



Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 13th day of May, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at Raymond Rimkus Park, 6440 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 7:04 p.m., with the following Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chairwoman Danielle Bolton, and Commissioners Carolyn Gabriel, Kathy Hill, Joyce Trent, and Yvonne Orozco. Absent were Commissioners Jack Dean, Michelle Alonzo, Evan Bohl, and Alternate Commissioners Drew Power and Kimberly Bohl. Also present was Staff member Melinda Moritz.

2. Review and Consider Approval of the April 8, 2021 Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Gabriel 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.

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

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

a. Discussion – Disc Swings (M. Moritz).

Staff member Moritz addressed the Commission, stating that they had received a request from a resident who was the caretaker of a child with a disability to put disc type swings in each park. She noted that the caretaker had explained it was easier to place the child in a disc swing rather than a regular saddle swing, due to the child's physical limitations. Ms. Moritz then explained that the City of San Antonio had placed disc swings in the Crystal Hills Park, located at the end of Shadow Mist Road, and recommended the Commissioners visit that park to see what the swings looked like and how they operated. A general discussion regarding the swings was held. Ms. Moritz then asked if it was the consensus of the Commission that she further investigate costs associated with these types of swings and bring the item back to the Commission with these costs. The Commissioners agreed, with

Commissioner Hill stating that she would like to promote more inclusivity for persons with disabilities in our park system.

b. Discussion and Possible Action – Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendations (Commissioners).

Chairman Christensen asked Commissioner Hill if the Dog Park Subcommittee had been able to make recommendations for the placement and development of a dog park. Commissioner Hill apologized, explaining that the Covid-19 pandemic had begun right after the subcommittee was formed and that they had not been able to meet, but that efforts would resume now that the pandemic seemed to be under control, and they would have their recommendations ready for the next Park Commission meeting. She then asked if any of the other Commissioners wanted to participate. Commissioner Orozco volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Further discussion was held regarding the dog park, with Vice-Chairwoman Bolton stating that they should contact the Nestle Purina Pet Care Company to see if they would be willing to donate funds towards the construction of a dog park. Commissioner Hill stated that the Raising Cane's Chicken Finger Group would also be a possible donor, as they were known for their affiliation with dogs and for donations to dog parks. Staff Liaison Moritz stated that the City had sent a letter several years earlier to Raising Cane's asking for a donation for a dog park. She then reminded the Commissioners that she had placed \$60,000 in the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget as a place holder for a dog park, but that the budget had not yet been reviewed and approved by City Council.

c. Discussion – Flooding in the Park (M. Moritz).

Ms. Moritz stated that they had experienced heavy flooding in Raymond Rimkus Park from the recent rains and that it had taken Public Works Crews four days to clean up the debris. She also noted that one person had been trapped in the park as the flood waters had risen, but that the person had been rescued unharmed. She told the Commissioners that a suggestion had been received to put flood notice signs in the park at the pavilions to let park users know that the area does flood. She then stated that they had received 5.5 inches of rain in one evening, then received six more inches in the following two days, which caused the heavy flooding.

Ms. Moritz then explained that the Old Mill Park had also flooded and the stormwater runoff almost went inside one home at the back of the park, and that because of this occurrence, they would be constructing a detention pond at the back of the park. A general discussion was held regarding flooding in the Evers Road bridge area, the Peachtree Park, and the Huebner Creek LC-17 area.

5. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Commissioner Gabriel noted that the City's website had confusing information about the pool season. Ms. Moritz told her she would be correcting the information the next day. Mrs. Gabriel then commented on the pool operating hours, the swim team progress, and that the City might have water aerobics this year. She noted that the banners needed to be updated with contact information. Ms. Moritz agreed, stating that the banners were very old and needed replacing.

Vice-Chairwoman Bolton commented that it would be nice to have an area for residents to bring their tree limbs and other brush, outside of the twice-yearly large item pickup events. She stated that she had tried to bring her excess brush to the landfill owned by the City of San Antonio, but was told she could not, as she did not live in the city limits of the City of San Antonio. Ms. Moritz stated that the Public Works Department had an area they used for spoils, but that it was not large enough to accommodate the entire city.

Mrs. Bolton then asked what the City was doing in regards to the Oak Wilt that seemed to be increasing around the City. Ms. Moritz stated that they had placed a full-page article in the Lion's Roar newsletter about Oak Wilt prevention and proper disposal of diseased or dying trees, and that the article was also posted on the City's website. She then stated that in the previous year, the Public Works Department had trenched Forest Grove St. in an effort to stop the spread of the disease into the Forest Oaks neighborhood, but that the City was not able to treat trees on private property and that property owners needed to surveil their trees carefully for any signs of Oak Wilt and to treat trees at least 18 months prior to the infection advancing towards their properties. Commissioner Hill suggested that the City create a flyer to be handed out at the National Night Out event alerting property owners to the spread of Oak Wilt in the community.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Leon Valley Historical Society's (LVHS) Spring Cleanup event, which was to be held at the Huebner-Onion Homestead on May 15th and 16th, had been cancelled due to the impending rain events. She further explained that the weather forecast was predicting rain every weekend for the foreseeable future and that the event would most probably be held in October. She stated that the purpose of the event was to clean out the old stone barn that contained parts of an historic structure and to try to rehabilitate the structure for future placement on the property. Ms. Moritz asked if the old pigeonnaire on the Triangle Park property could now be removed. Ms. Hill stated that the LVHS was almost ready for that to happen, but that she would let her know. She also stated that the LVHS would probably need some assistance removing some dead trees

along the property line between the park and the Homestead. Ms. Moritz informed Ms. Hill that the City had taken delivery of the planned decorative fencing and would be installing it along the property line between the Triangle Park and Homestead property within the month.

Commissioner Trent thanked the Public Works Department for their park flooding cleanup efforts.

Commissioner Orozco also thank the Public Works Department for their efforts and noted that she was glad to be a member of the Park Commission.

Chairman Christensen ended the meeting by directing the Commissioner's attention to the Old Mill Park, noting that it had turned out as planned, with nice amenities, and thanking the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for planting the new trees. He noted that, even as the Park Commission was meeting, families had been enjoying the park, walking their dogs, and using the area as the Park Commission had hoped they would.

He stated that the next Park Commission meeting would be held at The Ridge at Leon Valley Park and stated his hope that the new basketball court at that park would be completed by that date. He explained that the June meeting would be their last meeting to be held outside, as the summer heat would have begun by then. He welcomed new member Yvonne Orozco to the Commission, recognized Vice-Chairwoman Bolton for her recent public service in running for City Council, and thanked the Park Commission for their continued service. He then asked for a motion to adjourn.

6. Adjourn.

Commissioner Gabriel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Hill. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.


Roger Christensen, Chairman

6-10-21
Date