

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS  
November 10, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 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: Kathy Hill, Danielle Bolton, Stephen Parker, Belinda Ealy, Linda Tarin, and Carolyn Gabriel. Absent and excused were Commissioners Benay Cacciatore and Jackie Walton. Also present were Councilmember Alcocer, City Staff member Melinda Moritz, resident Robert Jarzombek, and approximately thirty (30) residents of the Old Mill subdivision.

**2. Review and Approval of the September 13, 2016 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2016 regular Park Commission meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabriel. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

Mr. Larry Orozco of 6758 Timberhill addressed the Commission, stating that he was considering serving on the Park Commission. Chairman Christensen stated that in order to do so, Mr. Orozco would need to submit a completed volunteer application to the Mayor's office, but that he would certainly be welcomed.

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

**A. Discussion and Possible Action – Amplifiers in City Parks and City Noise Ordinance (LV Police Department)**

Staff member Moritz explained that the Police Chief was unable to attend the meeting and that the item should be postponed, as there were a large number of residents present from the Old Mill subdivision that wanted to hear and discuss the proposed park, with planned amenities, in their neighborhood. The Park Commissioners agreed to postpone the item.

**B. Discussion and Possible Action – Wat Dhamma Bucha Temple Land Donation Neighborhood Survey Results – Melinda Moritz**

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Staff member Moritz gave a presentation on the results of the neighborhood survey that had been mailed to the residents of the Old Mill subdivision and property owners along Sawyer Road. She stated that 309 surveys had been mailed. She stated that so far, they had received 61 completed surveys, which represented a 20% return rate.

Ms. Moritz went on to explain the rest of the survey results, which are attached hereto. She then explained that financing for this park included \$10,000 in this fiscal year and that, with the City Council's permission, she would be pursuing matching grants through Texas Parks and Wildlife. A general discussion was held on the proposed park and survey results.

Several residents directly adjacent to the proposed park stated that they would like to have an eight (8) foot fence installed on the inside perimeter of the proposed park, to limit the number of balls possibly ending up in their yards and to deter persons climbing over the fences to retrieve them. One resident stated that he had a swimming pool in his yard and was afraid that children might possibly climb his existing six foot fence and end up in the pool.

One resident stated that she had several suggestions for the park that included separated play areas, such as a fenced "tot" playground and fenced older children playground, a Free Little Library, and that the City might consider selling bricks or benches to fund improvements.

Chairman Christensen then explained the Park Commission's methods for developing parks, which included sending out surveys to discover what the residents wanted. He further explained that although each park was different, there were certain common themes, such as walking paths, the center of the park being left as an open play area, seating, and picnic areas. He noted that the areas to be further addressed were security, lighting, littering, pets, and alcohol. He acknowledged that this park was different in that three sides were privately owned, as opposed to Raymond Rimkus Park that had one side privately owned, and that ball sports were not being considered because of this fact.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Park Master Plan called for pocket or neighborhood parks in each residential area of the city, where they were feasible, and that this proposed park was one of those pocket parks, intended for the immediate residents and not the entire city. She further explained that the plan for this park was taken directly from resident comments and concerns, which was

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why the activity areas were situated to the front of the park and not near a resident fence line.

One of the residents asked about security at the park. Staff member Moritz explained that the new Police Chief was assigning a Policeman to each neighborhood and that they were encouraged to contact that Officer with any concerns they may have about the proposed park or any other issues that might arise in their neighborhood. She also encouraged the residents to contact Code Enforcement for tagging and other issues that might occur. A general discussion was held regarding graffiti and other code violations in their area.

Chairman Christensen then stated that the Commission should make a motion that addressed naming the park, a basic outline for development, and any amenities, and suggested that the City hire a professional designer for the final layout.

Commissioner Parker stated that the one name that really stood out was Old Mill Park, but that he felt the Temple should somehow be recognized. One of the residents suggested that the name be Old Mill Park, but that the donor name be affixed to the bottom of any signage installed in the form of a plaque.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gabriel to recommend the first choice of name for the park be Old Mill Park, the second be Temple Park, and the third choice be a combination of the two; that the park contain an 8' fence around the interior perimeter, a walking path, benches, an open play area, fitness equipment, and a children's play area; and that a professional park designer be engaged to plan the location of all amenities.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill and the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Discussion on Forest Oaks Pool and The Ridge at Leon Valley Park Properties  
(M. Moritz – Public Works)**

Staff member Moritz gave a brief update on the Forest Oaks pool stating that the City Council had approved the donation of the pool property to the City and that she was working on a deed transfer. She also noted that the Forest Oaks Community Association had stated they would pay for some of the needed repairs to the pool.

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She then gave an update on The Ridge at Leon Valley detention pond stating that she was also working on a deed transfer for these properties and a plan for the removal of silt and replacement with good soil and grass. She mentioned that she would give another update once the plans were developed and the deed transferred.

**5. Commissioner and Staff Comments**

Commissioner Ealy stated that she thought the City Council would be pleased with the results of the Old Mill Park survey.

Commissioner Tarin asked what the name of the Forest Oaks pool would be. She mentioned that she thought the pool name should be Leon Valley Community Pool #2.

Commissioner Parker thanked the residents of the Old Mill subdivision for attending the Park Commission meeting and for giving their comments, concerns, and direction on the development of the proposed park.

Commissioner Gabriel complimented the Silo Park signage and stated that she was glad there was a picture of the Silos on the signs. She asked where the signs would be installed. Staff member Moritz stated that they would be placed around the walking path and that other signs had been ordered for the entrances to the park.

Commissioner Hill thanked the audience for attending the Park Commission meeting and for their input. She then stated that she had attended the Ciclovía event and thought it was nice, and that she hoped attendance would grow in the future. She said the City did a great job of cleaning up after the event. Councilmember Alcocer stated that the postcard announcing the event was late getting to the residents and that might have contributed to the low attendance.

Chairman Christensen thanked the Public Works Department for installing gabion mattresses at Raymond Rimkus Park across from the library. He noted that they should also be installed in the Huebner – Onion Natural Area Park where the creek has eroded the pathway. He reminded everyone of Veteran's Day and expressed his deep gratitude towards all Veterans. He noted that the noise ordinance discussion would be placed on the December meeting agenda.

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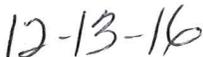
Commissioner Parker stated that his posted picture of deer at the Natural Area had now garnered over 3000 views on the internet.

Some members of the audience thanked the Fire and Police Departments for coming out on Halloween, stating that the kids really had fun and appreciated it. They also expressed their appreciation for the Public Works Department crews.

**6. Adjourn.**

There being no further business, Commissioner Parker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Ealy, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

  
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**Roger Christensen - Chairman**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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City of Leon Valley  
Old Mill Proposed Park Survey Results 11-10-16

Below are the final results of the surveys received, as well as the comments from the meeting. The bolded areas indicate the majority of responses.

Number sent:	309
Number received:	61
Number returned undeliverable:	3
Percent of returns	19.74%

**Question #1 - Age and gender of person filling out survey.**

Gender:	None circled	15
	M	5
	<b>F</b>	<b>24</b>
	Both	3
Age:	Not circled	1
	5-15	0
	16-25	0
	26-35	3
	36-50	2
	<b>51-65</b>	<b>24</b>
	<b>66+</b>	<b>24</b>

**Question #2 - Number & Age of Children in Home**

Households with no children in home:	31
Households with children in home:	23
Ages between:	0-12, 19

**Question #3 - How many times do you visit a park per week?**

No answer:	5
0:	4
<b>1-2:</b>	<b>26</b>
3-4:	9
More than 4:	7

**Question #4 - How far away are you from the proposed park?**

<b>&lt;1/4 mi</b>	<b>36</b>
<1/2 Mi	10
< 1 mi	4
1 mile or more:	1

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**Question #5 - How will you access the park?**

