

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Held at City Hall – City Manager’s Conference Room 202
June 9, 2015
6:00 PM

Members Absent: Susan Fischer, Collin Hayes

PARD Staff in attendance: Lori Smeby, Robbie Hazelbaker, Roger Scott, Kurt Beilharz, Sarah Burt

Attending Commission Members:

Kenan Brandes – Chairman	Jim Bailey - Member
Jeremy Thomason, Vice Chairman	Jeanne Hooker – Member
Pam Krause, Member	Gene Fitch, Jr. - Member
Kevin Williams, Member	

Visitors: None

1. Vice Chairman Jeremy Thomason declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Vice Chairman Jeremy Thomason acknowledged that there were no visitors in attendance.
3. On a motion from member Jim Bailey and seconded by member Jeanne Hooker, the minutes from the April 14, 2015 regular meeting were approved.
4. Chairman’s Report
 - Vice Chairman Jeremy Thomason informed members that Chairman Kenan Brandes would be arriving to the meeting soon so this item was pushed back to be discussed later in the meeting.
5. Appoint Bike Subcommittee
 - Director Lori Smeby discussed the formation of a Bicycle Advisory Committee which will essentially be a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as other advisory committees. Mrs. Smeby explained the need to nominate two Parks and Recreation Commission members to be appointed. The attendees agreed that member Collin Hayes would be a good fit for the committee because he is an active bicyclist. Additionally, member Gene Fitch volunteered to serve on the new committee. Member Kevin Williams made a brief phone call to Mr. Hayes regarding the bike subcommittee. Mr. Hayes gladly accepted the appointment, so he will join Mr. Fitch on the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
6. Appointee for Artist Selection Committee
 - Director Lori Smeby shared the need for an appointee to a selection committee regarding public art. The selected individual will be meeting with other appointees from various committees throughout the City. The Parks and Recreation Commission appointed member Kevin Williams to be the

appointee, pending availability, and member Jeanne Hooker will be the substitute should he be unavailable.

7. Fees

- Assistant Director Robbie Hazelbaker explained the current status of fees for usage of courts at the Tennis Center. Mr. Hazelbaker proposed that the fee be raised from \$2.00 for ninety minutes to \$3.00 for ninety minutes for use. Members Pam Krause and Jeremy Thomason recommended that an explanation of the fee change be given to citizens, but still agreed the raise was appropriate. On a motion from Pam Krause and seconded by member Kevin Williams, the members unanimously recommended the fee change to City Council.

8. Parks & Recreation Director's Report

A) Spring Creek Nature Area Design

- Superintendent of Park Planning Kurt Beilharz presented the Parks and Recreation Commission members with an update on the Spring Creek Nature Area. Mr. Beilharz shared about a proposed master plan to the area and emphasized the importance of enhancing the site while also maintaining its rich heritage. Mr. Beilharz discussed the potential for additional trails and amenities to compliment the area, such as bird viewing areas and features to preserve the natural components. Preserving the nature area remains a high priority and commission members were pleased with the direction in which this project is headed.

B) Future Proposed Bond Projects

- Director Lori Smeby informed members of future proposed bond projects that will be presented to City Council. The items being considered for bond projects would be: a Breckinridge Park Tennis, Aquatics, and Recreation Facility, a renovation of the Senior Center, continuing playground renovations, and improving irrigation in parks.

C) Festival Updates

- Assistant Director Robbie Hazelbaker gave the Parks and Recreation Commission members a recap from Spring Festivals. Cottonwood Art Festival was a great success, especially with the new craft beer garden. The Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival also went well with an estimated attendance of 60,000 visitors. Mr. Hazelbaker mentioned that in spite of the projected rain forecast, the weather turned out great and the festival was highly successful. Member Jeanne Hooker commented on how the crowds were managed well and adjustments from last year had a positive impact.

Additionally, member Pam Krause complimented the Parks Maintenance staff for cleaning up quickly after the festival ended.

D) 2010 Bond Program/Capital Projects Update

1. Playground Renovations

- Assistant Director Roger Scott stated that all playground renovations are complete and now being used by the community.

2. Update on Northrich Park

- Due to the heavy Spring rainfalls, Northrich Park faced some delays in construction. Mr. Scott informed members that there will be a grand opening ceremony when children return to school in the fall. The shelter is in place and the park itself is shaping up to be a great addition to the community.

3. City Entry Signs

- Assistant Director Roger Scott stated that the entry sign at Plano Road is complete and will just have a few minor landscaping improvements left. The project is working west, and other signs are being worked on now at the Waterview, Custer, Jupiter, Renner, and Murphy Road locations.

4. Dog Park

- Director Lori Smeby gave an update on Bush Central Barkway, elaborating on plans for the Grand Opening Ceremony. Because of the recent flooding its impact on the type of sod necessary for completing the dog park, the opening date has been moved back to a later date instead of June 26.

a) Webpage

- Mrs. Smeby showed the Parks and Recreation Commission members a webpage from the main City website that allows residents to make donations toward Bush Central Barkway, as well as obtain the most recent news regarding the park.

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

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- Member Kevin Williams shared that he received positive feedback regarding Cottonwood Art Festival and looks forward to the fall event.
 - Vice Chairman Jeremy Thomason inquired about the status of renovations being done at Sherrill Park Golf Course. Parks and Recreation Director Lori Smeby explained that the golf course renovations are about a month behind due to weather.
 - Member Jim Bailey shared that he has heard positive feedback about Wildflower! Festival with the way it was operated, as well as how great the parks maintenance personnel managed the clean-up process.
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- Being no further business, Chairman Kenan Brandes declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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

Minutes approved at October 13, 2015 regular meeting:
