

**THE CITY OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
MINUTE RECORD OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PARK COMMISSION**

Following notice and publication, the Park Commission convened in a regular meeting at 1:00 p.m., **December 6, 2023** in the East Mezzanine at City Hall, 72 W. College Avenue, San Angelo, Texas.

Board Members Present were Bitsy Stone, Heidi Brooks and Allison Schwarz. **Staff Members Present** were Mario De La O, Roger Havlak, Theresa James, Rick Weise and Carl White. **Guests present** were Beverly Stribling, Councilman Larry Miller, H.R. Wardlaw, Councilwoman Karen Hesse Smith, and Mayor Brenda Gunter. The minutes were recorded by Barbara Stallworth.

I. OPEN SESSION (2:00 P.M.)

A. Call to Order

Ms. Schwarz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approving the November 1, 2023 minutes. Ms. Brooks motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stone and passed unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA: PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT

2. Discuss riparian rights for the Concho River and potential use for irrigation water at Santa Fe. Theresa James (City Attorney) opened the conversation by informing the Board on her conversations with attorney Jason Hill at JT Hill Land, Water and Law Firm. Ms. James continued by stating that riparian rights in Texas are allowed for domestic and livestock use only. Ms. James did explain that there were some exceptions in surface water permitting but we do not have any exceptions for watering park land or golf courses. Ms. James explained the city has several water rights diversion points along the South Concho River but not on the North Concho River, where this land is located. The city could move a diversion point to the North Concho River area, but due to the water availability in the North Concho River, this may not be ideal. Ms. James added that another option was to do a ground study and possibly drill a well for irrigating the property. Ms. Brooks stated that her understanding of riparian rights were different and stated her opinion. Ms. James clarified that the usage of riparian rights for livestock would be the same as agricultural usage. Ms. Brooks needed clarification on the differences between watering pecan trees in a park versus watering a pecan orchard in relation to the definition on agricultural usage. Ms. James stated she can get a legal clarification for Ms. Brooks. Mr. Weise explained that the current system is not able to handle pulling the water from the river so a different system will need to be put in place if that is an option we use. Mr. Weise reminded the group, the bulk of the water we use is from the South Concho River and not the North Concho River. He continued by saying the North Concho River is fed by OC Fisher, which is at a 2% water level. He stated the water volume is not ideal in the river and these are things to keep in mind when making this decision. Ms. Brooks stated her concern on losing more trees due to a lack of irrigation.

3. Discussion and overview of the 2020 City of San Angelo Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Havlak showed a presentation to the group of the master plan that displays some of the priorities of the general public for the parks in the City of San Angelo. He stated that this type of study is best to be done every 5 years to keep the information current. Ms. Gunter wanted to raise a point that she thinks the number of people that responded to the survey in this study was minimal. Mr. Weise clarified that this study is required when applying for and scoring grants. Mr. Weise encouraged the Board to consider doing another study in the near future and focusing on getting the word out about this study and getting more people to respond. Ms. Brooks recommended to have the Councilmen and Councilwomen talk to their districts and encourage participation as well as relay any ideas from the public that would be beneficial.

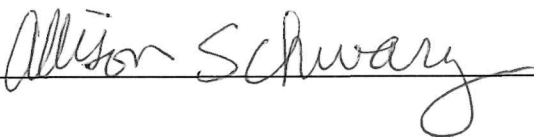
4. Discuss potential future improvements to Santa Fe Park and recommend any related matters. Ms. Schwarz said town hall meetings and a charrette is needed so any future ideas are in line with what the public wants. Ms. Brooks mentioned one of the issues with the park is the golf course and Ms. Schwarz agrees the golf course is not functional. Mr. Havlak presented to the group the number of golfers that have played at Santa Fe Golf Course on request of Council Member Larry Miller. In 2022, 984 golfers played at the Santa Fe Golf Course and in 2023 there were 1238 golfers, with 27 current members. Mr. Havlak shared the Santa Fe Golf Course Report

from 2018 that outlined the operational agreement, revenue and expenses and discussed the differences in expenses in 2023. Mr. Havlak stated that if the City was to maintain the golf course, the main expenses would be labor and water. Mayor Gunter expressed her opinion on the importance of taking better care of the golf course. Ms. Brooks motioned that the City terminate the agreement with Two Pro Club Management with a 60-day notice with the intention of using the money budgeted to water the grounds and trees until a charrette or planning can be completed on redefining the future of the golf course and park area. Mayor Gunter asked about the irrigation system for the trees in the Santa Fe Golf Course. Mr. Havlak went into great detail of the bubbler system that is installed along with expense details associated with that system as well as other areas funded. Mr. Havlak stated that we do not have the funds install an entire irrigation system for the complete grounds of the golf course but he may have the funds to put in a mainline to irrigate more trees in the Santa Fe Golf Course area. Ms. Schwarz announced the motion that has been put forth by Ms. Brooks. There was not a second for this motion. Ms. Schwarz stated that she is all for redefining the future of the golf course area, but she does not agree on giving a 60-day notice at this time without a plan in place. Ms. Stone agreed with Ms. Schwarz. Ms. Schwarz asked a question about the ability to reallocate the funds from the budget if the agreement was terminated. Mr. Weise stated that this would be up to the discretion of City Council. Mr. Weise also stated that budget for the agreement with Two Pro Club Management is intended for maintenance and upkeep of the property and whether it be done by Two Pro Club Management of the Parks staff, it is still an expense. Mr. Havlak discussed the history of the agreement with Two Pro Club Management and how the agreement has allowed him to manage his workforce around that agreement. Mr. Weise recommended that, when the time comes, Roger will present to the Board an estimated budget for maintaining the area as a valued park area and an estimated budget for maintaining the area as a golf course. Ms. James reminded the Board that the agreement with Two Pro Club Management was renewed for 1 year with the understanding to give the Board time to come up with plans on redefining the park area. Ms. Stone discussed how to start the process of getting a charrette completed. Ms. Schwarz stated her opinion on the importance of getting a public opinion for the development of the park area. Council Member Karen Hesse Smith commented on her understanding and encouraged the Board to move forward with the charrette and offered her support in any way possible. Ms. Brooks recommended that the Board move forward with watering the trees at Santa Fe Golf Course using the current irrigation system and water trucks, if need be. Ms. Brooks motioned that the \$4,700.00 available funds be used to improve the current irrigation system at Santa Fe Golf Course to reach some critical locations and if additional funds are needed, it is recommended that Mr. Havlak approach City Council for additional funds. Ms. Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Weise asked Mr. Havlak to bring updates to future meetings to show the progress on the improvements made to the irrigation system at Santa Fe Park.

5. Consider future agenda items. Ms. Schwarz asked the members of the Board to make contact with universities on conducting a charrette. She asked that some information be available at the next meeting to assist in moving forward. Mr. Havlak will bring a diagram of the current irrigation system and tree placement and identify problem areas that need irrigation, as well as a plan to share with the group on moving forward with those updates.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schwarz motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 2:22 pm. This motion was seconded by Ms. Stone.



Approved