



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Agenda
January 22, 2018
12:00 PM
City Hall Council Chamber
300 West Cotton Street**

Members & Staff Present:

Laci McRee	Bruce Williams	David Stanton	Seth Pyle
Dale Alderman	Johnny Dodson	Scott Caron	Emily Zentz
Sherry Krueger	Krys Bronk	Ray Bostick	

Absent: None

I. Call to Order – Invocation & Introduction

Laci McRee calls the meeting to order.
Emily Zentz gives the invocation.

II. Citizen Comments

No citizen comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. November 27, 2017

Sherry Krueger makes a motion to approve the November minutes.
Krys Bronk seconds the motion.
All members are in favor; none are opposed.
Motion passes to approve November minutes.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Recreation Report**
- b. Parks Maintenance Report**
- c. Liaison Report**
- d. Parks and Recreation Director Report**

Scott Caron reviews the handouts and reports. We are aligning our softball league rules with USSSA Rules. We have a couple of new programs that are one-day classes that our Recreation Supervisor, Leah, has put together and we have had a few of them so far and will continue to do that. The youth and adult basketball programs continue; they will be wrapping up towards the end of February or beginning of March. Registration numbers are very similar to what they have been in the past. There was ballfield damage at Hinsley due to a break in. This causes several issues for us because it causes drainage issues and also takes twice the amount of time to get this field ready for another season come spring time.
David Stanton asks if the City has an arborist.
Scott Caron says that we do not have an arborist position. However, we do have staff that has attended classes and know how to do those types of things. We use contractors for trees and larger limbs that we do not feel comfortable getting to. The new man-lift has

allowed us to trim more ourselves and save the money we would use on contractors or lift rentals.

Scott Caron continues to discuss the progress of current park projects. The bathroom at The Green is complete; remaining items are the pavilion and the trees. The anticipated grand opening of The Green is March 16, 2018 and we will get invitations out for that. The new trail is going in from Cargill Long down to Akin Park. The picture in the presentation shows an area of the extension that is right behind home privacy fence but there is a drop off on the other side but we will landscape in front of that fence to give more privacy in addition to them having a privacy fence. The hindrance to that is two-fold; number one is the weather and number two is property acquisition just north of Hollybrook by the retirement facility. Scott reviews the first quarter financials.

Johnny Dodson says he was not at the adult softball coaches meeting and the biggest problem is people playing in more than one division. People in the office do not know which division to put players in so you have teams that want to come have fun playing serious competitors. Last year we had people playing in division 1 and division 5. The "same uniform" rule is not enforced either.

Scott Caron says he disagrees; that staff knows exactly which divisions to place the teams but we cannot control the rosters all of the time and it is acceptable for someone to play on multiple teams. However, the consistency with enforced rules is a major issue. We will meet with some of the umpires next week and continue working on this to make sure all of the coaches, players, and umpires are on the same page.

Bruce Williams asks if there are some bullet points for operating The Arboretum and what the City's responsibilities will be.

Scott Caron says yes they have a presentation that they gave to City Council and we have highlighted a few of those points. The proposal is for the City to fund essentially two positions that would primarily focus on the Arboretum, but we could also utilize them throughout The City. One of them would be an Arborist or a Horticulturist that could also give us some additional guidance in the areas of medians, right-of-ways, landscaping, etc. The second position would be an actual manager or a position that would be specifically looking at that whole area.

Bruce Williams asks if they will be funding their own crews, or will they be using City crews.

Scott Caron says that The City would provide, essentially, all staff and will be reimbursed by the Arboretum for three labor positions. So it will be staffed with five positions; The City will fund two of them and The Arboretum would fund three of them. Maintenance of the infrastructure will be The City's responsibility. Any landscaping beds, trees, mulch, etc. (consumables) will be The Arboretum's responsibility. Over the next couple of weeks, we will define what responsibilities would be for the Parks Department, since it is a park, and what would be for Public Works, since they have the Beautification Department.

V. Comprehensive Plan Parks Projects

Scott Caron reviews Park Projects listed in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Staff has identified projects and costs associated with them that would fulfill items listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Dale Alderman asks if we could combine two of the identified projects such as space for recreation programs with new headquarters for Parks & Rec.

Scott Caron says yes as we go through these I will point out how we address each of those. Scott continues with the presentation. We were tasked with developing the scope and costs of five projects based on the Comprehensive Plan along with the meetings over the past 2 years. Overall, the Comp Plan listed five specifically related to Parks. Trails are the #2 overall priority and they are going to be addressed through LEDCO. # 27 is a Parkland Dedication Ordinance and is part of the City's Unified Development Code. What has been discussed and identified by this Committee are: #1 Trails, #2 Update Existing

Parks, #3 Implement Park Master Plans, #4 Acquire Parkland, #5 Increase Amenities in Parks, #6 Explore New Indoor Recreation Facilities.

Sherry Krueger asks where Lois Jackson Park is located.

Scott Caron says it is right off of Bill Owens Parkway north of Hwy 80. Projects identified to fulfill the needs in the Comprehensive Plan include the following: Complete Lear Park by adding 2 softball fields, 2 baseball fields, 2 sections at the splash pad, a soft surface trail, large pavilions for tournament headquarters, and artificial turf and lights at soccer; Improving existing park by addressing amenities, features, and aesthetics at Lois Jackson, McWhorter, Patterson, Rollins, Spring Creek, Spring Hill, Stamper, Womack, and Broughton Park/Rec Center; Adding a new Parks Admin & Rec Center with indoor pool, fitness area, gymnasium, meeting room, and office space. The estimated costs associated with these projects are:

Project	Cost
Complete Lear Park	\$8,800,000
Improve Existing Parks	\$7,360,000
Broughton Rec Center & Park	\$5,700,000
Parks Admin & Rec Center	\$12,205,000
Total	\$34,065,000

Dale Alderman asks if there is room for more parking at McWhorter Park.

Scott Caron says yes by Toler Road.

Dale Alderman asks if we will be taking some trees down there.

Scott Caron says it is all open space right now.

Dale Alderman asks if that is the park with the Live Action Role Playing.

Scott Caron says yes. Even with the parking lot added, there is still plenty of open space left. Scott continues to discuss the parks and amenities to upgrade.

Dale Alderman asks if Patterson Park has a soccer field and if we are going to remove and replace the playground.

Scott Caron says there is no soccer field and yes, we will remove and replace the playground.

Dale Alderman asks what kind of soft surface trail The City is entertaining.

Scott Caron says either DG or the rubber mulch.

Board members and staff discuss soft trails versus hard surface trails and the costs associated with installing and maintaining them.

Dale Alderman says asks if the rubber mulch could be adhered to an existing concrete or asphalt trail. He knows that you can take the rubber mulch, melt it down so it adheres to itself, and take a super-adhesive to adhere it to whatever surface you want that is non-natural.

Scott Caron says that the costs of doing that exceed that of concrete. When we factor everything in, that is probably not something that we need to be doing.

Dale Alderman says it is more expensive but the lifeline is much greater than anything that you have that can be moved.

Scott Caron says that the lifeline of the rubber mulch adhesive trail would be more than asphalt and less than concrete.

Dale Alderman says he knows that but if it is one of those than can move then it is going to move. Even if it is cheaper than concrete, over the life span of it, it will probably be more expensive if you keep replacing it. That is why mulch is such an easy one to do. Mulch is everywhere. You can make mulch. Dale says he does not completely agree with the assessment that is has to be cheaper than concrete because if you are looking for something that you want to last, you may not be getting the trade-off that you are expecting with that.

Sherry Krueger says that concrete is very, very, costly which equals more money from the taxpayers.

Scott Caron says we look at costs for everything, construction/installation & maintenance, when we look into these projects.

Dale Alderman asks if Scott would mind disseminating an email to board members and sharing the research he has conducted for the different, various types of soft trails because he would like to go into that a little more.

Scott Caron says yes he will send that information.

Bruce Williams asks if we could look into getting security cameras in the parking lots of trails to minimize vehicle break-ins.

Scott Caron says that we are looking into that. Cameras at each site can run up to around \$10,000 - \$15,000 for equipment at that site but then there is also additional annual costs associated with networking, monitoring, etc. Because of the increase in those annual costs to network and monitor each of those sites, it is not something we can venture into. In addition, the break-ins are site-cyclical; it will turn up in the spring or in the fall in certain spots but not all of them. We are looking at a new deployable camera that you can move around to different areas. It is about 1/3 of the cost and there is not networking or annual costs associated with it. The IT Department is working on that right now. It is essentially a DVR; we record and download the footage and if there is an incident, we can go back and look at the footage. If we have trouble at a location, we can deploy it to that location for a while and then if we need to move it to another area with trouble, we can because it is not a permanent fixture for just one location.

Dale Alderman says that he respects and enjoys Scott's opinion that the needs of the community come before staff's personal needs but would the trade-off of increased efficiency and capabilities that staff would have with a new facility would trickle down to the residents.

Scott Caron says that it would but it needs to be a consolidation. (finishes presentation) Councilwoman Ishihara is the representative for the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. She has specifically asked for a recommendation from the Parks Advisory Board on their priorities.

Krys Bronk asks if Scott already has a prioritized list from his perspective on what would be the best way to go and if the board members could use as a jumping off point.

Scott Caron says that Laci McRee has already asked for that as well but he would prefer not share it because he does not want to sway the board's opinion one way or the other. Scott says he will share the research he has done regarding costs and he can share what he feels are advantages and disadvantages of each. It comes down to what the board as a whole believes is priority based on what the members know about the community and the residents that they talk to regarding our park system.

Park Board members create a sub-committee to discuss via email and give the board a consensus.

VI. Park Board Member Comment

No member comments due to lack of time.

VII. Adjourn

Dale Alderman adjourns the meeting.

Persons with disabilities, who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services, are requested to contact the City Secretary's Office at 903-237-1080 at least two days before this meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.