

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – June 13, 2016
COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don Johnson, Chairperson
Leo Bell, Jr., Vice-Chairperson
Reginald Hurd
Roderick Lee
Alexander (Sandy) McLachlan
Ed Priest
Eugenia Rodgers

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bart Stevenson, Staff Liaison, Timothy Hamilton, Parks Superintendent, Officer Lt. Stan Estell, Officer Kamecha Johnston and Pam Willis, Recording Secretary, were city staff members in attendance

Chairperson Johnson noted that there was a quorum present and began the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

There was no one present to speak during the public discussion period.

Item #2 – Discussion and Consider Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Johnson asked if everyone had read over the May 9, 2016 minutes. A motion for approval was made by Vice-Chairperson Bell; a second was made by Board member Hurd to approve the May 9, 2016 minutes as written. A vote was taken with 7 for and 0 opposed. Minutes were approved as written.

Item #3 – Staff Reports:

- A. **Park Ranger Report** – Park Ranger Kamecha Johnston recounted her stats for the Board. She stated that there were 330 patrols. Out of those were 11 stops with 12 citations (5 Curfew in the Park, 2 DWLI, 2 Ran Red Light and 3 Ran Stop Sign). Fourteen of those were field contacts. A Community Action Request was made regarding a portable basketball goal at Pyburn Park. There were three (3) meet complainants. Four (4) calls were for Suspicious Activities at Harrington Park and Waterview Park. There were two (2) Major Disturbances that were unfounded. CPR was given to an elderly male on Main Street near Armstrong Park. There was also a request to assist in the apprehension of two (2) potential robbery suspects seen wearing masks around 800 S. Cockrell Hill Road.
- B. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Staff Liaison Stevenson acknowledged the success of the Movie in the Park showing of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles with almost 300 in attendance. He invited the Board to attend the first Summer Concert Series in the park with Gospel music on the schedule. He asked them to check the water bills for the Independence Day information flyer. He explained that this year Armstrong Park would be completely fenced off and entrance to the park would require a wristband.
- C. **Update on FY16 Capital Projects** – Parks Superintendent Hamilton announced that Willow Run and Lakeside were not quite finished because of the rain; however, it would be very soon.
- D. **Update on FY17 Budget Planning** – Mr. Stevenson explained to the board that the parks department would have approximately \$350K out of the Innovation fund to put to use for the FY17 budget. He asked the board to look in their digital packet for the Draft of the Five-Year Plan. Looking at the numbers for the FY 2017 Budget, discussion began regarding what staff had chosen for the next budget. Board member McLachlan wanted staff to consider making one of the tennis courts at Armstrong Park into a basketball court and what it would take to get that accomplished. All were in agreement of the planning of getting items in the parks updated.
- E. **July 4th Update** – As mentioned before, plans for the Independence Day Celebration were in full swing. This year the City would bring back the fireworks display. The staff is excited to be part of the celebration. Reminders that Armstrong Park is going to be fenced off and wristbands are necessary to gain entrance into the park.
- F. **Dog Park Update** – Parks Superintendent Hamilton announced that the Dog Park would not be open or available the week of June 17-26, 2016, but would be ready to go on July 8 – July 17.
- G. **Wi-Fi in the Parks** – Discussion began regarding Wi-Fi in the parks. Currently, Lakeside Park is the only park with Wi-Fi capabilities. Mr. Stevenson explained the plan given by the Duncanville Independent

School District regarding setting up kiosks in the parks and several other public locations to be used by the community. He noted that the kiosks could have up to 12 users at a time. The parks being regarded for the kiosk usage are Alexander, Armstrong, Harrington, Lakeside and Lions. No time table had been given regarding the kiosks.

- H. **Senior Center Renovations** – Mr. Stevenson commented to the Board that a supplemental budget had been submitted for the Re-Branding of the Senior Center which included painting, signage, furniture and an indoor/outdoor coffee bar.
- I. **Cameras in the Parks** – The Board has put in a request to install cameras at the parks. Mr. Stevenson confirmed that this was a possibility. Lt. Estell said that the problem would be having a “command center” to watch them or house them. Mr. Stevenson noted that it was still in the planning and funding process.

Item #4 – Receive and Discuss an Annual Report from the Duncanville Boys Baseball Incorporated:

Alberto Layton, Current President of DBBI, gave the annual report for Duncanville Boys Baseball Incorporated. The handout given to staff and the Board explained the numbers, issues and concerns that the organization faced during the 2016 baseball season. Several issues included were parking, no Wi-Fi, better field conditions and a major overhaul on the restroom/concession stand facility. One request was to add a clubhouse facility where DBBI could hold their meetings. They would like to discuss cost participation with the city to get this done by the 2017 season. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Hamilton said they would be in contact with DBBI.

Item #5 – Receive and Discuss an Annual Report from the Duncanville Girls Softball Association:

Mr. Paul Martinez, President of DGSA, spoke on the behalf of the association. Several of their major concerns regarded the cost charge for the lighting of the fields, how to increase their enrollment and the condition of the fields. It was not that DGSA spends a big part of their budget on lighting/electricity. They requested the parks department to look into their cost and see if there was any way to bring it down. The Association is looking for ideas from staff or events to promote in helping them increase their enrollment numbers. The ones they have are very low. Overall, Alexander Park needs to be updated with better fields, concession stand and restrooms. They think that because of the conditions of Alexander Park is possibly one of the reasons that there is a decrease in enrollment especially when there are other newer parks in the area to play on. Chairperson Johnson told Mr. Martinez that the Board would take those requests into account.

Item #6 – Receive and Discuss an Annual Report from the Duncanville Soccer Association:

This item was tabled for another meeting.

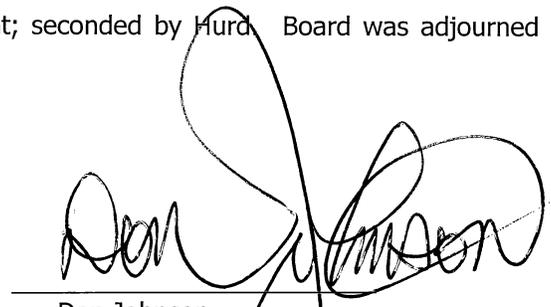
Item #7 – Consider Recommending Approval of a Park Naming Ordinance to the City Council:

Mr. Stevenson asked the Board to look at their packet to see a Parking Naming Ordinance that staff had prepared. Several points were discussed on the Park Naming Ordinance such as being very careful in choosing who the park would be names for researching as carefully as possible and also not to allow this ordinance to become part of a personal agenda. A motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Bell to approve and recommend the Park Naming Ordinance to the City Council; seconded by Board member Priest. A vote was taken with 7 for and 0 opposed to move forward to presenting to the City Council.

Item #8 – Adjourn Regular Meeting:

A motion was made by Board member Priest for adjournment; seconded by Hurd. Board was adjourned at 8:24 pm.


Pam Willis
Recording Secretary


Don Johnson
Chairperson