

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

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 9th day of March, 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: Vice-Chairwoman Jackie Walton, and Commissioners Belinda Ealy, Carolyn Gabriel, Stephen Parker, and Kathy Hill. Absent and excused were Commissioners Danielle Bolton, Linda Tarin, and Benay Cacciatore. Also present were City Council Liaison Monica Alcocer, City Staff members Melinda Moritz and Kristie Flores, 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 February 9, 2017 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Ealy noted that the word "amount" had been left out on page 2. Commissioner Gabriel made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2017 regular Park Commission meeting, with the correction. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

5. 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 May Park Commission meeting to give their final

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thoughts and ideas and that she would create a site plan prior to the meeting showing the desired amenities and how the space was limited.

Chairman Christensen addressed the audience, stating that pocket parks were meant to be small and that the methodology for each was basically the same design, with a walking path, and some simple amenities such as benches, small playscapes, and open areas for play. He then stated that if the members of the audience wished to speak, they should come to the podium, state their name and address, and then express their desires and opinions for the park.

Alexandria Campos, from the Ridge subdivision, stated that when she first heard about the planned park, she had mixed emotions, as they had bought their lot because of the privacy it afforded. She noted that she did have small children and they would enjoy a park, but she thought the simpler the better and stated that she was worried about the park attracting potential criminal activity.

Mr. Wayne Haymes of Grass Hill Drive asked about access to the park and stated that if there was not an entrance off of Grass Hill, he would not be visiting the park. Staff showed him the planned access points off of Grass Hill Drive.

Mr. Miguel Gutierrez and his three children, 5637 Caraway Bend, addressed the Commission, with Mr. Gutierrez stating that his kids were excited about the new park and that he liked the idea of keeping it simple and small. He stated that he was against the park having a restroom as he didn't think people needed to stay at the park that long. Mr. Gutierrez' child Levi stated that he would like to have a playscape and a walking trail. Mr. Gutierrez' daughter Addie stated that she would like to have a waterpark and a pool for the summer. Mr. Gutierrez' child Max stated that he would like to have a Starwars battleship themed park.

Ms. Evon Cardos addressed the Commission reminding them that she had appeared before them before asking if a Little Free Library could be installed at the Silo Park. She stated that this park would also be an ideal location for such an amenity. She noted that she would be willing to find a sponsor for the box.

Chairman Christensen asked if that would work at the Old Mill Park. Ms. Cardos answered that it would work at any park. Mr. Christensen asked her to please stay in touch with the Park Commission as the idea was well liked and would most probably be recommended.

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Mr. Martez Lowrey, the Home Owner's Association President, addressed the Commission stating that the homeowners were very excited about the park. He explained that one of the reasons he became president of the Association was because of the complaints he had regarding kids playing basketball in the street. He noted that children loved playing basketball and that he was hoping a small one-man court or two could be placed in this park area. He acknowledged that this activity might bring in more children, but that this activity could be monitored.

Chairman Christensen stated that he was pleased at the turn out of residents and that the recommendations would be finalized at the May Regular Park Commission meeting and that he hoped the residents would attend the meeting. He explained that after the Park Commission made recommendations, the item would be presented to City Council at their June meeting for final decisions on the amenities and name of the park.

Commissioner Ealy made a motion to table the item to the May 2017 Regular Park Commission meeting.

Commissioner Parker stated that he was curious about the lighting at Raymond Rimkus Park and that he was of the understanding that the City had made an agreement with the surrounding neighbors that they would not be disturbed by lighting. He then explained that in the survey results, he noticed a lot of the respondents expressed a desire to have security lighting at night in the proposed park area. He explained that he understood the concern for safety. He then stated that all parks in Leon Valley were open from dawn to dusk and that they were closed at night.

Chairman Christensen stated that he had some thoughts on the subject, but that there was a motion on the table and asked if there was a second. Commissioner Hill stated that they could come back to second the motion, after further discussion. Chairman Christensen stated that Commissioner Parker was correct in that the parks were only open from sun up to sun down, with the exception of City events and that the lighting was for security purposes only. He mentioned that he would like to see this policy continued in all the parks.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion to table the item to the May Regular Park Commission meeting. The vote carried unanimously in favor.

B. Consider, Discuss, and Possible Action – Tree Advisory Board Tree Planting Plan (Tree Advisory Board / Staff Liaison Kristie Flores)

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Staff member Flores gave a presentation on the TAB tree planting plan. She noted that 51 new trees had been planted at Raymond Rimkus Park and that 49 more trees would be planted in the Silo and Old Mill parks shortly. She stated that the next priority for the TAB would be to plant a mini-forest at Raymond Rimkus Park. She stated that the planting would be performed by volunteers from area service organizations and volunteers. She explained plans for plantings at all the new parks and then talked about the proposed new City of San Antonio Park, Crystal Hills.

Chairman Christensen asked Mrs. Flores to please give some additional information regarding the types of trees, the number, what size, and how tall they would get at maturity.

Mrs. Flores stated that the canopy height would vary depending on the tree, but that all of the trees would be drought tolerant and/or native to this area, and that they would be kept away from overhead utility lines.

Commissioner Ealy asked about parking for the Crystal Hills Park. A brief discussion was held on planned amenities for the proposed park.

Chairman Christensen stated that he wanted to assure the TAB would receive plans for each of the parks from the Park Commission, as there were several open play areas proposed and he didn't want the Tab Tree Planting Plan to conflict. Mrs. Flores and Ms. Moritz both assured the Chairman the TAB would receive those plans.

6. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Ealy thanked everyone and stated that she was glad to see such a great turnout from the neighborhood for the Ridge proposed park survey results.

Commissioner Parker echoed the sentiment.

Commissioner Walton stated that she was impressed with the Public Work's cleanup efforts from the recent flooding in the park. She said she also liked being able to log on to the NextDoor website and see updates from the Chief of both the Police and Fire departments.

Commissioner Gabriel asked about parking at the Old Mill Park and was told by Chairman Christensen that parking would be along the street.

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Commissioner Hill stated that she noticed the new Silo Park sign while driving along Huebner Road, but was wondering how to access the park. Ms. Moritz stated that this park had no parking, but persons could park along Canterfield. Commissioner Ealy stated that persons could also park at the DPS parking lot. Commissioner Hill encouraged everyone to go check out the park.

Chairman Christensen stated that he was very encouraged to see the trees along Huebner Creek in Raymond Rimkus Park recovering. He then stated that he had a conversation with the Fire Chief about the fire load in the Old Mill Park, but was told that the load was very low and that trees need not be removed. He then reminded everyone that the next meeting would be at the Old Mill Park and to bring lawn chairs.

Resident Gracielo Rico of 5353 Cilantro Place asked if Raymond Rimkus Park could be a gathering place for the National Night Out event. Ms. Moritz stated that the purpose of the event was to encourage homeowners to turn on their porch lights and get to know their neighbors, so that meeting at the park might defeat the purpose of the event.

7. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Commissioner Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gabriel, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.



Roger Christensen - Chairman



Date