

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – APRIL 13, 2015
RECREATION CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leo Bell, Jr.
Reginald Hurd
Don Johnson, Chairperson
Alexander McLachlan
Ed Priest
Calvin Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Roderick Lee (Excused)

Bart Stevenson, Staff Liaison

Timothy Hamilton, Parks/Athletics Manager and Kamecha Johnston, Park Ranger, were staff members in attendance.

Chairperson Don Johnson noted that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

No one was present to speak during the public discussion period.

Item #2 – Discussion and Consider Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Johnson asked the Board to look over the minutes from the last three (3) regular meetings on December 8, 2014, January 12, 2015 and February 9, 2015. Mr. Johnson asked if there were any comments. Ed Priest made a motion to accept the minutes as they were; seconded by Leo Bell, Jr. Minutes were approved unanimously, 6-0 (Bell, Hurd, Johnson, McLachlan, Priest and Wells). Roderick Lee was not present to vote.

Item #3 – Consider Recommending Color for the Shade Structure for the Armstrong Park Amphitheater:

Bart Stevenson explained to the new members about the shade canopy over Armstrong Park at the Amphitheater. Mr. Stevenson passed out a handout that showed the colors to choose for the canopy and for the supports. Leo Bell, Jr. suggested the traditional City of Duncanville colors of red, white, blue and possibly black for the panther mascot. Mr. Stevenson informed the Board that red was out because it faded quickly and was not backed by the warranty. White would probably get dirty too quickly. Leo Bell, Jr. suggested a blue canopy with black supports. Reginald Hurd stated that the blue canopy would make it an icon that was easy to find. Ed Priest made a motion for the canopy to be blue and the supports to be black; Leo Bell, Jr., seconded the motion. Chairperson Johnson called for a vote on the colors. The vote was taken and passed with a 6-0 with Mr. Lee not present to vote.

Item #4 – Discuss Revising the Park Ordinance, Chapter 12B or the Code of Ordinances:

Bart Stevenson asked the Board to earnestly check Chapter 12B of the Code of Ordinances. This chapter governs the parks; however, it is vague, inconsistent, antiquated and at times ambiguous. Several inconsistencies were pointed out to the Board such as the definition of grills whether to allow in the park or not; children playing soccer on the tennis courts and that weapons are prohibited but no signage stating as such. He stated that this particular project was a part of the 2015 Work Plan and that it would take more than one meeting to fine tune the ordinance. Mr. Stevenson requested that the Board bring to the next meeting their findings, questions and suggestions on how to revise the ordinance.

Item #5 – Discuss the Upcoming Budget Process and Input from the Board on Future Capital Needs:

Bart Stevenson informed the Board that the fiscal year for the city is from October 1 – September 30. He announced that the budget process had begun for the next fiscal year. This process will include a Five Year Plan and eventually a Master Park Plan. Leo Bell, Jr. inquired if this was a good time to request standardized signage for all parks. Mr. Stevenson responded by saying that this is the opportunity to brand our parks with standardized signage. Mr. Bell also posed the question regarding purchasing land for park use. Mr. Stevenson agreed that there is a shortage of park land and suggested that be a topic of discussion for the Neighborhood Revitalization meeting in the near future.

Item #6 – Discuss the New Senior Advocacy Commission and Their Role to the Park Board:

Bart Stevenson informed the Board that the Senior Advocacy Commission will be reporting to them. He explained that once they get established and elect a Chairperson then that Chairperson acting as liaison would attend the Park Board meetings where ideas, suggestions and concerns would be shared.

Item #7 – Discuss the Arson of the Playground at Red Bird Park:

Bart Stevenson reported that no one had been caught. Chairperson Johnson asked if there any disgruntled children or adults. Mr. Stevenson replied that he did not know of any. Timothy Hamilton informed the Board that in future budgets there would be Wi-Fi in the park making it much easier to put cameras in the parks. Mr. Johnson inquired on insurance for the park. Mr. Stevenson responded that the city did, but that the deductible was \$25,000 hoped in was an isolated incident. Mr. Stevenson informed the Board that the sewer line would be installed soon for the new restroom at the park. Mr. Johnson asked if there was a policy for citizens to make donations for the park through memorials. Mr. Stevenson replied that not at this point in time, but something to work on.

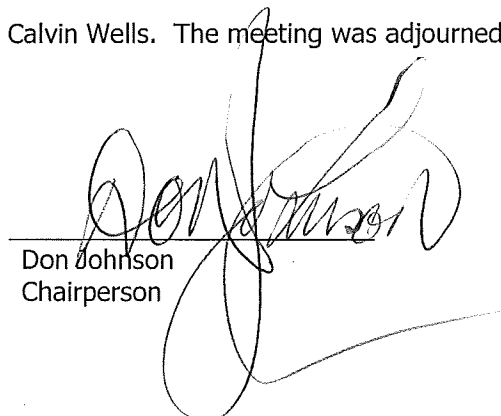
Item #8 – Staff Reports:

- A. **Park Ranger Report** – Park Ranger Johnston reported to the Board that there had been over 300+ patrols and over 25 Class C citations written mainly for Curfew Violations. She was asked if any had been written for Minors in Possession. She replied no not at this time.
- B. **Budget Update** – Bart Stevenson commented that the budget process was in process and every department was working diligently on their budgets. Mr. Stevenson told the Board that he would keep them informed as the process progressed.
- C. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Bart Stevenson said that the recreation center was getting ready for all of their summer events including summer camp. Timothy Hamilton reported that the Operation Clean Duncanville was a huge success. He announced that the Keep Duncanville Beautiful Board won third place in the Governor's Community Achievement Awards as a Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate. Mr. Stevenson reminded the Board about the Tour of the Parks on April 25th beginning at 9:00 a.m. here at the recreation center.

A motion was made by Ed Priest for adjournment; seconded by Calvin Wells. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. unanimously.



Pam Willis
Recording Secretary



Don Johnson
Chairperson