

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
2-5-2025

**Call to Order**

Doris called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Edward Lock	<i>present</i>	Karen Fitzgerald	<i>present</i>
Robyn Taylor	<i>present</i>	Molly Slaid	
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	<i>present</i>	Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>
Thomas Huebner	<i>present</i>		

**Approval of Minutes from 1-8-25**

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Thomas and was seconded by Lynda.

**Citizens Comments**

None

**Items for individual consideration**

**a. Concert in the Park – March 29th**

The Concert in the Park event is fully prepared, with all necessary arrangements in place, including food vendors, concessions, stage setup, and the musical act. The event will feature a tribute band - Toby Keith's Tribute to the American Soldier and is scheduled for March 29 from 6 to 8 PM at the pavilion in Clark Henry Park. Volunteer support is not needed, as staffing levels from Parks staff and lifeguards are sufficient. The primary need at this stage is promoting the event through word of mouth and social media. In the event of rain, the plan is to proceed as scheduled, potentially using tents to provide additional cover. However, there is an option to reschedule if necessary, with a backup date to be determined based on availability. A decision regarding rescheduling would likely be made the week of the event. The team will check on potential alternative dates and notify the committee accordingly. Given the unpredictability of March and April weather, postponing remains a risk, but for now, efforts are focused on spreading the word and ensuring a successful turnout.

**b. Founders' Day – April 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Founders Day discussion focused largely on the potential return of the chili cook-off and the logistical challenges involved. The event requires compliance with county regulations, including food handler certifications and a \$100 fee per team, which covers both county fees and certification costs. There is concern over whether participants will be willing to pay and meet these requirements, and discussions are ongoing with Kevin Ross, who initially envisioned a free and simple cook-off. If at least five teams do not sign up by March 30, the event may be canceled. Additionally, event preparations are progressing smoothly, with contracts signed, fireworks scheduled, and carnival vendors confirmed. Parking may be an issue due to a conflicting event at Jersey Village High School, and discussions with police and fire officials are planned to address street parking. Promotion efforts will ramp up in the coming weeks, with a focus on securing 70 volunteers, which remains a significant challenge. Volunteers will receive incentives, such as ride wristbands and meals, and outreach efforts are being made to local schools and organizations. The team is also working on art judging logistics and continuing

business outreach. Overall, while the event planning is on track, securing enough volunteers and ensuring compliance with food regulations remain key concerns.

**c. Youth ~~Triathlon~~ Duathlon - May 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Youth Duathlon event has replaced the previous triathlon due to the lack of a pool. Registrations have begun, and the Police Department has approved the extended race routes, especially for the 13-15 age group. Medals and T-shirts have already been ordered, and advertising efforts are underway, including outreach through a local radio station and direct emails to past participants. To compensate for the absence of a swimming portion, a water-based activity will be added at the finish line. Promotions and sponsorship efforts are ongoing, with a registration goal of 100 participants, compared to last year's 80. Currently, about 15-16 people have signed up. The event is scheduled for May 4. The race structure consists of different running and biking distances based on age groups, with routes designed for safety and control around schools. The Police Department will provide five units and an ambulance for support. The discussion also touched on the possibility of using this larger race route for future events, as it aligns well with police blockade requirements. The planning team expressed confidence in the event's organization and safety measures.

**d. Milky Way Summer Camp**

The Milky Way Summer Camp website is officially live, with registration open and a few sign-ups already confirmed, including some for the full camp experience. The hiring process for camp managers is in its final stages, with a director and assistant director being selected based on extensive camp management experience. Promotional efforts include newsletters, community impact outreach, and online marketing, with non-resident registration opening on February 17 at a higher rate. The camp will offer a variety of activities, including art programs, animal outreach classes, planetarium experiences, and archery, with certified staff ensuring safety. Weekly themes and varying field trips will provide diverse experiences for campers. Early drop-off is available for an additional fee, and a late pick-up option is under consideration. A new emergency response software will allow instant communication with parents in case of weather delays or health concerns. Accreditation is nearly finalized, and all camp protocols and handbooks have been completed. Registration will continue until late April, with adjustments to marketing efforts if necessary. Future camp locations are still being determined due to potential changes in city facility allocations, but plans ensure a dedicated indoor recreation space remains available. Overall, the team is excited about the camp's potential and hopes to build a strong foundation for its success.

**Parks and Recreation Directors Report**

- **Senate Esplanade Landscaping:** The new Parks Supervisor, Greg, has 40 years of commercial landscaping experience and has been given permission to redesign the first esplanade near Hwy 290 as a trial. His plan includes soil testing, new mulch, and a shift to native plants that require minimal replanting. If the trial is well received, similar changes will be made throughout Senate. Greg prefers using rock for lower maintenance and cost savings.
- **Past Landscaping Issues:** Concerns were raised about previous plantings, including the failure of Texas sage and the condition of crepe myrtles on Rio Grande. The department is now focused on sustainable, well-planned landscaping.
- **Irrigation Repairs:** Greg is also addressing irrigation issues to ensure water efficiency and prevent street watering.

- Electrical Tower Box: The previously exposed electrical box has been successfully buried, improving safety.
- Water Fountain Installation: A new water fountain with a bottle filler will be installed between the restrooms, now that the necessary power relocation has been completed.
- Carol Fox Park: Construction is expected to begin within the next two months.
- Clark Henry Park: This project remains on hold.
- Sidewalk Project: The city will soon be reaching out to residents to coordinate sidewalk replacements. There will also be an opportunity for residents to contribute donations for engraved sidewalk markers, though details are still being finalized.


#### **Future agenda item request**

#### **Next Meeting Date**

March 5, 2025

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rachel and was seconded by Edward.

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Maria Thorne, Administrative Assistant