

## MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – August 8, 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 June 13, 2016 minutes. Board member McLachlan requested that his request for changing one of the tennis courts at Armstrong be developed into a basketball court and entered into the minutes. This is a topic that has been discussed, but not entered into the minutes. A motion for approval with this request added was made by Board member McLachlan; a second was made by Vice-Chairperson Bell to approve the June 13, 2016 minutes as written with the requested change added. A vote was taken with 7 for and 0 opposed. Minutes were approved as written with the requested change added.

### Item #3 – Staff Reports:

- A. **Park Ranger Report** – Park Ranger Kamecha Johnston recounted her stats for the Board. She stated that there were 363 Directed Patrols. Out of those were 11 citations: 4 Curfew in the Park, 1 DWLI, 1 each in Expired Registration, No DL, No Parking Where Posted, and No Parking on Grass, Ran Stop Sign and No Seatbelt. There were seven (7) Meet Complainants. The following occurred at Lions Park: one (1) each Attempted Suicide, Arson, Stolen Vehicle (recovered w/potential suspect information) and Evading and Failure to ID as Fugitive from Justice (suspect apprehended w/in custody warrant/affidavit). The following occurred at Armstrong Park: two (2) Thefts (w/potential suspect info) and one (1) Lost Property. One (1) Robbery (drug deal gone badly) occurred at Lakeside Park. There were three (3) Follow-ups and two (2) Welfare Concerns. A total of 504 calls which included two (2) officers as one unit in lieu of safety measures post Dallas Ambush. Officer Johnston also did a comparison of Summer Activity of 2015 and 2016. She state the following: Thefts stayed the same at 2 each; Suspicious Activity up by four (4) 2015-11 and 2016-15; Major Disturbances are down one (1) from 3 to 2; Verbal Disturbances are up 2 for 2016 at 4 vs. 2 in 2015; Meet Complainants are up 5 from 2 in 2015 to 7 in 2016; also in 2016 are 1 Robbery and 1 Stolen Vehicle which did not occur in 2015.

- B. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Staff Liaison Stevenson expressed to the Board that Summer Camp would be ending on August 19, 2016 and the final Summer Concert Series is Rhythm and Blues on August 20, 2016. He reminded the Board that the next public budget meeting would be on August 16, 2016. He told the Board that staff had met for a briefing on how July 4<sup>th</sup> went. Comments from the Board regarded the use of the wristbands and how that process could be better.
- C. **Update on FY17 Budget Planning** – Mr. Stevenson explained to the Board that a budget workshop was held when he was on vacation and Timothy Hamilton, Parks Superintendent, attended it in his place. Mr. Hamilton said he thought the workshop went well. He commented that big dollar requests would be considered at another time after the Comprehensive Master Plan and the Park Master Plan were complete. The good news for the community was that the tax rate would remain the same.
- D. **July 4<sup>th</sup> Update** – Mr. Stevenson began discussion on the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Comments had already been made about the wristbands and how to make that be more readily available since some the people that the Board spoke to during the event thought they could get them at the gate and others were trying to sell them when they were free. The fireworks were a huge success and would be brought back along with the traditional parade. Overall it was a successful event.

Item #4 – Receive and Discuss from Natalie Ortiz on the Temporary Dog Park:

Before Ms. Ortiz spoke, Barbara Cadmen and Theresa Ryan wanted to let the Board know that they enjoyed having the Temporary Dog Park and wanted the Board to consider having a permanent one. They congratulated Ms. Ortiz for taking that the initiative and setting that up at Armstrong Park. The Board, staff and Ms. Ortiz thanked the ladies for speaking on the dog park behalf. Ms. Ortiz gave an overview of the Temporary Dog Park. She discussed that the benefits included that dogs would communicate and play with other dogs possibly making them more social; dog owners learned new things that could help their dogs and had a social time with other owners and that the City had a new alternative recreation. She told the Board that over the ten (10) days, July 8-17, 2016 that a total of 221 dogs visited. She noted that the evening time usually had more dogs. She told the Board that 27 people signed a petition to have a permanent dog park assigned to one of the parks. Her concerns with the temporary park were that two (2) large dogs escaped outside to the park; 3 small dogs slipped through the temporary fencing escaping outside to the park and the best thing was that there were no fights between dogs that occurred. The only complaint that dog owners had was of the temporary fencing. The dog owners did suggest having double doors for security and for the larger dogs that the fencing needed to be at least 7 feet tall. The Board congratulated Ms. Ortiz for a job well done. Ms. Ortiz did let the Board know that she did receive her Girl Scout Silver Star for the project.

