



Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine if Quorum is Present.

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with the following Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chairwoman Danielle Bolton, and Commissioners Jack Dean, Carolyn Gabriel, Kris Ericson-Cano, Michelle Alonzo, and Alternate Joyce Trent. Absent were David Smith, Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith, and Kathy Hill. Also present were Councilmembers Matthew Hodde and Staff member Melinda Moritz.

2. Review and Consider Approval of the October 10, 2019 Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Alternate Commissioner Trent made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard

Councilmember Hodde addressed the Commissioners, stating that the presentation he had planned for the previous meeting was now able to be seen and he appreciated their time in reviewing it. He noted that the ideas expressed in the presentation from Staff member Moritz were on target, in that the residents wanted a quieter park, with natural features, to include items such as a place for children to roll down a hill, play on natural boulders, climb on stumps, and watch the wildlife. He noted their desire to keep any playground equipment simple and rustic, in keeping with the ranch theme of the surrounding neighborhood. He also noted their desire for a split rail cedar fence with a gate and bar over the top, to mimic a ranch entrance. He went on to explain that there could be interpretive displays that depicted animal tracks, a history of the area, the workings and biology of a creek, and so on.

A general conversation was held, with Commissioner Alonzo stating her support for the ideas, especially as it related to the educational component.

Councilmember Hodde noted that it was his desire to have the school children visiting the fire station be allowed to then visit the park and enjoy the interpretive

displays. It was then explained that, as the City did not currently own the property, all the ideas could be placed into a plan of action in the following year.

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

A. Discussion and Action – Rules of Decorum for Park Commission Meetings (Chairman R. Christensen).

Chairman Christensen addressed the Commission, stating that the Park Commission did not currently have any rules of decorum and that the proposed rules were taken directly from the City Council's rules. A general discussion was held to include discussing Robert's Rules of Order, and then Vice-Chairwoman Bolton noted that the City Council had two "Citizens to be Heard" portions and that this should be reduced to one for the Park Commission.

Vice-Chairwoman Bolton made a motion to adopt the Rules of Decorum, with the second "Citizens to be Heard" removed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alonzo and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and Action – Consider Rental Rates for Pocket Park Pavilions (Commissioners).

Chairman Christensen opened the discussion by noting that the new pavilions at the pocket parks did not have a rental rate assigned and asked if this was something the Commission wanted to consider. Staff member Moritz noted that, if the Commission decided to offer these pavilions for rent, they could use the same rate as was currently being charged for the smaller pavilion at Raymond Rimkus Park.

Commissioner Dean stated that he was not in favor of charging a fee at these neighborhood parks. Councilmember Hodde asked if there had been any reported issues with large groups using these pavilions, to which Ms. Moritz stated there had not. Alternate Commissioner Trent asked if the City had received any requests from residents wanting to rent the pavilion, to which Ms. Moritz stated there had not.

Commissioner Alonzo noted that being able to rent a pavilion would assure a user that the pavilion would be available to only that person at an allotted time. After a general discussion, Vice-Chairwoman Bolton made a motion to table the item until such time as it became an issue. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed with six Commissioners in favor and one Commissioner against.

5. Other Business

A. Discussion and Action – Public Comments on the Park Master Plan (M. Moritz)

Staff member Moritz stated that the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan had been presented to the City Council and had then been placed on the City website for a 30-day period of public comment. She noted that she had received several comments, but only one substantive comment that caused a change to the Plan. She explained that the wording for the Huebner Creek Trail had been changed from “constructing a trail in Huebner Creek” to “constructing a trail on publicly owned land in Huebner Creek” to protect those property owners who actually still owned a portion of the creek bottom. She further explained that all of the other comments had been addressed in the Plan or were not appropriately addressed by a Plan, but were actually maintenance issues to be placed in work orders. She then stated that one of the Councilmembers had requested that a picture of the pavilion at The Ridge at Leon Valley also be placed in the Plan, as she felt it was a significant and aesthetic improvement to the park.

Commissioner Alonzo made a motion to adopt the Plan as corrected, which was seconded by Alternate Commissioner Trent. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Vice-Chairwoman Bolton asked why the City didn't have a dog park. Several Commissioners commented regarding proper placement, potential noise and cleanup issues. Commissioner Dean noted that most people are considerate and clean up after their dogs. He also noted that there was not a lot of barking to be heard at dog parks. Chairman Christensen stated that the real question was where to put one. He then stated that this item could be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Alonzo asked when the Town Hall was to be held, as well as the next Coffee with the Council event. Ms. Moritz told her the date and time.

Chairman Christensen stated that the Commissioner should probably place the Earthwise Living Day event on the next agenda as well.

Commissioner Gabriel stated that she was interested in the Hike & Bike Trail and when that project might start. Ms. Moritz stated that the City needed to own the property before the trail could be constructed and that would be in a couple of years.

Staff member Moritz stated that the next year's capital acquisition items were to be discussed in early February and that the Commission needed to let her know what items, over \$5,000 in cost, she should place in the capital line item for parks.

7. Adjourn.

Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dean made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alonzo. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.



Roger Christensen, Chairman



Date