with vehicles. She also noted that people were parking along Peachtree and that they should be allowed to park on the vacant lot. She then went on to express how good Raymond Rimkus Park was looking and that she had noticed the new equipment, new nets, and that the volleyball area needed new turf and an outline on the ground showing the boundaries. She stated that now that the Silo Park playground was ready, she would be visiting that park.

Commissioner Dean reiterated his statement that he thought there couldn't be too many parks within the city and that the Commission was on the right track by recommending parks throughout the neighborhoods. He stated that he had always been known for the promotion of parks and park amenities. He expressed his wish that the City save as much vacant land as possible for parkland.

Vice-Chairwoman Bolton stated that she had been visiting Raymond Rimkus Park and was disgusted by the amount of dog feces in the grassy areas. Councilwoman Alcocer explained that she should place a complaint on the OnIt system on the City's website. Staff member Moritz stated that she would let the Police Department know of the problem, so they could enhance their enforcement of the law.

Commissioner Smith stated that he really liked the informal nature of the meeting and that he would prefer this setup from this point forward. Several other Commissioners expressed their approval of the seating arrangements.

Chairman Christensen stated that the keys items for the coming months would be the completion of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, to include recommendations for trails, potential recreational areas, and activities at the library. He noted that the LC-17 project that would be deeded to the City encompassed over 35 acres, which was larger than Raymond Rimkus Park, and that the Commission needed to consider all citizens wishes for that area and not just that of the El Verde Road residents. He then thanked the Commissioners for their continued attendance at the meetings.

**10. Adjourn.**

Commissioner Dean made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Hill. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Roger Christensen, Chairman



Date