

**THE CITY OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS  
MINUTE RECORD OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Following notice and publication, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting at 3:30 p.m., **July 27, 2023** in the Station 618 Activity Room, 618 S. Chadbourne St., San Angelo, Texas.

**Board Members Present** were Mark Davis, Suzi Marshall, Cie Rangel, Emily Jane Cowen and Allison Watkins. **Staff Members Present** were Brent Casey, Mario De La O, Roger Havlak, and Carl White. Guests present were Alex Holguin, Jesus Hernandez, Chase Twombly and Jamal Schumpert. The minutes were recorded by Barbara Stallworth.

**I. OPEN SESSION (3:30 P.M.)**

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**B. Public Comment**

No public comment. Carl White distributed an announcement for the San Angelo NAACP Buffalo Soldier Memorial dedication event.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Consider approving the June 22, 2023 minutes.** Ms. Marshall motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watkins and passed unanimously.

**III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT**

**2. Consider a request from the Salvation Army to use Producers Park for youth sports games this fall season and recommend any related matters.** Mr. White explained that we are revisiting this matter because in the last proposal it was not indicated that Producers Park would need to be used. Mr. White established that practices would be held at Mountain View Park and games would be held at Producers Park. Mr. White explained the fees for the usage of both parks and gave a quick orientation about the park locations and amenities. Mr. White made mention of the fact that the rental fee will increase in October and showed a rental total for the season, which was acknowledged by the members of the Salvation Army Victory Sports group. Ms. Cowen motioned to approve the usage of Mountain View Park and Producers Park by the Salvation Army Victory Sports. Ms. Rangel seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

**3. Discuss possible restrooms for Civic League Park and recommend any related matters.** Mr. White explained that restroom needs at Civic League Park were raised earlier; portable facilities are used for planned events. He showcased ground details, while Mr. De La O discussed utility lines' locations. Both detailed potential restroom placements and issues for group discussion. Open dialogue followed on each location's accessibility, benefits, and ADA compliance. Ms. Cowen inquired about pavilion aesthetics and bathroom structure. Mr. White shared ongoing Board talks, including enhancing the pavilion's attractiveness and completing a new entrance, along with other small projects. This project is in the discussion phase, with no estimates currently available. Ms. Marshall mentioned Garden Club's interest in a botanical garden and education center. Mr. White sought thoughts on funding. He emphasized the ideal of incorporating restrooms into the garden's master plan. Mr. White stressed the importance of shared vision and alignment.

**4. Discuss the 2023 Lily Fest and recommend any related matters.** Mr. Twombly announced that the 2023 Lily Fest will be on September 16, 2023. Mr. Twombly discussed the idea he has for this event to be family friendly which will incorporate appreciation for the park, education and interactive activities with the community. Mr. Twombly explained he was open to ideas from others and that he is reaching out to other businesses and professionals for donations for activities as well as interest in setting up a booth at the event. Ms. Marshall recommended that Mr. Twombly contact the ROTC at ASU as well as Goodfellow AFB for volunteers for the event, if needed. Ms. Watkins recommended Mr. Twombly contact specific organizations that highlight San Angelo and may want to be a part of the event as well as some educational interactive activities. Mr. Havlak suggested to have activities that will bring children and parents together. Mr. Davis suggested to allow vendors to purchase a booth at the event.

**5. Hear updates on the splash pad projects and fundraising.** Mr. White explained that Alicia Olshanski was not able to attend to give the update, but he would provide the information he was given. He discussed the current fundraiser standings and explained the cost of each splash pad. Mr. White shared the detailed quotes for each splash pad and discussed the upcoming fundraising efforts and events.

**6. Discuss the public use of SAISD school yards and playgrounds.** Mr. White explained the idea of opening school yards for neighborhood children to access. This was researched and it was determined that the fences around the playgrounds are required by the State and will remain locked. Mr. White explained that in order to allow access to these play areas, it will have to be coordinated to unlock the fence and check the entire grounds before locking it back each time used. This is required for safety reasons. Mr. White explained that this cannot feasibly be coordinated at this time.

**7. Hear updates from Parks on key projects and activities.** Mr. Havlak discussed the recent significant events that have taken place in the parks. He discussed the recent challenges with storm damage. Mr. Havlak spoke on the progress at the dog park pavilion and the playground at Brown Park. He discussed the work at Brentwood Park of laying sod and moving forward with the park improvements at Mountainview and Bell Parks. Mr. De la O noted a Texas Bank Sports Complex storage project delay due to other priorities. Mr. Havlak detailed an autonomous mower demo and its benefits at the complex. Mr. Davis inquired about inclusive play equipment; Mr. Havlak noted Unidad Park's specialized provisions. Mr. White explained all parks are accessible, with Unidad Park having specific inclusive play equipment.

**8. Hear updates from Recreation on key programs and activities.** Mr. Casey discussed the recent track meet that had 450 athletes in attendance with 35 of the San Angelo athletes going to the State Games of Texas in Brownsville. He discussed some activities that will be held at the Buffalo Soldier Memorial event. He announced that there were 44 teams for the Summer Flag football league. He announced that August 4 is the last day of Summer Camp and the last weekday of Municipal Pool is August 16 and will operate on weekends only until September 4. On July 3, there were 500 people who attended the Splash Party. Mr. Casey announced that the Nature Center is needing a decision to close or not. Mr. White explained the difficulties of keeping the Nature Center operating from staff to facilities being maintained. Ms. Watkins asked if there is a possibility to open a Nature Center at a different location. Mr. White expressed that there may be an opportunity in the future.

**9. Hear updates on parks and recreation related items that have recently gone, or will soon go, to City Council for consideration.** Mr. White discussed the updates on the approved MOU with ADACCV for \$188,000.00 for the playgrounds for Bell Park and Mountain View Park. Mr. White explained that the plan is that Bell Park will be the first park for these new playgrounds. Ms. Cowen asked if the new playgrounds will be made of natural material. Mr. White explained the specific type of materials used and the requirements he will need to follow when purchasing playground equipment. Mr. White asked that Ms. Cowen share with the group her ideas of a natural playground so it can be discussed. Mr. White stated the recreation department got an agreement approved to have Aikido classes at Carl Ray Johnson Center.

**10. Discuss future agenda items and upcoming meeting date.** Mr. Havlak stated they have had meetings with the individuals with interest in the skate park and some repairs will be done to the ramp that recently burned and the individuals are looking to move forward in purchasing equipment for the skate park as discussed in previous meetings. Mr. White asked if Ms. Cowen can share with the group what are her ideas similar to the Hemisphere Park and natural playgrounds. Mr. White stated he will try to get more information on an idea of bringing in food trucks along the river as well as a Boy Scout who may want to install a cross at one of the parks as part of an Eagle Scout project.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Marshall motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:38pm. This motion was seconded by Ms. Watkins.



Approved