

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

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., at 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 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, Belinda Ealy, Benay Cacciatore, Linda Tarin, Stephen Parker, Kathy Hill, Danielle Bolton, and Alternate Josue De La Torre. Absent and excused were Commissioners Dorothy Humphrey and Carolyn Gabriel. Also present were Councilmember Monica Alcocer, City Staff member Melinda Moritz, and resident Robert Jarzombek.

**2. Review and Approval of the June 14, 2016 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2016 Regular Park Commission meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Bolton. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

There were none.

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

**A. Presentation and Discussion on the Public Private Partnership between the City and the Leon Valley Historical Society – Park Commissioner Kathy Hill**

Park Commissioner and Leon Valley Historical Society Member Kathy Hill gave a presentation on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Leon Valley and the Leon Valley Historical Society, as well as an overview of the Historical Society's Master Plan for the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Natural Area Park. Ms. Hill explained that the overall goal was not to just develop the Homestead, but to include the Natural Area Park as well, as the land was once a part of the Homestead and would make this future attraction unique in the metro area. She noted that without the land, the Homestead was just another "house museum". She further explained that the house should be used as an early example of life in Bexar County.

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She then stated that the MOU included providing the City with an updated Strategic Plan. She noted that a committee had been formed to work on a plan that will keep the public informed and involved.

Commissioner Ealy stated that she thought the proposed curb cut on Bandera Road for the future parking area was too close to the traffic signal at Bandera and El Verde and that any parking in that area would be too close to the creek, possibly causing hazardous stormwater runoff to enter into Huebner Creek. She then explained that she thought a permeable parking lot on City property near the Little League Park off Poss Road would be more suitable.

Ms. Hill explained that the Master Plan for the Homestead was conceptual at this stage and that the architect had drop off parking in front of the Homestead in mind for school age children and for the mobility impaired.

A discussion was held on parking for the facility, future fund raising events, the need for the committee to keep the public informed, and then Ms. Hill finished by reporting a meeting that was held with County Judge Nelson Wolf and that the LV Historical Society had been invited to participate in the City of San Antonio's 2018 tri-centennial celebration.

**B. Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action – Addition of New Parkland**

**1. Wat Dhamma Bucha Temple Donation – Being a 2.0785 Acre Parcel at 0 Huebner Road, Accepted by City Council on May 31, 2016**

**2. Hetherington Donation – Being an approximately 0.2317 Acre Easement Parcel, Adjacent to Aquarium Detention Pond, at 0 Grass Hill**

**3. The Ridge at Leon Valley HOA –, Being Two Tracts of Land at End of Samaritan and Grass Hill, of Approximately 1.5400 Acres and 0.5802 acres at 0 William Rancher and 0 Caraway Bend**

City Staff member Moritz addressed the Commission, informing them of the City's intent to accept gifted land at each of the mentioned areas to be used as future parks. She gave a description of each area. She further explained that the acceptance of the land to be used as parks conformed to the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, by further striving to provide park land

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in each neighborhood. She went on to explain that once the land had been deeded to the City, the Park Commission could set up surveys in each of the areas to find out what amenities would be desired by the residents in each area. A motion was made by Commissioner Ealy to create a survey to garner citizen input on amenities in each proposed park, which was seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Discussion and Possible Action – Deer Feeding Policy**

City staff member Moritz addressed the Commission, stating that this was a request by the City Manager to create a deer feeding policy. Commissioner Bolton noted that she noticed a citizen that lives near Raymond Rimkus Park feeding the deer every night. She further noted that the deer were being fed corn, which was not healthy. Commissioner Parker stated that after being told at the previous meeting that this subject would be brought to the Park Commission's attention, he started noticing the deer and had counted over 25 in the park. He stated his concern that the Police Department already had a hard enough time enforcing the speed limit along Evers Road and that the passage of a deer feeding ordinance may not be enforceable, and if enforced, it would be sporadic and only upon specific complaints. He stated that he used to see persons by John Marshall high school putting out feed for the deer.

Commissioner Bolton noted that she would rather educate persons on better feeding choices and not issue citations.

Commissioner Parker stated that the deer population seemed to increase in years of abundant rain and recede in years of drought. He noted that the questions should be how many deer are too many.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Commission should get a sense of how many deer are in Leon Valley. She noted that she saw a documentary on PBS about urban deer and that they do better in urban areas than in the wild, due to the increase in food and water sources, but agreed that the Commission should find out how many is too many.

