

PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
June 8, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 8th day of June, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 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 to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine if 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: Belinda Ealy, Stephen Parker, Danielle Bolton, David Smith, Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith, and Carolyn Gabriel. Absent and excused were Commissioners Benay Cacciatore, Jackie Walton, Kathy Hill, and Linda Tarin. Also present were City Council liaison Monica Alcocer, City Staff member Melinda Moritz, and resident Robert Jarzombek.

2. Review and Approval of the May 11, 2017 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2017 Regular Park Commission meeting. Commissioner Bolton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens who wished to be heard.

4. Reports: Activities or Events that Impact Parks or Access to Parks:

A. Discussion and Possible Action – Leon Valley Police Department Event – Police Explorers Tournament, June 11, 2017, Raymond Rimkus Park (Captain Ruben Saucedo)

Captain Ruben Saucedo gave a presentation about the Police Picnic in the Park event, stating that the purpose of the event was to get to know the children of Leon Valley and let them see that the Police are their friends. He explained that during the event, children and their parents were introduced to various members of the Police Department, and then enjoyed hot dogs, interaction through the use of toys and allowing the children to climb in and around the Police vehicles and equipment. He noted that the children had their pictures taken and interacted with the Police. He stated that the event was well received and that plans for next year were already underway.

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Captain Saucedo went on explain the Police Explorers Program event that was also held at the Park. He stated that this was a part of a nationwide event, and is a gateway to a career in law enforcement. He went on to say that the program is designed to acquaint youth, between the ages of 14 and 21, with the complexity of law enforcement and introduce them to police operations and procedures. He noted that the Explorers Program builds character, develop leadership skills, gain appreciation for community service, and develop good citizenship. He explained that several staged scenarios were set up in the park and at the Public Works facility in which the Explorers were taught how to solve crimes, how to act when encountering criminals, and to encourage team work. He apologized to the Park Commission for not coming to the Commissioners and asking for permission to hold the event first, but noted that they would come before the Park Commission next year, as they wanted to hold the event each year from now on.

Chairman Christensen asked how the children arrived at the event, as they most likely wouldn't have driver's licenses at that age. Captain Saucedo explained that they were mostly driven in government transport vehicles from the various San Antonio and surrounding substations.

Commissioner Parker stated that he thought the program was a great idea and that he thought the Police Department at NSA where he is employed would be very interested in joining this event.

The rest of the Commissioners voiced their opinion of how wonderful the event was and expressed their continued support.

B. Discussion and Possible Action – Installation of Little Free Libraries at Silo, Old Mill, and The Ridge at Leon Valley Parks (M. Moritz)

Staff member Moritz gave a short presentation to remind the Commissioner of the Little Free Library project and then invited them to take a look at the actual boxes built for the books. Chairman Christensen announced a five minutes break to examine the finished products.

After reconvening, Ms. Moritz explained that the problem with installing the boxes previously was that there were no sponsors available, but that the Library Board had expressed their interest in being sponsors and in providing the books. Ms. Moritz also noted that the original idea had been received by Evon Kardos and that Ms. Kardos had returned and said she was also ready to be a sponsor, so that all three little libraries could now be installed, with City Council permission.

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She stated that she would be bringing the subject to the Council at their July 18th regular City Council meeting.

Commissioner Parker recommended not installing the libraries until after the parks had been developed to avoid unnecessary vandalism.

Commissioner Ealy then moved to approve a recommendation to the City Council to place the Little Libraries in use at the Silo, Old Mill, and Ridge at Leon Valley parks. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Action - Proposed Pavilion at 6600 Strawflower Street (corner of Poss and Peachtree) (M. Moritz)

Staff member Moritz gave a presentation on the possible construction of a pavilion on the vacant lot at the corner of Peachtree and Poss Roads. She explained that this had been the idea of the City Manager to put this land to use and bring in some revenue. Ms. Moritz stated that the lot was only used for the 4th of July event parking and that the rest of the year; it was mowed and cleaned, but not otherwise utilized. She noted that the proposed pavilion would be 30' x 50' and that benches, picnic tables, and a barbecue pit would be installed. She further stated that the pavilion would be rented at the same rate as the large pavilion at the park, and that expected revenues would be approximately \$7500 per year. Several Commissioners expressed their concern that the pavilion would be located close to the existing residences and asked if a fence was also planned. Ms. Moritz stated that a fence would be installed along the property boundary on Peachtree to shield the residents from any noise. She also explained that the parking area would be oriented to the residence, so that the actual pavilion noise would come from farther away.

Commissioner Smith asked how much the parking lot would cost and that he would hate to recommend the idea to the Council without an approximate cost for development.

Chairman Christensen stated that they could recommend the concept to the Council and allow staff time to get quotes for this project.

Commissioner Gabriel asked if the project could wait until the end of the swim season.

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Commissioner Ealy noted that the Tree Advisory Board would like being able to plant more trees and that the plantings would further shield any noise.

Chairman Christensen asked for a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the recommendation to construct a pavilion facility on the vacant lot at the corner of Peachtree and Poss, with the provision that a privacy fence be constructed on the boundary of the property line on Peachtree. Commissioner Ealy seconded the motion and the motion passed 6 ayes and 1 nay (Gabriel).

6. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Staff member Moritz gave an update on the pool revenue to date.

Commissioner Ealy stated that the recent rains were a relief and that the park was looking much better. She also commented on how surprised she was that the staff had removed the trash so quickly after the recent event.

Commissioner Parker stated that he had walked through the Huebner Onion Natural Area Park and noticed there had been no further progress on the gravesite fencing. Ms. Moritz answered by stating that Cooper Forge, the contractor building the fence, had been designing and constructing the posts for the fence at his shop and would not be installing until all the components had been completed. She stated that the fence was being designed after the civil war cemetery fencing in downtown San Antonio. Mr. Parker then mentioned that the erosion in the creek by the Huebner-Onion homestead was getting much worse. He stated that he had seen a deer population of about 23-24 during that walk.

Commissioner Bolton stated that she was looking forward to the 4th of July event.

Commissioner Gabriel noted that she sees deer in her yard every day now.

Commissioner Smith did not have any comments to add.

Commissioner Rodriguez-Smith stated that she was very excited to have been appointed to the Park Commission.

Chairman Christensen stated that he had participated in the Tree Advisory Board's Oak Wilt discussion and that the presentation by Forester Mark Kroeze was very informative. He explained the disease process and treatment options. Commissioner Bolton stated that the City should think about putting up a sign at the library warning people not to cut their Oak Tree limbs from March to July.

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Chairman Christensen went on to state that he had been appointed to the Hike & Bike Trail Committee and he explained the current alignment proposal. He stated that he would be bringing information back to the Commission as details progressed. He then wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

7. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Commissioner Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gabriel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Roger Christensen - Chairman

7-8-17

Date