

PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
February 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 9th day of February, 2017, 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 7:05 p.m., with the following Park Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Danielle Bolton, Belinda Ealy, Linda Tarin, and Carolyn Gabriel. Absent and excused were Vice-Chairwoman Jackie Walton, and Commissioners Benay Cacciatore, Kathy Hill, and Stephen Parker. Also present were City Council Liaison Monica Alcocer, City Staff member Melinda Moritz, and resident Robert Jarzombek.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.

3. Review and Approval of the January 10, 2017 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Gabriel made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2017 regular Park Commission meeting. Commissioner Ealy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

5. Discussion and Recommendation – Budget Preparation FY 2017-2018

Staff member Moritz presented a slide show addressing a wish list of capital acquisitions for each park, based on previously approved recommendations from the City Council, Park Commissioners, and the general public comments given at the various public meetings. She explained that, barring some exceptions to the list that might be considered repairs and maintenance or could come from other funding or grants, the estimated total for all parks was \$366,500. She further explained that the Commissioners did not have to request the entire amount at one time, but could break it into specific amounts of \$100,000, \$75,000, \$50,000, or other amount per year, over a specific period of years, with the intention of supplementing the amount with grants as available. She stated that the money

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could be slated for the park system overall, without designating a certain amount per park.

Chairman Christensen stated that he liked the concept of designating a specific amount of funds for the park system as a whole per year and then asked the Commissioners for their thoughts on the subject. Commissioner Ealy stated that the neighborhoods should be contacted to find out what amenities should be included in the planning. Chairman Christensen stated that the public could be queried during each year, but the specific amount should be recommended for inclusion in the coming fiscal year for budgeting purposes.

Commissioner Gabriel voiced her concern that the Silo Park had no parking areas. She stated her main concern was for the mothers with small children having to walk from Pavona Place across a very busy and possibly dangerous Huebner Road, even though it did have a traffic signal system. She also noted that the City might be overdeveloping the Silo Park, as the adjacent neighborhood had very few small children and a playscape had been planned. She stated that the number of amenities might overdraw people to the park. She then reconsidered that Pavona Place might have more small children that would use the park.

Chairman Christensen explained that the concept for these small parks is to draw people from the immediate neighborhood and the intention was for those residents to walk to the parks. He noted that the residents from Pavona Place did have a traffic signal to allow safe passage across Huebner Road. He further explained that persons wishing to drive to the Silo Park could park along Canterfield Drive. Commissioner Ealy stated that persons could also park at the DPS parking lot. Staff member Moritz stated that the amenities planned for the Silo Park had been requested by the residents and approved in phases by the City Council.

Chairman Christensen then asked the Commissioners for a recommendation on an annual elected amount for budgeting purposes and suggested that they request \$100,000 per year, until such time as the amenities were installed and completed.

Councilmember Alcocer reminded the Commissioners that each City department would be asking for funding for various activities and that the Park Commission might consider asking for an amount of money that would be sufficient to fund amenities for all the parks. She explained that the City now had four more park

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areas to develop, in addition to Raymond Rimkus, and that the City would now be in charge of the Natural Area as well. She noted that the requested amount could then be reduced by Council action if there were higher priorities.

Chairman Christensen expressed his agreement with the Councilmember and then asked for a show of hands from the Commissioners in support of a \$200,000 annual request to Council. The show of hands was unanimous.

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

A. Discussion and Action – The Ridge at Leon Valley Park Survey Responses (M. Moritz/Commissioners)

Staff member Moritz gave a presentation summarizing the results of surveys received from the residents of the Ridge at Leon Valley, Seneca Estates Unit #3, Rollingwood Estates, and Aids Drive (see attached presentation). A general discussion was held on the number of amenities that would actually fit in the space provided, the request for security lighting, hours of the park, and security cameras. Ms. Moritz then explained that a postcard would be sent to these residents inviting them to the next Park Commission meeting to give their opinions and that she would create a site plan prior to the meeting showing the desired amenities and how the space was limited. She stated that she was still receiving surveys and would have the final tally at that meeting.

B. Discussion and Action – Proposed Trail Behind 6346 Bandera Road Report

Staff member Moritz gave a presentation on the proposed trail behind Grass Hill Drive, stating that it had been donated by the Hetherington Family Trust and that the family was hoping the Commission and City Council would consider naming the trail after their father Brig. Gen. Travis Hetherington. She stated that Brig. Gen Hetherington was the developer of Seneca Estates Unit #3 and of Forest Court subdivision, after a long and distinguished career in the USAF. She noted that the naming would also follow along with the City's logo tag line of "Deep Roots, Big Ideas", by honoring a long time Leon Valley contributor.

Commissioner Gabriel noted that he had also developed portions of French Creek Village and had named some of those streets after his daughters.

