

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 9, 2020

Call to Order

Doris called meeting to order at 5:33 pm

Travis Coggin	<i>present</i>	Bridget Martinez	<i>present</i>
Nora Hahn	<i>present</i>	Doris Michalak	<i>present</i>
Ashley Brown	<i>present</i>	Charlie Mattair	<i>present</i>
David Locke	<i>present</i>		

Also Present:

James Singleton	<i>present</i>	Josh Rodrigue	<i>present</i>
Robert Basford	<i>present</i>	Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes by David

Motion to approve minutes seconded by Ashley

Citizen Comments

Citizen Mark Malloy asked what topics were going to be discussed at the meeting. He stated that he attended the meeting because he is concerned about the plans for the walking trails in the parks master plan. The trails are planned so that they would be located along the back side of homeowners' properties. From the wording, he has interpreted that the city is going to work with Harris County flood control district to get the trails plan pushed through disregarding any previous understandings that would allow the homeowners to have a say or receive compensation for the sale of a portion of their property. He obtained signatures from most of the property owners who would be affected by the trails project. Based on conversations and signatures collected, he stated that homeowners do not want trails along the bayous behind their homes.

Doris thanked Mr. Malloy for the comment and stated that approvals and right of ways would all need to be obtained before any actions are taken.

Robert thanked Mr. Malloy for the input and stated that we are aware of the concerns and that there are many things that would have to be considered beforehand.

James Singleton clarified to Mr. Malloy that one thing to remember is that the parks master plan and the comprehensive plan are wish lists. Those plans will always have trails in them because there is some interest in them, but it does not mean that they will ever be developed. He added that Harris County stated that there is no easement land along the bayous so the city would have to purchase the land for the trails from homeowners and that is not likely to happen.

Mark Malloy talked about the time when TX dot came in and cleared things out of the channel along the trail by the park about 2 years ago. He stated that he looked into the Green Ribbon reforestation program and worked to get trees planted along south bound service lane south of WOB. County will replant trees that have died off, outside of noise wall. Will also plant trees and vegetation from the bypass channel to south east corner

of the high school sports facility. Robert talked about getting water lines run to that location

David brought up the bike trails and walking trails that were created in the 80's in Wood Forest that resulted in a rise in thefts in the neighborhood. He stated that we do not have sufficient police presence to cover such a large area and feels that it would be a bad plan to put in walking trails that bring in people from the outside.

Items for individual consideration

a. Holiday decorating contest – Josh talked about the upcoming contest and stated that he is going to put it out to the community again to let them know the timeline on the decorating contest. Judging is scheduled to take place on December 16th and 17th. The committee members will be the judges. Josh will work with Doris about assigning sections of the city to the committee members. Judges will pick their favorite based on two categories: most merry and most bright. Josh will get a list of previous year's winners to keep in mind. Also current and past committee members are not eligible. Prizes for winners were discussed. Some of the ideas mentioned gift cards, free pool memberships, art class, etc.

Doris added that committee members are responsible for the decision but can have helpers in the car. Pictures are encouraged. Josh has yard signs ready and will put them out

b. Tree City USA - Robert

Robert included information about becoming a Tree City USA in the packet. We have to meet the standards. Standard 1 - We have to establish a tree board. – the committee members would be the tree board members. Meetings would be 3 times a year before parks meeting. Standard 2 – We need to have a tree care ordinance. Article 14 of our code is very in-depth and likely meets the requirement. Standard 3 – We have to participate in a community forestry program and spend a minimum \$2 per capita in tree care annually. We participate in Arbor Day activities and the yearly budget that we spend on tree maintenance, upkeep, salaries, equipment
The committee decided to table the vote to determine whether or not we want to participate in Tree City USA until January so we can get more information.

c. Youth sports discussion-Josh, Robert

Josh brought up that he had some comments from residents that they are not happy with I9 Sports, the organization that is hosting the sports programs around the city. They run the youth soccer and T-ball programs. We are about to sign a new agreement. Added a term to the agreement that states that we can survey the participants to see how happy they are with the programs. If the survey shows that participants are not happy, we may look into doing an in-house league or look for another organization. Will look at cost and revenues.

Bridget explained that the way the program runs for soccer. It all happens in one day. The kids practice for 4 hours and then play for 1 hour afterwards. Parents don't like this especially for the younger children. Some were also unhappy about administration of I9.

Josh said that he will survey to see what residents want. Robert added that we can possibly do it more affordably, but concerned that we may not have enough players, not enough teams, or facilities. Another challenge is the lighting at facilities. There are pros and cons. Looking to add more flexibility. Interest in additional sports

opportunities. Want to survey as many people as possible. Will look into possibly renting school facilities for softball, soccer.

Staff briefings

Recreation

Josh talked about Holiday in the village – it was fun and successful. Thanked committee members for participation. Planning a recreation survey to ask what people participated in this past year, what they want to see offered. Plans for another play guide – smaller, only containing events for aquatics, golf. Won't put any big festivals in there. Larger events will promote themselves. Looking to plan more outdoor things, virtual things, more stuff for toddlers. In the near future will take some things off of the JV Senior Outreach's plate and will do through the city. Movie in the park Sat 19th, looking to doing another bingo with golf course – virtual.

Parks -

Robert said that the parks master plan open house went great. Received good feedback, working on the final draft now and getting it ready to present to city council in January. Park supervisor candidate's second interview is on Monday. Silt fence for the trail for the bayou project encroaches on park – not sure what can be done on that. Talked about the water line for the revegetation project. Working with Ethan from TX dot north of Philippine all the way to the water tower. Need to ensure we plant the correct trees, in the correct location, and ensure that they get the appropriate care. Other things going on are routine, also looking at vehicle replacement schedules.

Future agenda Item request

Tree city USA

Discuss term lengths for youth committee member

Other Comments

David asked about the new signs and commented that he does not like that they are on Jones Rd.

Bridget asked when Josh is going to send out surveys.

Next Meeting date

January 6th

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting by David

Motion seconded by Ashley