

**Minutes**  
**PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, 411 W. Arapaho Rd.**  
**City Manager's Conference Room, 202**  
**February 21, 2017**  
**6:00 PM**

*Member Absent: Kevin Williams*

*PARC Staff in attendance: Lori Smeby, Yvonne Falgout, Dan Baker, Sarah Patton, Kurt Beilharz*

**Attending Commission Members:**

Jeremy Thomason - Chairman  
Gene Fitch, Jr. - Vice Chairman  
Victor Garza - Member  
Pam Krause - Member

Daniel Burdette – Member  
Steve Hendry - Member  
Jeanne Hooker - Member  
Jim Bailey - Member

**Visitors:** None

1. Chairman Jeremy Thomason declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Chairman Jeremy Thomason acknowledged that there were no visitors. Mr. Thomason took time to introduce new Parks and Recreation Commission member Steve Hendry. Mr. Hendry looks forward to being more involved in the community and serving the City of Richardson.
3. Pending one correction, the minutes from the January 10, 2017 regular meeting were approved on a motion from Vice Chairman Gene Fitch, Jr. and seconded by member Jeanne Hooker.
4. Planning Division Report – Kurt Beilharz
  - Superintendent of Park Planning Kurt Beilharz gave a presentation over the planning division of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Beilharz spent time explaining the responsibilities of the planning division which include: supervision of park construction activities, working with consultants to design park development projects, reviewing landscape plans, managing the Parks and Recreation Department's overall planning efforts and assisting with the logistics of various City events throughout the year. Mr. Beilharz shared photos and information about recently completed projects as well as current projects.
5. Inclusive Playground
  - Director Lori Smeby updated the Parks and Recreation Commission about the plan to build an inclusive playground at Cottonwood Park. A committee has been formed to provide input and a partnership with the Richardson East Rotary Club has been established to assist in growing community support. Next steps will involve identifying a playground concept and formally launching fundraising efforts.
6. Chairman's Report – Park Visits

- Chairman Jeremy Thomason led members in a brief discussion about park visits. The Parks and Recreation Commission will finalize plans in the coming months for visiting trails and new parks.

7. Annual Budget Letter

- Parks and Recreation Commission members discussed the Annual Budget Letter and continued to identify priorities for the upcoming year. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be given information about updates to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan at the next meeting, which will assist members in making recommendations for the upcoming budget year. Chairman Jeremy Thomason and Vice Chairman Gene Fitch, Jr. will create a draft of the letter before the next commission meeting.

8. Parks & Recreation Director's Report

A) Bond Update FY2017

- Assistant Director Dan Baker shared that there were no major bond updates at this time.

B) Capital Projects

- Assistant Director Yvonne Falgout updated members about the building renovations that are taking place at neighborhood pools. The renovations will ensure that pools are compliant with ADA requirements. Assistant Director Dan Baker shared that ground has been broken at Fox Creek Park and the project will likely be completed in the fall.

C) General Items

- Director Lori Smeby shared that recent Parks and Recreation Ordinance changes recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission will be going to City Council soon. Mrs. Smeby informed members that a new website for the Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival launched this week and some of the performing bands have been announced.

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

- Member Steve Hendry expressed interest in a flower and botanical garden in Richardson. Members agreed that such a garden would be a nice addition to the City in the future.
- Member Pam Krause inquired about a dedication ceremony for Collins Park. Director Lori Smeby shared that a date is to be determined.
- Member Victor Garza discussed medians along Campbell Road near Lookout Park that appear to be extremely dry. Assistant Director Dan Baker stated that he will look into the matter.
- Chairman Jeremy Thomason was recently contacted by Richardson Living Magazine for an upcoming story about Richardson Sports Incorporated, an organization that facilitated

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community sports in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Thomason enjoyed being able to reflect on the history of sports participation in Richardson.

11. Department Calendar Items

- Members were reminded that the next regular meeting will take place on March 7, 2017 and there will be a presentation regarding the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

12. Adjournment

- Pending no further business, Vice Chairman Gene Fitch, Jr. declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.