

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 411 W. Arapaho Rd.
City Manager's Conference Room, 202
February 9, 2016
6:00 PM

Members Absent: Collin Hayes

PARD Staff in attendance: Lori Smeby, Yvonne Falgout, Sarah Patton

Attending Commission Members:

Jeremy Thomason – Chairman
Susan Fischer - Member
Pam Krause - Member
Kevin Williams - Member

Gene Fitch, Jr. - Vice Chairman
Victor Garza, Member
Jeanne Hooker - Member
Jim Bailey - Member

Visitors: No visitors

1. Chairman Jeremy Thomason declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Chairman Jeremy Thomason acknowledged that there were no visitors in attendance.
3. On a motion from Vice Chairman Gene Fitch, Jr. and seconded by member Jim Bailey, the minutes from the January 12, 2016 regular meeting were approved.
4. Chairman Jeremy Thomason introduced new member Victor Garza. Mr. Garza expressed his excitement to be part of the commission and the rest of the members shared his enthusiasm.
5. Director Lori Smeby introduced Assistant Director of Recreation and Events Yvonne Falgout to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mrs. Falgout recently began working for Richardson and shared about her background as she was warmly welcomed by members of the commission.
6. Chairman's Report
 - Chairman Jeremy Thomason led the commission members through a discussion pertaining to scheduled park visits.
 - *Berkner Park* - Vice Chairman Gene Fitch, Jr. shared that he noticed organized soccer play occurring on the fields without prior reservations. Mr. Fitch also shared that he would like to see trail markers installed to help visitors identify how far they have gone on the trails. Members made comments based on the rusted trash cans and discussed the need to have them eventually replaced.
 - *Mark Twain Park* - Members noticed that the creek behind Mark Twain Park has quite a bit of trash that is visible from the trail around the park, likely caused by recent rainy weather. Staff will work to resolve the issue and identify whether or not this property is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

- *Buckingham* Park - Members noted that unlike other parks throughout the city, there was not a blue sign on the road to indicate that one is near a park. Members briefly discussed the uniqueness of the park, and then made plans for the next park visits.

7. 2016 Budget Overview

- Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish gave a presentation to explain the Parks and Recreation budget overview for 2016. Mrs. Sims-Bradish provided information about the general fund and important dates in the current fiscal year calendar. Furthermore, the projected revenue for the 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department and beyond was discussed in detail, as well as projected expenditure assumptions.

8. Open Meetings Requirements

- Director Lori Smeby provided information regarding the requirements for open meetings. Parks and Recreation Commission members are required to refrain from discussing business when not in an official meeting and were given guidelines when it comes to e-mail communications.

9. April 15th Priority List

- Chairman Jeremy Thomason led the commission members in a discussion about the upcoming April 15th Priority List. Each member provided feedback based on previous discussions and aspirations. Mr. Thomason will compile a list of the items to be discussed at the March 15 regular meeting.

10. Parks & Recreation Director's Report

A) Capital Projects Update FY2016

- Director Lori Smeby updated the Parks and Recreation Commission on the progress of ongoing capital projects. Lookout Park construction is moving along well and is ahead of schedule. The playground will begin installation next week and the trail is currently being worked on. Atmos has graciously donated 24 trees to the project and the trees will strategically be placed to serve as a border between the park and the nearby golf course. The overall project is on track to be completed in time as long as weather allows.
- Work on the University Trail is finished and the final step is the completion of documents.
- The Spring Creek Nature Area perimeter surveying has been completed and staff is waiting for the survey plan.
- The Heights Park Ballfield fencing bid will be taking place soon so that work can begin on adding a fence to the outfield. Temporary fencing will be used until construction is complete.
- Construction is underway for the park at CityLine and the anticipated completion date is July. Design concepts for the park at Collins and Alma have been made which will move the project forward.

B) Heights Family Aquatic Center Hours of Operation

- Director Lori Smeby discussed the current hours of operation for Heights Family Aquatic Center, along with the available times residents can reserve the pool for private events. In order to make sure private events are complete by the city's curfew, Mrs. Smeby asked members for feedback on the possibility of adjusting the hours of the facility. Members looked at data compiled in recent years, and noticed that the majority of private events take place in the morning hours before the pool opens. Commission members were open to making adjustments and staff will continue to evaluate the situation to before a final plan is made.

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

- Member Kevin Williams reminded members that the McKamy Spring historical marker will officially be dedicated on Saturday, February 13 at 10:30 AM.
- Member Jim Bailey asked if the Bush Central Barkway fees were approved by City Council, and Director Lori Smeby answered that they were.
- Member Jeanne Hooker shared appreciation of the city's handling of the current bobcat situation and the efforts to inform the community on staying safe.
- Member Victor Garza shared that he is grateful for the warm welcome he has received and looks forward to being part of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

12. Department Calendar Items

- Chairman Jeremy Thomason mentioned a calendar of upcoming events that Parks and Recreation Commission members can utilize over the next few months.

13. Adjourn

- Being no further business, Chairman Jeremy Thomason declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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

Minutes approved at the March , 2016 regular meeting:
