



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

*****MINUTES*****

March 26, 2018

12:00 PM

**City Hall Council Chamber
300 West Cotton Street**

Members & Staff Present:

Dale Alderman
Sherry Krueger
Krys Bronk
Bruce Williams

David Stanton
Scott Caron
Keith Bonds

Ray Bostick
Seth Pyle
Emily Zentz

Absent: Laci McRee

Visitor: Ben Cammack, Longview Christian School Administrator & Board Chairman

I. Call to Order – Invocation & Introduction

Dale Alderman calls the meeting to order.

Emily Zentz gives the invocation.

II. Citizen Comments

Ben Cammack, Longview Christian School Administrator and Board Chairman, says the school is not opposing the skate park, but would like to change the location because the school uses the tennis courts sometimes for PE classes, or the tennis team if they have one.

Dale Alderman asks what the frequency of use was for the school prior to the tennis team.

Ben Cammack says it is hard to say because there are a couple of different PE teachers and they do not always notify him when they go that direction but probably once a month tops, prior to the creation of the tennis team. They have had a tennis team once before but they do not have one right now. It is the kind of thing where if you have the players then you can have the team and if you don't then you don't. They are looking to have one next year.

Dale Alderman asks what the interest is for them forming a tennis team at this time.

Ben Cammack says he knows of at least several players who want to play next year but it is unknown completely.

Sherry Krueger asks how many several is.

Ben Cammack says three or four high school students and a couple of junior high students. To have a tennis team they probably need to have four in a level to play. You can play singles with just one but that is not a team. They have other sports that go on at that time, track and field and baseball, so it just depends on which athletes decide to play which sport. It is a little bit unknown but he expects 3-4.

Sherry Krueger asks if Ben thinks the students would use the skate park more than the tennis courts.

Ben Cammack says he does not know anyone at the school that skates but they would not use it for official school activities. They do not have a skate team or anything, if those exist. Therefore, they might but he does not know of anyone personally. Ben says that he knows people will use the skate park though and he is excited about having it in Longview. He did not know anything about the process for choosing the location and was hopeful that there are a few possible locations and it

might be possible to switch to a different one. But if not then they are not going to raise a stink. They are not here to fight it they just wanted the Board to hear their voice.

Dale Alderman asks what the closest park is where they would be bussed.

Ben Cammack says he knows that there is one over by the old K-Mart and a few others but they have limited transportation. They have used Longview High School's but they have to work around their schedule. LETU might also be a possibility. It just depends on everybody else's schedule.

Dale Alderman says thank you for coming and giving the Board his comments.

Ben Cammack says thank you for having him and for all of the good work; he noticed that the parks have really been improving lately and it is great.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. February 26, 2018

Bruce Williams makes a motion to approve the February minutes.

Sherry Krueger seconds the motion.

All members are in favor; none opposed.

The motion passes and February minutes are approved.

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. Registration for Adult Softball at Hinsley Park is up 19%. Swim Lesson registration is open. Splash pads open April 2. Pitch, Hit, & Run is a new program that the City is doing in conjunction with Major League Baseball, and will be held at Hinsley Park on April 28. Another new program, Rec Day in the Park on May 5, is just an opportunity for the City to have a fun special event in one of our parks. The Green will be utilized this time for the May 5 event and there may be another one later on, possibly at Broughton Park. There will be some bounce houses, games, and all kinds of activities, hopefully encouraging people to go out to parks that they might not get out to normally. Scott comments on the battles and drainage issues the Parks staff has dealt with regarding the rain and having the ballfields ready for tournaments. It demonstrates the level of work and effort that our staff puts in to getting our fields playable. He feels that tournament directors understand that our staff will do everything possible to dry fields after it rains and have them ready for a tournament. If the City has to tell a tournament director that we are not going to be able to get the fields ready, it is pretty-much not an argument anymore because they know they we are going to put in the time and the effort. If that means bringing our crews in at midnight or two in the morning then that is what they do. That is a testament to Ray and his guys and gals and everything that they do, so we appreciate that. The new playground at Teague Park is being installed and a few other improvements are going to be made, such as drainage on the east side and a couple of concrete paths from the restrooms to the pavilions and playground. The water fountains that were turned off for the winter are up and running again. The Green is now open. The climbing rocks were removed from the log play structure.

David Stanton says he noticed people were parking in the spaces reserved for food trucks and asks if a sign that says, "Please leave the spots available for food trucks" is coming.

Scott Caron says that food trucks have to have a permit to operate in parks. If it is permitted that day, then staff can put a cone out in that space. However, we do not want to restrict the parking just because somebody may or may not show up. The bid for the construction of The Arboretum opens Wednesday. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is getting ready to wind down after about a yearlong process and will be setting a date for an Open House; Scott will share that date with the Board when he gets it. The interactive maps have been updated to show what the thoughts are at this point as far as providing that accessibility plan for bikers and pedestrians. The plan is for the Metropolitan Planning Organization to approve that plan at their May meeting. Scott briefly discusses the Economic Impact from Parks. Texas ranks 3rd in the country in Economic Impact from Parks. Studies show that 92% of Americans have demonstrated their support and found parks just as important as other services, including police, fire, and schools. Studies also show that Americans visit a park twice a month on average. The Economic Impact does not include higher real estate

values or health and wellness benefits. Property located near or adjacent to parks or trails have a higher re-sale value. One of the reasons why we have a great trail system is because our community is interested in raising the level of health and wellness, and that is a great way to be able to do that. It also does not include conservancy. The more trees and open space that you can have creates a healthier environment for your community. There is also Sports Tourism and the overall economic development. Hats off to LEDCO because all of the improvements that we have been able to make in our trail system is a direct result of funding from them to be able to do that. They recognize that parks and trails have an impact on gaining employment and employers coming to our community. They are looking for those things as they recruit companies to move to Longview and to keep them here as well.

V. Comprehensive Plan Parks Projects

Bruce Williams asks about the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the prioritized list of projects created by the sub committees.

Scott Caron says the next CPAC meeting is April 24th. He asked if the sub committees were going to meet first and the response was that the CPAC was going to meet as a whole. He does not know if an agenda has been made for that meeting, but thinks the two main points will be the results of the facility studies and police and fire.

Dale Alderman asks what time the CPAC meeting is.

Scott Caron says 5:30pm.

Dale Alderman asks if Scott will be presenting the prioritized list of projects from the Parks Advisory Board.

Scott Caron reviews the process and steps taken to date regarding the CPAC and sub-committees. He says yes he will submit the Parks Advisory Board's recommended prioritized list of projects to the CPAC. It will help CPAC overall make their recommendation for City Council. City Council will also see that list of recommendations from the Parks Advisory Board. As those decisions are being made, they will at least have that in front of them to know and understand it. A lot of it is just going to come down to what the willingness of City Council is to be able to get a total dollar value of a bond issue and whether Parks are or are not part of that.

Dale Alderman says he spoke to Laci McRee and they agree to take the prioritized list created by the Parks Board Sub-Committee and present that to CPAC. He asks what is needed from the Board to present that to the next stage.

Scott Caron says he would like the Board to take action and vote on the recommended list.

Dale Alderman asks if anyone would like to make a motion to approve the recommended prioritized list of park projects and submit it to the CPAC.

Krys Bronk makes a motion to approve the recommended prioritized list of park projects and submit it to the CPAC.

Sherry Krueger seconds the motion.

All are in favor; none opposed.

The motion passes to approve the recommended prioritized list of park projects and submit it to the CPAC.

VI. Park Board Member Comments

Dale Alderman asks if we were able to get to the items that were tabled at the last meeting.

Scott Caron says we got it all in.

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.