A motion was made by Board member McLachlan to come up with ideas for a permanent dog park; a second was made by Board member Priest. All of the Board members were in favor of a permanent dog park and voted 7 in favor with 0 opposed. Board member McLachlan added a pro to the park that the cost is not considerable. Board member Rodgers inquired as to how many dogs could fit in the park comfortably. Mr. Hamilton gave the numbers of 15 or 20, but the bigger the park the more comfortable it would be for owners and dogs. Board member Hurd advised that if it were a large park, then sections of it could be rotated out because of use from the dogs. Mr. Stevenson told the Board that the Park Master Plan would be the opportune time to discuss this consideration in detail while working on the Park Master Plan. He also commented that the Tri-City Animal Shelter had acreage behind their facility that they would consider making into a dog park.

Item #5 – Receive and Discuss an Annual Report from Duncanville Soccer Association (DSA):

The Board's attention was given to Kevin Wallace, Vice President, from Duncanville Soccer Association. He introduced himself to the Board. He is devoted and committed himself to soccer because his daughter wanted to play. He explained his handout for DSA. They serve 875 kids per season. He noted that the kids really need a new concession stand and restrooms. The problems that they have experienced are with the lights and parking. His suggestion was to convert empty space by the front entrance into a parking lot. The Association has ten (10) coaches receiving certification training and 100 registered coaches with the Association at the moment. The Association gave out 20 scholarships to under privileged youth during the season. The Association would appreciate any ideas on increasing their numbers for soccer.

Item #6 – Discuss and Appoint Three (3) Park Board Members to the Park Master Plan Steering Committee:

Mr. Stevenson asked if there were three (3) Board members that wanted to dedicate time to the Park Master Plan Steering Committee. Board members McLachlan, Hurd and Vice-Chairperson Bell all asked to be part of the committee. Board member Lee requested to be included and was appointed by Mr. Stevenson to be the alternate in case someone could not participate. Mr. Stevenson then handed out the Request for Statement of Qualifications #16-21. He requested that the four (4) members look over it and be familiar with it for discussion later.

Item #7 – Discuss Trees at Red Bird Park:

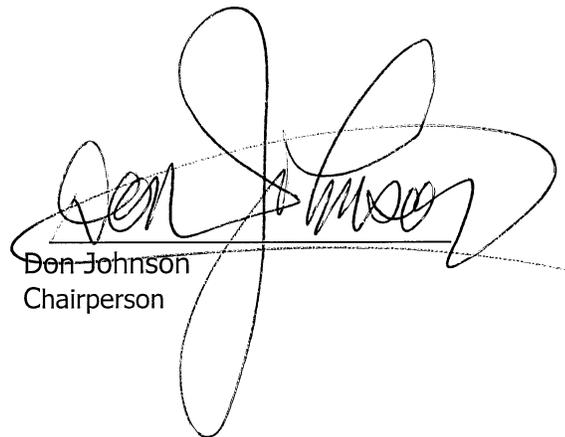
Mr. Stevenson had Mr. Hamilton pull up onto the overhead screen the aerial view of Red Bird Park. Mr. Stevenson wanted to be sure of which three (3) trees needed to be removed. Board member Priest made a motion to remove said trees; Board member Hurd seconded it. A vote was taken with 7 in favor of moving the trees for a basketball court and 0 opposed. Trees will be removed per staff discussion for the purpose of creating an area for a basketball court.

Item #8 – Adjourn Regular Meeting:

A motion was made by Board member Priest for adjournment; seconded by Hurd. Board was adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Pam Willis  
Recording Secretary



Don Johnson  
Chairperson