

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
3-6-2025

Call to Order

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

Edward Lock		Karen Fitzgerald	
Robyn Taylor	<i>present</i>	Molly Slaid	<i>present</i>
Heather Tuggle	<i>present</i>	Michelle Mitcham	<i>present</i>
Lynda Schubring	<i>absent</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 2-5-25

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

Citizens Comments

Kimberly Henao of Singapore lane expressed excitement for the upcoming Concert in the Park and hopes for favorable weather similar to last year. She also looks forward to other upcoming events.

Items for individual consideration

a. PARAC Meeting Date/Time Change Discussion

The committee discussed changing the monthly meeting time, considering options of Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 5:30 PM. The City Council Liaison noted that their schedule conflicts with Tuesday and Wednesday meetings. Two absent members had shared their preferences but could not vote. After discussion, the committee voted, with four in favor and one abstaining, to move the meetings to Thursdays at 5:30 PM.

Additionally, the committee considered possible dates to begin discussions on the Parks Master Plan. Options included a Special meeting on March 26 at 6:30 PM, or at the regular April 3 PARAC meeting at 5:30 PM. The committee selected March 26 at 6:30 PM for the discussion.

b. July 4th Parade Discussion –

The event will take place at the detention pond. The committee discussed moving the parade to the morning to avoid extreme heat and reduce staff and volunteer requirements. A 10:00 AM parade was proposed, and all present members voted in favor of the change. Additionally, the fireworks vendor confirmed they will provide larger fireworks this year.

c. Concert in the Park

All preparations for the concert are complete, including securing vendors, sponsors, stage setup, and music. A Toby Keith tribute band will perform. The event will also feature a tent for promoting summer camp and other programs. Community members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback, though no additional volunteer support is needed.

d. Founders' Day

Planning for Founders Day is progressing well. Kevin Ross arranged for Andrew Mitcham to sponsor the chili cookoff, covering the registration fees for teams. Currently, four teams are signed up, with a goal of securing at least one more. The art competition has nearly ten participants registered, and the team is working on creating a wind-proof display after facing

challenges last year. Judges Sarah Kirk, Chelsea Dillard, and Cynthia Jennings are returning to support the event. Fireworks and mechanical rides have been paid for, with one final site visit pending to finalize logistics.

A major challenge remains securing enough volunteers, as the event relies heavily on volunteer support. While high school students are expected to sign up, there is concern about their tendency to wait until the last minute. Volunteers will receive a free wristband for their participation. There was some confusion about the minimum volunteer age requirement, with 16 mistakenly listed in an email. Organizers will verify and correct this if needed. A signup link is available for those interested in volunteering.

Entertainment is set, with a DJ providing music through a speaker system that covers three acres. Efforts are ongoing to secure additional carnival games. The Lions Club, struggling with declining membership, will use the event as an opportunity to fundraise by selling concession-style food, offering an alternative to long food truck lines.

Overall, the event is coming together smoothly, with final preparations focused on logistical details and volunteer recruitment. Organizers encourage anyone who notices errors in promotional materials to report them for quick updates. The team remains optimistic that Founders Day will be as successful as last year.

e. Youth Duathlon

The committee discussed efforts to boost participation in the Youth Duathlon, noting that registration numbers are lower than last year, with only 30 sign-ups so far. To increase awareness, they plan to distribute yard signs and seek permission from residents with corner lots to place them in high-visibility areas. Promotional efforts will also include banners and increased outreach within the community. It was noted that residents tend to register for events at the last minute, so participation is expected to rise closer to the event date.

A discussion arose about city ordinances preventing event signs from being placed in parks, even though the library is allowed to display reading program signs. Some committee members questioned why city-sponsored events don't receive similar allowances, pointing out exceptions made for holiday events. The issue will be brought to the city council by liaison Michelle, with a suggestion to modify the ordinance to permit signage for city events.

The event, designed for kids ages 7 to 15, will feature a fun slip-and-slide at the finish line. Additionally, it was confirmed that event shirts will be available only in adult sizes, rather than children's sizes. The committee emphasized the importance of continued promotion to boost participation.

f. Milky Way Summer Camp

Summer camp preparations are going well, with policies and procedures in place and signups steadily coming in. Some participants have registered for specific weeks, while others have committed to the full six-week experience. Marketing efforts are in full swing, with materials distributed to local businesses. An open house is scheduled for March 16th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the new City Hall campus. The event will feature activities for kids, including art, school-friendly animals, and sports games, while parents can attend a presentation and Q&A session to address concerns, particularly about field trips.

The goal is to reassure parents about safety and generate excitement for camp, as field trips are a major highlight for attendees. Plans for transportation include renting charter buses or using a local school district's buses, with a trusted driver connected to the city staff, which could offer significant cost savings. The new City Hall recreation space has been cleaned and

prepared, making it a welcoming environment for the open house. Free concessions, including snacks and drinks, will be provided. Even for families not interested in enrolling, the event offers a fun opportunity for children and a chance for parents to explore the facility. Overall, everything is on track, and the team is excited about the positive impact the camp will have on the community.

g. Fall Frolic Date Discussion

The committee began early discussions on Fall Frolic, focusing on selecting a date for the event. Options included Friday, October 24th, or Friday, October 31st, but concerns were raised about conflicts with Jersey Village High School's homecoming activities, including a football game on the 24th and the homecoming dance on the 25th. Additional scheduling conflicts with volleyball games and other community events were also noted. The idea of hosting the event on a Saturday, such as October 18th, was discussed, but there were concerns about ensuring participation and logistics.

Other key topics included the possibility of creating a trunk-or-treat trail. The haunted house was another major discussion point—while a company was available to provide one on October 24th, choosing a different date would require constructing it in-house. The committee explored options such as partnering with a local church that already hosts a trunk-or-treat or working with high school drama clubs for assistance. Ultimately, with uncertainties surrounding football schedules and the haunted house, the committee decided to table the date selection until the next meeting to gather more information.

Parks and Recreation Directors Report

The committee discussed the possibility of organizing a small Earth Day event, given the city's designation as a Tree City. A tree giveaway was proposed, as the city currently has an abundance of live oaks and loblolly pine trees in its nursery at the golf course. The trees were all donated and are being maintained by the grounds crew. The idea of working with local elementary schools to plant trees on their campuses was also suggested, with members expressing enthusiasm and agreeing to explore possibilities.

Another topic from the Parks and Recreation Director's report was the positive feedback on new landscaping efforts. Members acknowledged the improved appearance of esplanades and encouraged others to show appreciation for the maintenance crews working on them. The city has implemented a cost-effective and low-maintenance approach by installing rocks alongside plants, reducing the need for frequent replanting and aiding in weed control.

Future agenda item request


Next Meeting Date

Parks Master Plan presentation and discussion: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Next Regular PARAC meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Adjournment

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



Maria Thorne, Administrative Assistant