

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Held at Civic Center – Conference Room 202
January 13, 2015
6:00 PM

City Council Liaison in attendance: Kendal Hartley

PARC Staff in attendance: Shanna Sims-Bradish, Robbie Hazelbaker, Roger Scott, Sarah Burt

Attending Commission Members:

Kenan Brandes – Chairman

Jeremy Thomason, Vice Chairman

Collin Hayes – Member

Jim Bailey - Member

Susan Fischer - Member

Kevin Williams - Member

Jeanne Hooker – Member

Gene Fitch, Jr. - Member

Pam Krause - Member

Visitors: Dave Carter, Assistant Director of Development Services

1. Chairman Kenan Brandes declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Chairman Kenan Brandes recognized the attendance of Dave Carter, Assistant Director of Development Services
3. On a motion by Gene Fitch, Jr. and seconded by Jeanne Hooker, the minutes of the November 11th meeting were approved.
4. Chairman's Report
 - a) Calendar for future PARC meetings
 - Chairman Kenan Brandes discussed the 2015 meeting calendar for Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to ensure there are no major conflicts with the schedule. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish pointed out that the March date does not conflict with Richardson ISD's Spring Break. After Assistant Director Roger Scott noticed that the April meeting date is not the second Tuesday of the month, Parks and Recreation Commission members agreed to change April's meeting from April 7 to April 14.
 - b) Vision and Initiatives for the Commission
 - Chairman Kenan Brandes discussed the new vision for Parks and Recreation Commission members to be more involved in visiting parks and facilities throughout Richardson. Mr. Brandes prepared folders that he handed out with information and maps about each park, facility, and trail throughout Richardson that he obtained from the city website. Mr. Brandes also included the April 15th priority list from 2014-2015 as a reminder of the items previously discussed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Brandes reminded members to make observations based on visits to each facility in an effort to be better informed when making decisions in the coming months about this year's April 15th Priority List. Mr. Brandes will be taking notes and feedback from members about their visits to facilities so that he can track observations.

Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

January 13, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Page 2

- Chairman Kenan Brandes referenced a calendar members received to inform them of upcoming events in which Parks & Recreation Commissioners may attend in order to assist in drawing observations. Assistant Directors Robbie Hazelbaker and Roger Scott both shared about notable events taking place over the next several weeks that are on the calendar.

5. Presentation Regarding Being a “Bicycle Friendly Community” from Dave Carter, Assistant Director of Development Services

- Dave Carter, Assistant Director of Development Services, gave a presentation about the importance of fostering an environment that is deemed “Bicycle Friendly” in the City of Richardson. Mr. Carter talked about the importance of partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department in order to efficiently incorporate bicycle lanes and trails into the city. Mr. Carter gave statistics that conveyed the vitality of creating a community that enriches the use of bicycles as a form of transportation. DFW and Houston placed in the top ten for cities that are considered most dangerous for bicyclists, including the amount of pedestrian fatalities. The City of Portland, a community known for being “bicycle friendly,” conducted a study and determined cyclists fit into one of four categories: Strong and Fearless, Enthused and Confident, Interested but Concerned, and No Way No How. Mr. Carter stated that a goal for the City of Richardson is to allow bicyclists to be in the “Enthused and Confident” category, which takes place when they feel safe while riding. Additionally, nurturing a “Bicycle Friendly” environment can reduce fuel consumption by 5% and help the environment. Mr. Carter informed the Parks and Recreation Commission that Development Services is focusing a significant amount of time in helping Richardson become certified “Bicycle Friendly” by the League of American Bicyclists. Improvements have been made and will continue to be made to increase safety throughout the city for cyclists. Parks and Recreation Commission members expressed their support by asking questions and inquiring about how to be involved.