<b>Walk</b>	<b>49</b>
Jog	5
Bicycle	6
Other	2 Car, 1 won't

**Question #6 - Please suggest a name for the new park:**

Old Mill Park (11 responses)  
 Old Mill Neighborhood Park  
 Leo Park  
 Bucha Temple Park  
 Lion's Den  
 Leon Valley Pocket Park  
 Name it after the donators  
 Not sure, but something to honor the Temple's gracious donation  
 The Neighborhood Park  
 Lion Park  
 Mountain Lion Cove  
 Randy Wallace Park  
 Legacy – Generations Park  
 Temple Mill Park  
 Friends Park  
 A name that coincides with the beginning of Huebner Road  
 Solitude of the Valley  
 Huebner Park  
 Leon Valley Park  
 Dhamma Bucha Park  
 Wat Dhamma Bucha Park  
 Bucha Park  
 Middle Way Park  
 Jerry Connell Park  
 Baldrige Park (to honor Irene & Al Baldrige)

**Question #7 - Rate the following amenities (assign a number to each component):**

	GREAT – 1	OK – 2	BAD IDEA - 3
Simple trail system	<b>30</b>	5	3
Athletic fields	2	6	<b>31</b>
Basketball court	7	14	<b>20</b>
Tennis court	3	13	<b>23</b>
Volleyball court	9	<b>19</b>	13

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	GREAT – 1	OK – 2	BAD IDEA – 3
Children’s playscape	<b>27</b>	9	6
Open play area	<b>20</b>	13	9
Picnic area, with barbecue pits	<b>17</b>	15	14
Outdoor fitness equipment	<b>19</b>	14	9
Pavilion(s)	<b>21</b>	9	11
Bird and/or bat houses	10	12	<b>16</b>
Pet/wildlife watering	<b>24</b>	8	10
Drinking fountains	<b>29</b>	6	4
Benches/seating areas	<b>32</b>	3	0

***Other amenities:***

Dog park	5
Shade	3
Trees	1
Lights	7
Restrooms	2
Quiet reflective place	1
Swings/slides	3
Swimming pool/splash pad	1
Pergola/gazebo	1
Parking	2
Skateboard Park	1
Senior playground	1
Bike rack	1
8’ ft. fence interior perimeter	<b>10</b>

***General Comments:***

1. Will there be parking available within the park? When the City of San Antonio built Nani Falcone Park, on Mystic Park, inadequate parking was a major concern.
2. Very excited about having a convenient park in our subdivision; however, care needs to be taken to ensure we do not create major traffic through the residential area due to athletic fields attended by volume of participants and spectators.
3. Love the idea of a pocket park
4. We need this park. It is too dangerous to cross Bandera Rd from Old Mill to use Raymond Rimkus Park. Thank you to the Temple for donating the property.
5. This is a wonderful addition to our neighborhood.

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6. My backyard butts up to the proposed park. My concerns are security and noise. I have a pool. Concerned about jumping my fence and my liability. There are trees right on the fence line – will fence go around trees or what? Will I have a gate – one way access – I can lock on my side and provide access for me? Thanks.

7. The area does not look to be large enough for many amenities. I am not sure the homeowners surrounding the area would like all that activity being practically in their backyards.

8. With basketball courts, we could have a safer neighborhood = the hoops hanging over our streets, with children trying to play in traffic is dangerous & bad for everyone – I've witnessed some close calls. This is an exciting opportunity – look forward to following plans and progress.

9. My greatest concern with this plan is the future upkeep. If this will eventually become an "eyesore". I say leave it as is.

10. No small children living at home, but I do have grandchildren that would love a children's playscape or picnic area with playscape.

