

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
1-08-2025

**Call to Order**

Doris called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Edward Lock	<i>present</i>	Karen Fitzgerald	<i>present</i>
Robyn Taylor	<i>present</i>	Molly Slaid	<i>present</i>
Heather Tuggle		Michelle Mitcham	
Lynda Schubring	<i>present</i>	Isaac Recinos	<i>present</i>
Jennie Kent	<i>present</i>	Alexander Harris	<i>present</i>
Doris Michalak	<i>present</i>	Robert Basford	
Rachel Beazley		Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>
Thomas Huebner	<i>present</i>		

**Approval of Minutes from 12-04-24**

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Edward and was seconded by Robyn.

**Citizens Comments**

Kevin Ross of Crawford Street requested that the committee consider reinstating the chili cook-off for the Founders Day event and suggested changes to make it more fun and less competitive. Their ideas include eliminating prize money in favor of a small trophy, having a City Council member judge, simplifying the process by removing the popular vote, and relaxing strict rules to allow ingredient prep at home. They emphasized creating a relaxed, social atmosphere and volunteered to organize and run the event.

Kimberly Henao of Singapore Lane enjoyed Holiday in the Village, praising the Santa room and the food trucks but noting that the generators were loud and unpleasant. She suggested adding more structured activities for kids, especially middle school-aged children, to keep them engaged outdoors.

**Items for individual consideration**

**a. Concert in the Park**

The Concert in the Park is nearly finalized. A Toby Keith tribute band will perform at Clark Henry Park on March 29 from 6 to 8 PM. Food vendors are being confirmed this week, with a final list expected by Friday. Marketing is underway, including placement in the play guide and upcoming newsletters. Financially, the event is in good shape, though payments for the band and stage have not yet been made. Senate Avenue Brewing is expected to participate as usual.

Logistics include renting a restroom trailer, with the potential use of new public restrooms near the main pool building if the demolition is complete. Parking will be at the post, with efforts to maximize available spaces. A meeting with the police is scheduled for Friday to review the event plans, alongside discussions about the duathlon. No major issues are anticipated for the concert, though the duathlon may require further route adjustments based on safety considerations.

Duathlon registration opens this week, with marketing and medals in progress. The play guide deadline is January 15, allowing for an early February release to help promote events, including summer camp. Overall, planning remains on track.

**b. Founders' Day**

Everything is set for Founders' Day, and all major elements have been confirmed. Coordination efforts include scheduling a site visit with the fireworks team, even though they are already familiar with the location. The mechanical rides contract has been in place since last year, and a site visit will be arranged to ensure staff receives first-hand instructions on ride placement. Food truck vendors still need to be secured, with plans to include seven trucks—four for main food items, two for desserts, and one novelty option.

The DJ, Kara, has been secured again after positive feedback from last year. Other remaining logistics include renting the stage, tables, and chairs, which are expected to be finalized by the end of the month. The photo booth vendor from the holiday event, Nature's Own, is being considered again, with Alec taking the lead on that decision.

GFL is being contacted to restock the supply of free cardboard trash boxes, which were completely used up from previous events. To address issues with strong winds, a plan will be made to weigh down the trash boxes with heavy materials. Sponsorships are still being finalized, with efforts focused on securing a fireworks sponsorship.

Volunteer recruitment will begin this month, with a focus on high school students needing volunteer hours. Last year, 72 volunteers were required to make the event successful. A sign-up link will be shared once it is live.

The chili cook-off is expected to return as it has been requested and the details will be worked out with Kevin Ross. The competition is likely to be simplified compared to previous years. The art competition will also return, with promotional efforts beginning soon. Judging will again be done by art teachers from local schools, while the public will vote for the People's Choice award. Plans are being made to better secure artwork displays to prevent wind damage.

For rides, lifeguards will be stationed at the entrance to rides instead of the ride area. Only those with wristbands will be allowed to board, simplifying last year's issues with the buddy band system.

The event is scheduled for April 12 from 4:30 PM to 9:30 PM, with fireworks beginning at 9:15 PM. Parking plans will remain the same as last year. The possibility of adding live music near the chili cook-off area was discussed, with a suggestion to bring back a performer from the Christmas event.

No major changes are expected beyond the adjustments mentioned, and any additional concerns or suggestions are welcomed.

**c. Clark Henry Baseball Fields reservation process**

Residents are frustrated that certain sports teams, particularly those affiliated with the Cy-Fair Sports Association, are monopolizing public baseball fields by having individuals hold the field for extended periods before the full team arrives. This prevents other groups from using the fields fairly.

City staff had previously explored a reservation system, but administration found it difficult to manage and enforce, particularly for free reservations. However, a reservation system could be considered if it involved a paid rental. Some residents suggested a sign requiring all team members to be present before claiming a field, but there were concerns about how to enforce this rule.

A potential solution discussed was implementing a Facility Use Agreement (FUA) requirement for any organized team practices. This would ensure that teams using the field have an agreement with the city, including insurance coverage, and would allow the city to regulate field use more effectively. It was noted that similar agreements are already in place for other organizations, such as the Boy Scouts.

Ultimately, the group agreed to explore implementing FUAs for organized sports teams as a way to ensure fair access while balancing enforcement challenges.

### **Parks and Recreation Directors Report**

The Holiday in the Village & Decorating Contest was discussed, with no major issues reported regarding the judging process. Volunteers were thanked for their contributions, and appreciation was expressed for the impact their efforts have on the community. Some concerns were raised about fairness in the contest, with a few residents voicing complaints about the results.

Regarding street decorations, the group discussed standardizing and simplifying the process for ordering themed street signs. A plan was proposed to digitize sign templates, allowing residents to easily access and order them for future holiday seasons.

The summer camp program was reviewed, with plans to charge \$250 per week for residents and \$300 for non-residents. The camp will offer two field trips per week, setting it apart from other local programs that typically offer just one. There is a possibility of using the new church campus, which features recreational facilities, providing a better experience for attendees. The camp will be available for children aged 7–12, with a potential volunteer opportunity for older kids. It will run for six weeks from June 9 to July 18.

In terms of pool demolition, there is no set date for the project. However, it was confirmed that the pavilion and bathrooms will remain intact. The site will likely be filled in and repurposed, though specific plans are still unknown.

Lastly, the retention pond was discussed. It remains catch-and-release only due to water quality concerns, making it unsuitable for consuming fish. The pond is stocked with fish by Texas Parks and Wildlife, which funds these programs through fishing license sales.

### **Future agenda item request**

### **Next Meeting Date**

February 5, 2025

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Robyn and was seconded by Tommy.



Maria Thorne, Administrative Assistant