6. Parks & Recreation Department Report

a) Christmas Parade and Santa’s Village Recap and Opportunity for Feedback

- Assistant Director Robbie Hazelbaker thanked Parks and Recreation Commission members for their support of the annual Christmas Parade and for volunteering their time. Mr. Hazelbaker informed members that \$5355 was raised all together for Network Ministries by the Christmas Parade, as well as 700 toys.
- Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish gave statistics and an update on the success of Santa’s Village this year, including the “Hometown Thursdays.” Mrs. Sims-Bradish explained that the attendance with tickets at the event indicated that the communication strategy to inform Richardson residents of the plan seemed to work. 90% of the attendees showed up with tickets and knew what was going on. The general consensus from Richardson residents seemed to be that they were thankful to have a night designated specifically for them. The Parks and Recreation Commission members collectively decided that having a designated

“Hometown Night” is a good idea because of the success seen this year and the positive responses the event generated.

b) April 15th Priority List Discussion

- Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish and Chairman Kenan Brandes briefly discussed how to begin preparing for the April 15th Priority List. Each member was given Priority Lists from the last five years in order to review previous items and begin thinking ahead.

c) 2010 Bond Program/Capital Projects Update

a. Playground Renovations

- Assistant Director Roger Scott updated the Parks and Recreation Commission on the progress of the four playground renovations that are underway. Mr. Scott stated that all the contracts have been signed, and that each playground is on a different timeline for completion.

b. Update on Northrich Park

- Assistant Director Roger Scott stated that Northrich Park construction is well under way. Weather and the recent holidays have slightly impacted the work schedule and overall everything is going well.

c. Update on Dog Park

- The dog park is under construction and is making great progress. Mr. Scott explained that tying in utilities to the dog park is an essential aspect of the development of the park and has taken some time. Mr. Scott also shared that Assistant Director Robbie Hazelbaker is working on a sponsorship campaign to assist in funding the dog park. Projected completion for the dog park is in March. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish mentioned that there is still not a name for the dog park, but it is being worked on.

d. City Entry Signs

- Assistant Director Roger Scott discussed the progress on the City Entry signs and explained that with the holiday season, the city had to work with contractors' schedules. The project did come under budget, which is a great benefit to the City. Two of the signs will be lit as a result of possessing access to electricity, and the other two will not be. Mr. Scott said the signs will most likely be complete in the Spring, depending on weather.

d) Wildflower 2015 Plans

- Assistant Director Roger Scott briefly explained that planning for the logistical aspects of Wildflower! has begun, which requires a large group of staff members, property owners, business owners, law enforcement, and many others coming together to move forward in order to prepare for the festival. These individuals work together to navigate through details of the event in order to ensure safety and smooth operations. The event this year will be May 15-17.

7. Parks and Recreation Commission Round Table of Community Interest Items

- Chairman Kenan Brandes opened up the discussion for members to speak about community interest items. Vice Chairman Jeremy Thomason mentioned that leading up to April, it would be beneficial to have a master list in order to prepare for the April 15th priority list. Mr. Thomason also mentioned that he works in Irving, which has seen many small earthquakes lately. Mr. Thomason wanted to know if the city is implementing any sort of emergency preparedness as a result of the Irving earthquakes. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish said that she be in touch with the Emergency Operations Office and keep the Parks and Recreation Commission informed if there are any updates or plans to communicate.
- Member Jeanne Hooker shared about her experience of serving at the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon and stated that it was a very enjoyable event to be a part of.
- Member Susan Fischer briefly mentioned that 2015 is a City Council election year, as potential candidates have begun obtaining information packets.
- Member Kevin Williams asked about the timeline for knowing if Richardson made the final cut for a historical marker, and Assistant Director Roger Scott stated that a decision will most likely be made in the next month or two, although there is not a specific date.
- Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish reminded the Parks and Recreation Commission members of the upcoming “State of the City” address that will be taking place on Wednesday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Eisemann Center.

8. Adjournment

- Being no further business, Chairman Kenan Brandes declared the meeting adjourned at 8:32

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Sarah Burt, City of Richardson Parks & Recreation Department

Minutes approved at February 10, 2015, regular meeting: