

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
APRIL 12, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 12th day of April, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., at 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

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

1. Call the Meeting to Order 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: Jackie Walton, Stephen Parker, Belinda Ealy, Kathy Hill, Dorothy Humphrey, Linda Tarin and Alternate Josue De La Torre. Absent and excused were Commissioners Benay Cacciatore, Carolyn Gabriel, and Danielle Bolton. Also present were Councilmember Monica Alcocer, City Staff member Melinda Moritz and resident Robert Jarzombek.

2. Review and Approval of the March 8, 2016 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2015 Regular Park Commission meeting, with a correction to a paragraph that stated a motion being made by Commissioner Parker. The line was changed to reflect the motion being made by Commissioner Ealy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ealy. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard

Carol Poss of the Leon Valley Historical Society addressed the Commission, stating that the Joseph Huebner Gravesite was of particular concern to the Society. She handed out a pamphlet on gravesite restoration and explained the Texas Historical Cemetery marker and that the gravesite could not be restored to historical accuracy, but that they could get close, and that the Historical Society had a budget of \$9800 for such repairs. She explained the vandalism and damage that had occurred and their previous attempts to repair. A general discussion was held on the restoration of the gravesite by the City.

4. Report on Activities that Impact the Park or Access to the Park

a. Discussion and Possible Recommendation: Park Variance Requests

1. San Antonio Astronomical Society – Use of Raymond Rimkus Park After Dark

Matthew Rottman of the Association spoke, giving a presentation on their activities at Raymond Rimkus Park, since their beginning on March 1,

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2016. He explained that two of the events had been cancelled due to rain, but that they had been able to hold their events the rest of the Wednesday evenings. He noted that they had one scheduled for April 13 and invited the Commissioners to come to the event. He also spoke on their efforts to advertise the event, stating that they had announced it on their website and Facebook page, as well as announcing at schools and at State Parks, Texas Public Radio Community Calendar, NASA Calendar. He stated the event had been well attended and well-liked by the public and that they had not received any complaints.

Chairman Christensen asked about the parking situation. Mr. Rottman explained that they had been asking people to park close by on Peachtree. He noted that they set up in the middle of the large parking lot in a straight line and that people park around them.

Commissioner Ealy mentioned that they needed a sign to warn persons to turn off their headlights. Mr. Rottman agreed and explained that even cell phones were too bright.

Chairman Christensen asked if it was their intention to continue the event for the remainder of the year. Mr. Rottman replied that they would like to stay indefinitely and that they had been at Mc Allister park for eleven years, until they ran into a lighting issue. He told the Commission that the night sky was perfect.

Chairman Christensen asked Staff member Moritz for clarification of the initial request. Ms. Moritz stated that the Commission should make a formal recommendation to be taken to City Council at their May 3rd regular meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Humphrey to recommend the Commission's approval and to continue the variance indefinitely, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Leon Valley
Historical Society and the City of Leon Valley – Darby Riley**

Historical Society Member Darby Riley addressed the Commission, giving a presentation on the Historical Society's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Leon Valley.

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He explained the Society's plans for the future, which included a restroom facility, parking area, and pavilion. He further explained that by partnering with the City, grants and other funding would be more easily attained. He then went on to note other portions of the MOU which included maintenance of the grounds and facilities by the City's Public Works Department. He noted that the Society was working towards the opening of a Heritage Center. A general discussion was held on the Huebner – Onion Natural Area Park, which ended with the understanding that 630 liner feet of the Bandera Road Triangle Area frontage would remain undeveloped, unless otherwise directed by City Council. Chairman Christensen ended the discussion by asking that the Commission be kept updated as the Historical Society plans are developed.

b. Evers Road Bridge Update

Staff member Moritz gave a brief update on the Evers Road bridge project, stating that the City had been granted the funds to reconstruct the bridge from the MPO and that it would take at least 9 months to prepare and gain approval of the plans. She further explained that the plans would have to be approved by TxDOT and then advertised for 30 days prior to selecting a contractor. She noted that the work would take approximately 9 months to be completed if the bridge was left open to traffic.

5. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Tarin reminded the Commission that Easter was the next Saturday and that the park would be full of people.

Commissioner Parker asked when the lights for the Evers Road crosswalk would be installed. He stated that he had walked the trail into the Natural Area and that he observed many people using the trail.

Commissioner Ealy stated that she was grateful for the crosswalk signs at the Evers Road/Canterfield crossing and that she was looking forward to the Historical Society's event at the Huebner-Onion Homestead.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Historical Society event was scheduled for Saturday 16th, from 6:30 pm to 9 pm, and that tickets were \$35 each.

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Commissioner Humphrey reminded the Commissioner of the trail behind the Public Works facility and then commented that two loose dogs had approached her while on that trail. She noted that the trees to the Conference Center were looking great, but that she noticed some children were climbing the trees and that a sign should be placed on them prohibiting the climbing.

Commissioner Walton stated that she thought a deer crossing sign should be installed at the library as she had observed deer crossing over into the park at that area and that one had been hit. Staff member Moritz stated that the deer actually use the crossing. Commissioner Parker stated that he noticed a herd of deer at the vacant lot at Seneca and that a sign should also be installed in that area.

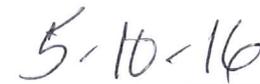
Chairman Christensen stated that the Commissioner had good comments and to keep up the good work. He then reminded the Commission that the next meeting would be held at the Leon Valley Community Pool and would include a review of the 4th of July event particulars. He asked the Commission to review the code and variance procedures. He then presented Commissioner Humphrey with the Golden Snipper Award for being at the Park Commission Workday in the Park and comments on her dedication.

6. **Adjourn.**

Commissioner Hill made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Parker, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.



Roger Christensen - Chairman



Date