Councilmember Alcocer asked if this trail would connect to William Rancher street and Ms. Moritz confirmed that it would.

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Chairman Christensen asked if it was the pleasure of the Commission to recommend approval of the family's request to name the trail after their father. Commissioner Gabriel made a motion to recommend naming the new trail the Brig. Gen. Travis Monroe Hetherington Trail. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bolton, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Report and Possible Action –

- 1. Tree Advisory Board (TAB) – Crepe Myrtle Planting**
- 2. Forest Oaks Pool Repairs**
- 3. Silo Park Improvements**
- 4. Shadow Mist Entrance Closure**
- 5. Proposed Deer Ordinance Update**
- 6. Raymond Rimkus Park Rain Garden Development**
- 7. Softball Field Improvements - BASIS**

Staff member Moritz gave a brief update on each of the items, informing the Commission that the Public Works Crew had finished planting 51 Crepe Myrtle trees in front of the softball field at Raymond Rimkus Park and was planning on planting 49 more trees, but that these remaining trees would be planted in the Silo and Old Mill parks.

Chairman Christensen stated that the TAB had requested a joint meeting at the regular Park Commission meeting in March to discuss their other planting areas. The Commissioners all agreed that this would be a good idea.

She went on to explain that she did not know the status of the Forest Oaks pool repairs, but that the Assistant Director was meeting that night with the President of the Forest Oaks Community Association and that she would report out the findings at the next meeting.

Ms. Moritz then reported that all planned improvements to the Silo Park for Phase 1 were complete, with the exception of a sidewalk entrance off of Huebner Road and an ADA accessible entrance off of Canterfield, which were in the works. She explained that she had sent a letter of request to the LDS Church for the sidewalk easement and was waiting for their response.

She stated that she did not know if the Public Works Crews had installed the posts and chain for the entrance to the Shadow Mist Park yet, but that it had been scheduled and she would report this later. Chairman Christensen explained that the posts and chain would prevent persons from dumping in this area.

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Ms. Moritz then explained that the deer feeding ordinance she had proposed to the City Council had been considered, but that the Council had asked for a more comprehensive report of the deer population/problem overall, and had instructed her to contact experts in that field for a presentation to Council. She explained that she had contacted the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife and had been given the name of a prominent urban wildlife biologist. She stated that this person was currently on leave, but that when she returned, she would give the Council a presentation on urban deer populations and damage prevention.

Ms. Moritz provided the Commissioners with an exhibit showing the proposed rain garden for the Forest Meadow entrance to Raymond Rimkus Park, stating that the design had been completed and now the construction needed to be funded and that she had included the construction in the FY 2018 budget estimate at \$30,000.

Chairman Christensen then addressed the Commission stating that over the holiday break, he had noticed a group of persons diligently working on the softball fields in Raymond Rimkus Park, and that when he inquired, they stated they were from the Boys and Girls Club and that they had volunteered to remove the excess grass and restore the softball field. He explained that in return for their services, he had written a letter of appreciation for their efforts and that he believed it was extremely important to recognize all volunteers performing tasks for the City for their service.

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Ealy stated that she was seeing the trees starting to bloom and bud due to the milder weather.

Commissioner Tarin asked if the trees along Poss Road in the park were dying, as she had noticed quite a large amount of ball moss and mold on the trees. Staff member Moritz stated that was probably the case.

Chairman Christensen stated that he was optimistic that the trees would turn green again in the spring and that ball moss was not detrimental to a tree's overall health.

Commissioner Bolton noted that she had seen a big decline in the health of the trees since the creek had been cemented.

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Chairman Christensen stated that he would like to hold the April Park Commission meeting at the Old Mill Park, and that he wanted to start the meeting at 6:30 pm, instead of 7:00 pm, so that the park could be seen in the daylight. He further stated that he wanted to limit agenda items so that the Commissioners wouldn't have to try and discuss items in the dark. Commissioner Ealy asked about seating. Chairman Christensen urged everyone to bring a lawn chair. He then highly encouraged the Commissioners to visit each of the new parks on their own.

Commissioner Gabriel stated that she was waiting to see what was going to happen with the Forest Oaks pool and whether or not the swim team would be allowed back again. She also asked if there were any new members appointed to the Park Commission. Moritz stated that there were not. Commissioner Gabriel then commented that all the persons that had applied to be volunteers must have chosen to be on the Citizen's Police Advisory Committee instead of the Park Commission.

Chairman Christensen asked the Commission to reach out to people and let them know we had open positions. Councilmember Alcocer stated that if the Commission had volunteers that were habitually absent without excuse, they were able to dismiss that person and request new members. She further stated that the Commission should be fully staffed, as they did a tremendously good job in their recommendations to the City Council.

8. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Commissioner Gabriel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Tarin, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.



Roger Christensen - Chairman



Date