

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2015
COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leo Bell, Jr. (Vice-Chairperson)
Reginald Hurd
Roderick Lee
Alexander McLachlan
Ed Priest
Calvin Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Don Johnson, Chairperson (Excused)

Bart Stevenson, Staff Liaison; Timothy Hamilton, Parks Superintendent, Kamecha Johnston, Park Ranger, and recording secretary Pam Willis were staff members in attendance.

Gabby Arriaga, Secretary, and Erika Fernandez, Treasurer, of Duncanville Soccer Association (DSA) were also in attendance.

Vice-Chairperson Bell noted that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

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

Item #2 – Discussion and Consider Approval of Minutes:

Vice-Chairperson Bell asked the Board to look over the minutes from the July 13, 2015 meeting. He asked if there were any questions or corrections to be made. Board member Hurd believed that in Item #3; Section B; Paragraph 3 that it read, "Chairperson Johnson suggested that for the School Bash that they show proof of residency..." not Board member Hurd. A motion was made by Board member Priest to accept the minutes with the correction; a second was received from Board member Hurd. The motion for approval of minutes with corrections was passed with 6 in favor; 0 not in favor. Chairperson Johnson was not in attendance for the vote.

Item #3 – Staff Reports:

- A. **Park Ranger Report** – Vice-Chairperson Bell gave the floor to Park Ranger Johnston. Johnson explained to the Board that there were 260 directed patrols; 22 citations were given (15 for curfew; 6 for speeding and 1 for no driver's license). There were 3 assist motorist call; 13 traffic stops; 1 medical emergency with police and 8 calls for service. Also she noted that there was one of each of the following: shots fired (heard, but not located), suspicious activity, unknown situation, minor noise disturbance and a verbal disturbance. She told them that there were also 3 major disturbances too. Board member Hurd requested at this point that a topic of discussion for the next agenda be the Texas Open Carry Law that goes into law in January 2016.
- B. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Staff Liaison Stevenson began discussion for upcoming events and programs would start with the "Movie in the Park" of Guardians of the Galaxy is showing on that Friday night. The Back to School Bash is on Saturday the 15th from 10 am – 2 pm. September's event of Festival en Duncanville is on September 12th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. And in October the BBQ Blues Festival beginning on October 23 running through the 24th. He noted that the alcohol permit will go to Council on August 18, 2015.
- C. **Update on FY15 Capital Projects** – Mr. Stevenson announced that the amphitheater shade is installed which is great and looks wonderful. It was also discussed that the restroom for Red Bird Park as well as the new playground would be ready by the end of August. There is tentative plan for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground and restroom. The generator is still coming to the area behind the library. Mr. Hamilton is working on getting batting cages for Harrington Park. And the LED Sign has been approved and ordered for the corner of Main and Wheatland.

- D. **Update on FY16 Budget Process** – Mr. Stevenson told the Board that the city had a little extra money from the Debt Services account. He explained to the Board that some of this money would possibly go towards three (3) of the neediest parks: Harrington, Willow Run and the east side of Lakeside. The idea is not to redo the whole park itself, but at least upgrade playground equipment; bring the parks up to ADA standards and out of the red status. Mr. Stevenson also commented that the Recreation Center is working to change out their software. Vice-Chairperson Bell inquired on recommendations for the Duncanville Fieldhouse from the study that was done. Mr. Stevenson replied that those recommendations would be discussed on the City Council Retreat in October. As of now, everything is on hold.

Item #4 – Receive and Discuss the Annual Report from the Duncanville Soccer Association (DSA):

Mr. Hamilton introduced Ms. Arriaga and Ms. Fernandez. Mr. Hamilton also passed out their annual report handout. Ms. Arriaga went over the guidelines of the handout. Ms. Fernandez went over the financial page of Profit and Loss. She also noted that does give out scholarships to those who are not able to afford the signup fee. DSA also provides \$1000 scholarship to a male and female player in high school. Comments were made that DSA is not affected by the Select league. They see their numbers growing past 875. The last items discussed were the problems the league was having with are the goals that were made for the field were too short and some children were hurt and that there is not enough parking at Harrington Park. The league did request that the City transform the empty field by the entrance into more parking spaces. The Board agreed that parking was a problem at Harrington and that they were looking into remedies for the parking problem.

Item #5 – Discuss Citizen Notification of Events and Activities:

Board member Hurd asked what the current uses were for citizen notifications were. Mr. Stevenson explained that the City uses the current website; Champions Newsletter; Facebook; utility bill inserts; flyers that are sent to the school district to inform kids of events and the new LED sign will be used once it is installed. He noted that all social media for the Parks and Recreation department was handled by Veronica Williams, Recreation Superintendent. Vice-Chairperson Bell told the Board that computers should not be the City's only way of engagement. Board member Hurd suggested doing an email blast. Vice-Chairperson Bell suggested the possibility of getting in touch with the Neighborhood Revitalization Board on engaging Duncanville citizens especially to promote the BBQ Blues Festival to have a tremendous turnout.

Item #6 – Discuss a Sponsorship/Donation Program for Park Amenities:

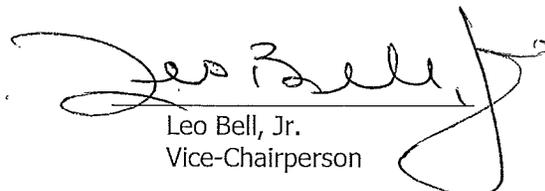
Mr. Stevenson handed out a flyer with pricing for park amenities that the Duncanville citizens could use as a guide for the donation program. Larger amenities would come through the Parks Advisory Board for approval. Board member Hurd suggested that there be a maintenance endowment contribution for the maintenance of the amenities. Board member Lee commented that he as a businessman would give money as a sponsorship to support his community. His also suggested reaching out to the corporate Fortune 500 companies to see what their response would be. Board member Wells said that the Duncanville businesses may be tapped out from previous times of sponsoring. It was discussed that a plan of action to get event sponsorship should be discussed at a future meeting.

Item #7 – Consider an Alternate Date for the September Regular Meeting:

Mr. Stevenson explained to the Board that he and Mr. Hamilton would be at the NRPA conference the week of the regular scheduled meeting. He suggested to the Board of rescheduling from the 14th to the 21st of September at 6:30 p.m. No one on the Board had a problem with the reschedule.

A motion was made by Board member Priest for adjournment; seconded by Board member Wells. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. unanimously.


Pam Willis
Recording Secretary


Leo Bell, Jr.
Vice-Chairperson