Councilmember Alcocer noted that now there was very little water and that she did feel empathy for the deer, but that the Commission should consider the subject.

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Commissioner Ealy mentioned seeing a television new report recently on the deer over-population problem in Hollywood Park (actually Garden Ridge), and that the residents there felt the problem stemmed from having too much over-feeding and not enough natural culling when conditions are not favorable for the deer to survive naturally, and that the deer in that area numbered around 1000+.

Commissioner Hill reiterated that the Commission should study how many deer are really present, and then decide what to do about the issue.

Chairman Christensen stated that the Commission should form a subcommittee to study the issue, with input from the Police and Fire Department, then bring this back to the Commission. He also stated they should ask other cities how they regulate deer feeding in their communities, and find out how many deer are in Leon Valley. He asked if there had been any citizen complaints. Staff member Moritz stated that she had not received any complaints at the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Parker asked if the Commission should garner citizen input as the subject may be sensitive to the public.

A general consensus was reached that a subcommittee should be formed, that the number of deer should be calculated, that other cities should be contacted to get their regulations, and then the information reported back to the Park Commission. Chairman Christensen appointed Commissioners Cacciatore, Parker, Bolton, and Tarin to the subcommittee.

**5. Commissioner and Staff Comments**

Commissioner Bolton stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event seemed to go very well. She did express her frustration at not being able to drive down Poss Road and that there were a few other annoying incidents, but that overall, the City outdid themselves. She stated that the music and fireworks were great.

Commissioner Torre stated that he seconded Commissioner Bolton's remarks. He noted some confusion as to where the fireworks were being staged, but that it turned out fine.

Commissioner Hill stated that she agreed with the remarks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. She stated that the LV Historical Society's 5k run also went well and that

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they had 115 – 120 participants this year, which included babies, dogs, and single runners. She noted that having two routes worked better and that she would be giving a debriefing to the City Council later.

Commissioner Cacciatore stated that she was unable to attend the event this year.

Commissioner Parker stated that he enjoyed the event, but that parking and traffic were definitely a concern. He noted that the Police Department would really need to plan on how to handle a potential 20,000 vehicles next year.

Commissioner Bolton stated that she agreed that the traffic and parking were an issue. She noted that the shuttle buses were too big and couldn't be easily driven down Poss Road.

Chairman Christensen stated that he would be asking Communications Director Kristie Flores to give a recap of the event at a future meeting and that the Commission should do this for every variance they approved.

Commissioner Parker agreed, stating that the San Antonio Astronomical Society was a remarkable success. He noted that he had attended four Wednesday evening sessions and had thoroughly enjoyed the events. He encouraged everyone to go at least once.

Commissioner Tarin stated that she had enjoyed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and that she had enjoyed the fireworks from her lawn. She noted that she appreciated hearing the information regarding the LV Historical Society and City Memorandum of Understanding, and that she was really concerned about the number of deer in Leon Valley. She stated that, in her opinion, the City did need to gain control of the deer situation, as she had seen an increase in the deer population this year.

Commissioner Ealy stated that the Community Pool management company seemed to be doing very well. She expressed her concern that the baby pool needed a shade covering and that plants should be installed along the fence line to create more shade overall. She then stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event did seem to go well and that the bowling alley had a great turnout and had made over \$1000. She then stated that the lighting in the park for the event was great and that people could see to leave at the end of the event. She noted that there was not as much trash as the previous year, as there were more trash receptacles

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and people could see the bins. She then inquired about the placement of a water fountain by the athletic fields.

Chairman Christensen requested information regarding the Forest Oaks Pool, the Bexar County Flood Control LC-17 project, and the Evers Road Bridge and staff briefed the Commission on the topics. He then complimented City staff on the cleanup after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, stating that the park was almost completely clean by 10 am the following day. He then stated that he would have a conversation with the Mayor about Shadow Mist Park and its ultimate development. He informed the Commission that if they wanted to place an item on the agenda, the procedure was to get approval from at least two members of the Commission, then prepare the information the Commissioners would need for insertion into the packet and to include the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" for their use. He stated that the information was then due to Staff member Moritz no later than the Tuesday prior to the meeting date.

Commissioner Hill clarified that the information could also be submitted more than just the week ahead.

**6. Adjourn.**

Commissioner Hill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Parker, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

  
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**Roger Christensen - Chairman**

  
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**Date**