



City of Denton

City Hall
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Denton, Texas
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Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board Minutes

After determining that a quorum of the City of Denton, Texas, **Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board** is present, the Chair of the Board thereafter convened into an open meeting on Monday, April 2, 2018, at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center, Denton, Texas.

Present: Paul Leslie, Alana Presley Taylor, Frances Punch, Gary Barber, Kent Boring, and Ben Huttash

Absent: Phil Gallivan

Staff present: Gary Packan, Director, Bryan Langley, Deputy City Manager, Laura Behrens, Asst. Director, Heather Gray, Athletic Manager, and Janie McLeod, Community Events Coordinator

Guests: Carol and Ed Soph, Citizens

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Consider approval of the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting of March 12.

Leslie commented that the Park Board tour is scheduled for May 7 and not 6 as noted in the minutes. With the correction noted, the March minutes were approved by a motion made by Barber and seconded by Huttash.

B. Consider recommending adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, Texas authoring the City Manager to accept competitive bids and award a contract to Mega Promotions for the concession stand service rights to the North Lakes and Denia Softball Complex concession stands.

Behrens announced Heather Gray has recently accepted the Business Manager position with Parks and Recreation. Gray will continue to represent the Athletic Division until a new person has been hired.

Leslie introduced and congratulated Gary Packan as the Department's new Director.

Gray discussed how the concession stands have been operated by Parks and Recreation staff. Professional staff scheduled concession works, stocked the stands, verified and submitted deposits, and verified inventory counts. The stands are at a break-even status.

Staff is recommending that Mega Promotions be contracted to provide concession services at the North Lakes and Denia Softball Complexes and the City to be reimbursed 25 percent of the gross sales and the City maintains the stands.

Leslie asked how the City could ensure that the percentage amount would be an accurate figure. Gray responded that there will be a monthly invoice with backup from the computerize system for the gross sales. Gray added that it would allow staff to monitor the games and be involved with the needs of the athletic games and provide better service.

Gray was asked about the quality control of the food and if the products being used were recyclable materials. Gray responded that the City has final approval of the menu and prices.

There are no specifications for materials used at the concession stands but several recycling containers are located in each park. The sport associations are responsible for cleaning up their own litter. Gray will check and see if the recommendation for the purchase of recyclable products can be made and included in the contract for next year.

Langley said staff can go back to the vendor and request the same price for recyclable products in this year's contract.

Gray commented that the City's Purchasing Department asked for Park, Recreation, and Beautification Board's recommendation for the April 17 City Council meeting. She does not know if the contract has been signed yet or if there may still be time for changes.

Behrens said the department doesn't get into the details of products sold during special events or require vendors to use recyclable products. She added that the City promotes litter-free events and Mega Promotions has litter cleanup written into their contract.

Behrens commented that perhaps recyclable products brought into, or sold in the parks, be looked into as a philosophy or as a policy for events held in the parks.

Boring made a motion to approve Mega Promotions for concession stand service rights contingent on recyclable, compostable materials, and to use paper products and try to stay away from Styrofoam products. Barber seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 6-0.

The Board discussed encouraging guests to bring their own refillable bottles or for refillable bottles to be sold at the concession stands.

C. Receive an informational report regarding an update on the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

Behrens reported that there were a couple of different pieces to the IPM program - pesticides and herbicides. The IPM policy was established in 2001 and hasn't been changed or updated. Staff has recommended to City Council that the IPM program be reviewed and updated by using the same process done in 2001. A community focus group will be formed to explore and test new maintenance techniques for possible updating of processes. There would be two concurrent test sites: one for current methods and one for new or test methods. Information from test sites would be used to update the IPM.

The focus group will have a maximum of 15 participants. Identified stakeholders in the focus group are being confirmed. The site testing will go on for a year to cover all

seasons rather than the nine-month process.

Barber recommended that the Denton County Beekeeper Association be contacted to participate, too.

Ed Soph, who was on the initial stakeholder committee in 2001, stated that techniques and information can change. Practices once thought to be safe in the past are now health hazard and should be considered. Soph added that the City would continue to benefit from the update.

Soph discussed that in the past plan, one aspect was to purchase gluten mill from Morrison Milling as a weed suppressant. The mill was not spread properly and the results were not positive.

Huttash commented that he had heard concerns from the public regarding fish in the North Lakes having large tumors.

Presley Taylor asked how do we make sure that follow up is complete and who will be responsible. Behrens said the testing will go for a full year. Follow-up with the group and the City Council will help to determine what to incorporate into the IPM document. Behrens added that the plan will be a living document and adjustments can be made as needed.

Packan said that the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) can be reached out to for information on other cities practices. Packan added that he had used natural organic products in Arlington with positive results.

D. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the May 7, 2018, Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board meeting and scheduled tour.

The sites include Owsley Park, Carl Young Splashground, IOOF and Oakwood Cemeteries, and Sequoia Park. It was proposed to include the American Legion Hall (ALH), Industrial Park, Vela Complex, and the location for the new tennis center and dog park in North Lakes Park. The ALH CIP project involves demolishing one of the two existing buildings and rebuilding on the same footprint. The Board could see before and after the construction of the ALH.

Dinner will be provided during the tour on Monday, May 7. Given the number of locations to visit, there was discussion on beginning the meeting earlier than the usual time.

Presley Taylor made a motion to move the departure time from 5 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Huttash seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 6-0 vote.

E. Receive an informational report regarding Capital Improvements Projects (CIP).

Behrens reviewed the distributed CIP report. Behrens added that the fence installation continues to move forward and the cemetery headstones are completed ahead of schedule. She added that the bids for the three playground replacements (Denia, Fred Moore, and Milam) were complete. Barber recommended adding a specification to the bids to have slides covered so they don't get too hot. More trees for playground coverage from the heat was also suggested.

Huttash suggested adding a train to a park.

Presley Taylor asked about the opening date for the sprayground. Behrens responded that it is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 12.

Future Agenda:

1. Parks Sustainability Plan
2. Signage used on City property
3. Additional frisbee golf course and usage numbers
4. Public/private partnerships with contractors for programming

There being no further business, Punch made a motion to adjourn and Boring seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.