

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 411 W. Arapaho Rd.
City Manager's Conference Room, 202
June 14, 2016
6:00 PM

Member Absent: Jim Bailey

PARC Staff in attendance: Lori Smeby, Roger Scott, Yvonne Falgout, Sarah Patton, Dianna Lawrence, Erika Bashaw

Attending Commission Members:

Jeremy Thomason – Chairman
Susan Fischer - Member
Victor Garza - Member
Jeanne Hooker - Member

Gene Fitch, Jr. - Vice Chairman
Pam Krause - Member
Kevin Williams - Member
Daniel Burdette - Member

Visitors: No visitors

1. Chairman Jeremy Thomason declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. Chairman Jeremy Thomason acknowledged that there would be visitors in attendance.
3. Chairman Jeremy Thomason introduced new Parks and Recreation Commission member Daniel Burdette. Mr. Burdette shared about his previous involvement with the City, and is enthusiastic to serve on the commission. Members briefly introduced themselves and warmly welcomed Daniel to the team.
4. Director Lori Smeby introduced two new staff members to the Richardson Parks and Recreation Department. Dianna Lawrence is the new Community Events Manager and joined the staff a month before this year's Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival. Erika Bashaw is the new Athletics & Aquatics Manager and has worked in aquatics for several years. Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Bashaw both expressed excitement about being part of the City of Richardson and were warmly received by the commission.
5. Pending one correction, the minutes from the April 12, 2016 regular meeting were approved on a motion from member Pam Krause and seconded by member Kevin Williams.
6. Chairman's Report
 - Chairman Jeremy Thomason led a brief discussion about the need to define goals of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Thomason asked members to consider how to stay accountable and emphasized the importance of attendance and participation in park visits. Members agreed that creating specific goals and achieving them would be beneficial to the work of the commission.

- Parks and Recreation Commission members discussed recent visits to Woodhaven Grove Park, Ruth Young Park, and Memorial Park. Members also shared about their experiences at the recent Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival as well as Cottonwood Art Festival.

7. Appoint New Member for Bike Committee

- Parks and Recreation Commissioners appointed member Daniel Burdette to serve on the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

8. Aquatics Maintenance Strategies

- Director Lori Smeby gave a presentation regarding the maintenance of aquatics facilities. City Council was given the presentation the previous night discussing ways to enhance the quality of life for stakeholders in Richardson, including an aquatics assessment and planning initiative. The emphasis of the assessment will be on overall maintenance and operational sustainability. Consultants will be involved in reviewing the aquatics facilities and will also provide vital feedback to the staff pertaining to existing conditions and to make recommendations for the future. Public input will also be gathered so that residents are able to be involved in planning strategies.

9. Playground Partnership Opportunity

- Director Lori Smeby shared about the potential for partnering with a local club that is interested in creating a signature project to benefit the community. Mrs. Smeby explained that a great need in Richardson is an all abilities playground. The planning is very preliminary and eventually fundraising will likely be a necessary component to make the playground happen. Specially designed transfer platforms, ramps, and widened slides are a few of the features that allow children with all abilities the opportunity to play on these playgrounds.

11. Parks Tour

- Director Lori Smeby informed the Parks and Recreation Commission that there will likely be a Parks & Recreation facilities tour in the fall and to expect updates in the coming months. Members discussed the tour and agreed that there is value in touring parks and facilities. Plans for the tour will be finalized by the fall and will highlight the newer facilities being developed in Richardson.

12. Parks & Recreation Director's Report

A) Bond Update FY2016

- Assistant Director Roger Scott provided an update regarding the addition to the trail for Spring Creek Nature Area. Park planning staff is working on a layout for the trail and the process is moving along very well.

B) Capital Projects Update FY2016

- Ballfield fencing is still being installed at Heights Park and the lack of available concrete has continued to be an obstacle for the contractors. Once the necessary amount of concrete

becomes available, the project will be completed quickly. Lookout Park is almost 100% complete and will be finished once some final irrigation work is done. Collins Park construction is progressing well. The concrete walkways have been completed and the new pavilion will be installed soon. The University Trail project is still under review and park planning staff is working with TXDOT on it. The new CityLine Park is still being built with irrigation being installed soon. Expected completion date for CityLine Park is in August.

C) Aquatics Review - Hours & Operations

- Assistant Director Yvonne Falgout gave an update on aquatics staffing and the adjustments being made this summer. With the approval of City Council, the decision was made to close neighborhood pools one additional day a week to ensure there is plenty of coverage to maintain a safe environment. The pools will close on a staggered schedule for the season in August. Mrs. Falgout shared that staff will continue to be hired throughout the summer as positions are made available.

D) Festivals Review

- Because festivals were discussed earlier in the meeting during the park visits conversation, Chairman Jeremy Thomason continued to the round table of community interest items.

13. Parks & Recreation Commission round table of community interest items

- Member Daniel Burdette shared that a resident has been frustrated over the lack of recent attention in Duck Creek Park. Additionally, Mr. Burdette shared about his interest in seeing if there are any partnerships available between Collin County Master Gardeners and the City for working together. Member Victor Garza also shared that he has heard a lot of interest from fellow Master Gardeners about being more involved in the City. Mr. Burdette shared that members desire to help beautify various areas in parks.
- Member Pam Krause shared that she visited the playground at Lookout Park. Mrs. Krause stated that it looked great and she believes the design is what residents desired. Mrs. Krause also expressed her appreciation for all that Assistant Director Roger Scott has done throughout his time with the City of Richardson. Mr. Scott will be retiring at the end of July.
- Member Kevin Williams is a part of the Public Art Subcommittee for the City and shared that a public art piece has been selected to be installed at Eastside near the DART rail and Central Expressway. Ed Carpenter is the artist chosen for the piece and members are excited to have him create the piece.
- Chairman Jeremy Thomason is a part of the Canyon Creek Homeowner's Association (CCHA) and shared about a few things that the association desires to be part of. The CCHA would like to partner with the City to see the trail completed around the west part of Prairie Creek Park as well as the completion of the trail near the retention pond on Synergy. Mr. Thomason expressed concern about the waterfall at Prairie Creek Park during busy photography times and increased traffic in the area. Mr. Thomason also mentioned that bobcats have continued to show up in the neighborhood and encouraged members to remain aware of their surroundings.

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14. Department Calendar Items

- Members were provided with a list of upcoming dates with special events, including Corporate Challenge Opening Ceremonies and Assistant Director Roger Scott’s retirement party.

15. Adjourn

- Pending no further business, Chairman Jeremy Thomason declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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

Minutes approved at the June 14, 2016 regular meeting:
