

**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., **May 25, 2023** in the Station 618 Activity Room, 618 S. Chadbourne St., San Angelo, Texas.

Board Members Present were Mark Davis, Suzi Marshall, Cie Rangel, Dee Jay Wilde, Allison Watkins and Emily Jane Cowen. **Staff Members Present** were Brent Casey, Mario De La O, Roger Havlak, Al Torres and Carl White. Guests present Kevin Little, Jason Burns and John Marshall. 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 introduced Ms. Emily Jane Cowen as a Board Member. Ms. Cowen spoke to the group and gave some general information about herself and her goals while serving on the Board.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approving the April 27, 2023 minutes. Mr. Wilde motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marshall and passed unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT

2. Discuss the downtown skate park, its possible replacement, and recommend any related matters. Mr. White introduced Kevin Little and explained that the skate park is 20 years old and in need of some renovations. Mr. White presented a slideshow highlighting the current location of the park, displaying pictures of the various pieces of equipment and discussing the wear and tear on the skate park's equipment. It was established that the current equipment is not under warranty, and there is no way to replace these items from the current company.

Continuing the conversation, Mr. White outlined Mr. Little's intentions to assist in raising funds for the necessary renovations. He set the budget at approximately \$120,000.00 and discussed different fundraising efforts that Mr. Little could explore. Mr. Little mentioned a closed skate park in Lampasas that is selling their entire set of equipment for \$20,000.00. Mr. White suggested viewing the equipment in person before making any purchases.

Mr. Davis asked about the condition of the current equipment and whether it could be refurbished. Mr. Little explained that some of the equipment can be refurbished, while other pieces have already been refurbished and need replacement. Mr. Torres inquired about any planned changes to the grounds in the renovation plans. Mr. Little responded, stating that some changes would involve moving the fencing and working on an area that requires concrete.

Mr. Havlak explained that extensive construction work is being done in the area near the skate park, specifically relating to sewer pipes. Once that construction is completed, the renovation plans can proceed in that area. Mr. White mentioned that if Mr. Little purchases the equipment, they would help install it, refurbish what they can, and then explore the concrete work discussed by Mr. Little.

Mr. Marshall informed the group that West Texas Steel had donated some steel rails for a fundraiser and expressed their willingness to donate more towards the renovation efforts. Mr. Havlak asked how many pieces are available in Lampasas and whether they would be enough to fill the park area. Mr. Little responded, stating that there were 10-12 pieces available and they would be sufficient to fill the park. Mr.

Little discussed his plans to move forward, secure the available pieces, and make any necessary adjustments in the park.

Mr. Havlak requested a meeting with Mr. White to discuss accounts, equipment refurbishment, and offered to complete the concrete work. Mr. Davis asked if there were any further questions. Ms. Marshall raised concerns about trash issues in the area. Mr. Havlak assured that the placement of trash cans would be checked and additional cans would be placed where needed. Mr. John Marshall suggested the possibility of installing a water fountain nearby. After a brief discussion among Mr. Havlak, Mr. De la O, and Mr. White, it was determined that there is currently no potable water source close to the area for a fountain.

Ms. Marshall motioned to move the item forward to City Council's consideration with the Board's endorsement of supporting the group's fundraising and equipment replacement efforts. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rangel and passed unanimously.

3. Update on the Youth Sports Practice Area design and preparation for moving the project forward.

Mr. Torres discussed the presentation that detailed the plans and location of the project. He provided an overview and a history of the project, as well as a detailed explanation of the future plans. Mr. Torres also mentioned the designated area for the BMX course and discussed the possibility of expanding it if there is enough interest in that particular activity. He presented examples of the pedestrian bridge and bathroom facilities included in the plans. The plan will soon be put out for bidding. The estimated costs for construction for this project are approximately \$1.4 million.

Mr. Torres explained the two different types of bidding that can be done for this type of project. He also discussed the expected timeline and stated that the plans will be made available for contractors to review for bidding by the end of May. The project is expected to be taken to City Council by July 24, 2023. If all goes well, we can optimistically expect the redeveloped softball field area to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Wilde inquired about the availability of concrete structures in the area that could be repurposed as pickleball courts. Mr. Torres confirmed that there are no existing courts at that location, but efforts are being made to develop other areas for additional pickleball courts.

Mr. White informed the group that he has notified the Corps of Engineers about the plans and is awaiting their approval, as it is a necessary step before the project can proceed to City Council.

4. Update on the possible parkland dedication ordinance. Mr. White informed that the committee had met again last week and reviewed an updated draft of the ordinance. He mentioned that strategies were discussed regarding the creation of more parks in areas where they are needed, and he provided a couple of examples. The committee plans to meet again to further discuss strategies and finalize the draft ordinance. Once Mr. White has this information, he will share it with the Board.

5. Update on Parks projects and key maintenance matters. Mr. Havlak provided an update on the Parks Department. He mentioned that he is currently making efforts to ensure that all areas are mowed in a timely manner, and fertilization is being carried out in various locations. Mr. Havlak then discussed specific projects, starting with the dog park pavilion. He noted that the structure itself has been built, but work is still underway on the sidewalks, ramps, and landscape beds.

Next, Mr. Havlak talked about the new playground being installed at Brown Park. Additionally, he mentioned a project at the Sports Complex involving the construction of a new storage building. He explained that he has been collaborating with the Street and Bridge Division, as well as other relevant entities, to push this project forward.

Mr. Havlak also shared that he is working with Texas A&M and Texas Tech University on a research turf plot at the soccer fields. He held discussions with the San Angelo Soccer Association, and it has been decided that the plot will be located on a small northern end of the fields.

6. Update on Recreation key programs, activities and events. Mr. Casey reported that a baseball tournament with 70 teams in attendance had taken place. The Summit League has concluded, and a survey was distributed to parents, with responses currently awaited. He also discussed the ongoing summer 5/5 youth flag football program, which currently has 35 teams registered. The pool will open soon, with 25 lifeguards currently undergoing training, and swimming lessons will be scheduled shortly. The Southside Recreation Center is preparing for a Summer Camp with an expected attendance of 60 children. Additionally, a softball tournament in partnership with National Championship Sports is scheduled to be held at the Texas Bank Sports Complex, with 42 teams participating. Summer Track, which will commence soon, has already garnered 95 participants.

Mr. Casey provided an update on Civic Rec, and Mr. White and Mr. Casey discussed budgetary matters and the need to adjust the charge amounts in CivicRec accordingly. Mr. Wilde and Ms. Cowen explored potential projects to generate additional funds for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Wilde suggested organizing a Polar Express-themed event and partnering with Sunset Mall to establish an indoor basketball court. Ms. Cowen mentioned an idea inspired by San Antonio's Hemisphere Park. Mr. Casey mentioned a person who expressed interest in developing an eating establishment in the Bosque area, which could potentially create an atmosphere similar to what Ms. Cowen had described.

7. Discuss future agenda items and upcoming meeting date. The next meeting will be held on June 22. The following new items were discussed: Mr. White will provide an update on the Salvation Army Programs and inform about the location change for their practices. There will also be an update on the Civic League Park. Additionally, Mr. White suggested the possibility of holding a brainstorming meeting if it is deemed beneficial.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wilde motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:33pm. This motioned was seconded by Ms. Marshall.



Approved