11. Will it be policed? Concerned about neighbor's security.

12. People from outside (non-residents) will create traffic and trash if not kept simple.

13. We'd prefer the area to be a walking, nature area, with a children's playscape at the street end. We don't want a sports or ball related amenities because of associated increased noise level. Also, stray balls could come over our fence and people may be tempted to trespass to retrieve them. We are also opposed to barbecue pits because of related strong smells and refuse. Raymond Rimkus Park is available to Leon Valley residents for sports/ball activities and barbecues. We are long time Old Mill residents. We'd be thrilled to have a park name contain "Old Mill", since we've never had signage with our subdivision name displayed. We look forward to attending Public and/or City Council meetings to discuss proposed plans. Thank you for conducting this survey!!

14. No ball sports they might come over our fences & they are noisy. No BBQ pits. BBQ pits are available at city park. Thank you.

15. How are people going to cross Bandera Road safely?

16. Please consider putting in a dog park at this location. A section of the park could be used to allow dogs to run free. We have to drive out of town to go to a dog park. If not here, consider placing a dog park at Raymond Rimkus Park.

17. I would like to expand on the athletic fields and ball courts. With this "pocket park" butting up to many backyards, there is concern as to noise and balls that may accidentally be hit onto these folks property. With the proximity of Raymond Rimkus Park and the

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amenities it already provides, such as picnic areas with barbecue pits and an athletic field, it is sufficient and we would not need those in a “pocket park”.

18. We need this park. It is too dangerous to cross Bandera Road from Old Mill to use Raymond Rimkus Park. Thank you to the Temple for donating the property.

19. I am thrilled about this idea! My children are very active in outdoor sports with leagues, so I'm excited about off times from the season that we will be able to walk to this park and get exercise!

20. Please do not use for any athletic fields, they can use Raymond Rimkus Park for that. Please keep child/family friendly. Thank you.

21. What about parking? Concern about bringing others from outside community (Timberhill area) into quiet Old Mill/Sawyer area. Concerned about “bad” activities to include drugs, gangs, graffiti, & people “scoping” houses down Huebner Road area.

22. Needs more trees.

23. We are so excited!

24. Sufficient lighting.

25. As a Huebner resident, please consider parking, traffic issues – overall, I'm very happy about the idea.

26. Plenty of seating through-out – most with roofs. Please do not allow dogs! In park. plenty of lighting – some solar. No more than 12 in park parking.

27. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

28. Please provide an 8” fence around the interior perimeter to block balls coming into yards adjacent to the park.

29. Constable Jerry Connell served Leon Valley and surrounding area for over 20 years. Outstanding person and a true role model.

30. Excited to see this area donated. Please research the possibility of including a playground for seniors. See this article – [www.governing.com/generations/government-management/gov-senior-playgrounds-popping-up.html](http://www.governing.com/generations/government-management/gov-senior-playgrounds-popping-up.html)

31. I attended the first meeting and I like the general mood of less is more with the park area. I suggest if parking is limited to 5 spaces, that there be a bike rack to encourage folks to bike there. It might be wise to place a simple hog wire fence between the street/parking area and the rest of the park to prevent children from running into traffic. Any landscaping of the park would benefit from native Texas plants only.

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32. Security lighting needs to be limited, pavilion not by fence, park should be no smoking, and parking should not be on street.

33. Would really like it to be a quiet park, my property backs up to park. Concerned about security, noise, undesirables. Proposed pavilion would be behind my backyard – do not like!

34. The City of Leon Valley has no dog park. I believe this is a great opportunity to build one and this land should be used for this purpose.

35. Our neighborhood is very quiet and we would like to keep it that way. Putting in a basketball court, tennis, or volleyball court would bring in the riff raff from other neighborhoods, It would create noise for the homes that backyard abut to the proposed park. It could also bring graffiti. It could also bring traffic, which we don't have now. Neighbors have gathered and talked and we would prefer a walking trail with a couple of benches. We want a quiet zone.

36. Some parking spaces, skateboard area, good lighting for safety and assigned Officer patrolling. So happy to learn about this park coming to our neighborhood!

37. Great idea to improve our neighborhood, with consideration to the (?) and function of some bad element that might find the park is a place to hang out.