

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Held at Civic Center – Conference Room 202
September 9, 2014
6:00 PM

Members absent: Susan Fischer, Jeremy Thomason and AV Vaghela

City Council Liaison in attendance: NONE

PARD Staff in attendance: Shanna Sims-Bradish, Robbie Hazelbaker, Roger Scott, Chris Cottone, Marika Coleman & Kelli Keath

Attending Commission Members:

Kenan Brandes – Chairman

Collin Hayes – Member

Pam Krause - Member

Kevin Williams - Member

Gene Fitch, Jr. - Member

Jeanne Hooker – Member

Visitors: None

1. Chairman, Kenan Brandes, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. On a motion by Jeanne Hooker and seconded by Collin Hayes, the minutes of the April 8th & June 10th regular meetings were approved.
3. Chairman's Report
 - a) Public Art Master Plan
 - Chairman Kenan Brandes commented on the Imagine Art Here! Richardson Workshop which was held at Huffhines Recreation Center on June 11th. The purpose of this meeting was to help mold the public art vision in Richardson and provide input into identifying places for art throughout the community. Mr. Brandes mentioned that this topic would be an on-going item on future agendas and an update will be given to the members regularly. He reminded the Commission that the Art aspect will be a part of the budget for future building projects.
4. 2014 Summer Aquatics Overview
 - Aquatic Coordinator, Marika Coleman and Superintendent of Athletics & Aquatics, Chris Cottone gave an overview centered on the Heights Family Aquatic Center – Summer 2014. Their presentation included information on the number of memberships sold to residents vs. non-residents, gate fees, average weekly attendance, the final week offering (Aug 18-22) and reservations.

5. Parks & Recreation Department Report

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a) Update on Cottonwood Art Festival, Huffhines Art Trail and Corporate Challenge

- Assistant Director, Robbie Hazelbaker updated the members on Cottonwood Art Festival, Huffhines Art Trail and Corporate Challenge. Some of the features for these events included:
 - ✚ Cottonwood Art Festival now in its 45th year will take place on October 4th & 5th. The featured artist for this year event is Brice McCasland from Allen Texas. He is a Visual Arts Coordinator at Lovejoy High School in Lucas, Texas and is a Mixed Media Artist. There will also be 240 other artists there, from which 32 states in the U.S. will be represented and 1 from Israel.
 - ✚ Huffhines Art Trail is expected to have another great year; the event will take place on October 25th & 26th and will include many activities for kids and their families.
 - ✚ Corporate Challenge is the largest it's ever been, both in total number of companies participating (55) and total number of teams (53). For the first time ever, we had to turn away companies who wished to participate and anticipate record numbers applying for the 2015 Challenge. With over \$184,000 raised for Special Olympics last year, we were the single largest contributor to Special Olympics Texas in the greater Dallas area. The City of Richardson employees itself made the largest contribution, \$16,000, of all the participating companies and was recognized as a Platinum Level sponsor.
Mr. Hazelbaker then announced the "Official Hamburger" of the 2014 Games. IN-N-OUT BURGER has donated over \$20,000 worth of product and was a major feature at Opening Ceremony and at The Great Ride. We are grateful for their generosity and look forward to having them be a-part of Corporate Challenge in the future!

6. Santa's Village Update

- Assistant City Manager, Shanna Sims-Bradish began the discussion with a review from the City Council meeting on Monday, September 9th. She shared and explained with members the 2014 Santa's Village Proposal to make Thursday nights, "Richardson Resident Night".
- A discussion was opened. Some of the feedback received included; Member Collin Hayes was in favor of the new proposed plan but wanted to keep with the overall goals of Santa's Village, making sure it stays available to all & at no charge. Member Pam Krause added that using traffic message boards could be very helpful in notifying people that Thursday nights are only for Richardson Residents.

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7. Parks & Recreation Director Recruitment Strategy

- Assistant City Manager, Shanna Sims-Bradish updated members on the City Manager's plan to replace the Director of Parks & Recreation. The search will include internal and external candidates. She invited members to share their thoughts throughout the process. The goal and hope of the City Manager's office is to have the position filled by January 2015.

8. 2010 Bond Program Overview

a) Assistant Director Roger Scott gave an overview and summary on the 2010 Bond Program's projects, projects in design and/or under construction as well as other capital improvement projects funded from grants.

- Northrich Park – this project is out for bid and currently receiving proposals for construction. The park was "officially" named Northrich Park and will use the Bear Mascot of Northrich Elementary in its theme.
- Dog Park – Construction of this project is expected to start in October 2014 and the anticipated completion date has been set for early 2015.
- McKamy Spring Park Historical Marker – item was approved and included in the 2015 operating budget. Assistant Director Roger Scott was optimistic that all research requirements to move forward will be met by November of this year.
- Assistant Director Roger Scott shared that the Richardson Urban Naturalist Program has returned and been revised. Three special walks have been planned in Breckinridge Park.
 - Birds of the Fall, Nature Photography in the Field and Natural (Saturday, September 27th, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
 - Nature Photography in the Field (Saturday, November 1st, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
 - Natural History of Our Outdoors in North Central Texas (Saturday, November 15st, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

9. Park & Recreation Commission Round Table of Community Interest Items

- Member Jeanne Hooker asked for an update on the proposed Skate Park. Assistant Director Roger Scott shared that the City of Richardson has secured a property that has potential of hosting a Skate Park but no official designation or funding has been made at this time.
- Member Pam Krause asked for a status update on the April 15th Priority List. Assistant City Manager, Shanna Sims Bradish commented that 10 of the 19 requests submitted were approved.

Being no further business, on a motion by Pam Krause, seconded by Collin Hayes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Kelli Keath, City of Richardson Parks & Recreation Department

Minutes approved at October 14th, regular meeting:
