

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 21, 2015
COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leo Bell, Jr. (Vice-Chairperson)
Reginald Hurd
Don Johnson (Chairperson)
Ed Priest
Eugenia Rodgers

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Roderick Lee (Unexcused)
Alexander McLachlan (Excused)

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

Since Chairperson Johnson was not present at the last meeting, he yielded to Vice-Chairperson Bell to conduct the meeting. Vice-Chairperson Bell noted that there was a quorum present and began the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Staff Liaison introduced to the Board the new Parks Manager, David Codispoti. He also introduced the newest Board member Eugenia Rodgers. Everyone welcomed them to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

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 August 10, 2015 meeting. He asked if there were any questions or corrections to be made. A motion was made by Board member Priest to accept the minutes as is; a second was received from Board member Hurd. The motion for approval of minutes with corrections was passed with 5 in favor; 0 not in favor. Board members Lee and McLachlan were not in attendance for the vote.

Item #3 – Staff Reports:

- A. **Park Ranger Report** – Vice-Chairperson Bell gave the floor to Park Ranger Johnston. Johnston explained to the Board that there were 458 directed patrols; 62 citations were given (21 for curfew; 25 for speeding; 6 for running Stop signs; 2 for driving while license invalid; 4 failures to display driver's license and 3 for no driver's license). There was 1 assist motorist call; 1 non-emergency with police and 5 calls for service. Also she noted that there were two (2) suspicious activity calls. She also told them that there were no major or minor disturbances this time.
- B. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Staff Liaison Stevenson began discussion for upcoming events with the BBQ Blues Festival beginning on October 23 running through the 24th. He noted that the alcohol permit passed by the Council on August 18, 2015. Board member Hurd asked the Board what did they want Duncanville's signature events to be. Mr. Hurd recommended that the Board pick 1 to 4 events that would brand the City of Duncanville like the Blues Festival has the potentiality to do. Board member Hurd would like the Board itself to aid in advertising and getting the event information out to the community. During the discussion there was a request from Chairperson Johnson that Staff give an educational class regarding the budgeting process, so that the Board could understand the guidelines. Then possibly make suggestions for next fiscal year in branding and advertising. Vice-Chairperson Bell suggested that the Sandra Meadows Basketball tournament be one of those events to help brand the City of Duncanville. Board member Rodgers commented that National Night Out would be a great time to advertise with the captured audience at the Duncanville Fieldhouse. It was commonly decided by the Board to consider ways on getting the community engaged socially to participate in the City-sponsored events.
- C. **Update on FY15 Capital Projects** – Mr. Stevenson announced that the new LED sign should be in place by the next regular meeting in October. He continued that Red Bird Park would have

a Grand Re-opening on October 5, 2015 so the community could come and see the new playground and the new restroom. He confirmed that the batting cages had been installed at Harrington Park. He mentioned that the emergency generator for the library and recreation center had been delayed and he would update the Board at the next meeting. He explained to the Board that he would have a listing of all projects completed for the next meeting also.

- D. **Update on FY16 Budget Process** – Mr. Stevenson explained to the Board that three (3) of the neediest parks: Harrington, Willow Run and the east side of Lakeside would receive new playgrounds in the next fiscal year's budget. 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.

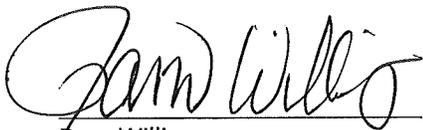
Item #4 – Discuss Revisions to Chapter 12-B of the Code of Ordinances:

Mr. Stevenson passed out a handout that he had prepared for the Board to look at that was divided into two (2) sections: 1). Issues and Concerns that Duncanville currently addresses in Chapter 12B of the Code of Ordinances; 2). Issues and Concerns for consideration in Chapter 12B of the Code of Ordinances. Each item was discussed regarding both sections. Some of the issues and concerns would need to be discussed at another meeting. Some will need to be decided on as an amendment to the ordinance. The last item listed in the second section refers to the new Open Carry Law which is discussed in Item #5.

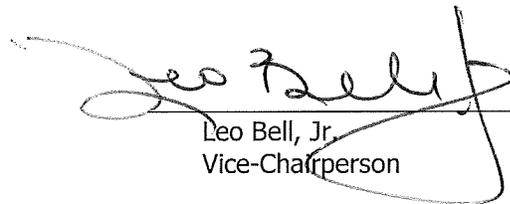
Item #5 – Discuss New Open Carry Law for Public Parks and Activities:

Mr. Stevenson passed out another handout for the Board to look at that provided information regarding the Open Carry Law that will go into effect on January 1, 2016. This handout gave specific activities or locations and discussed whether open carry was allowed or not. Then it gave the legal basis and Penal Codes that backed the decision. Mr. Stevenson assured the Board that the City Attorney was looking into the specifics for the parks and recreation center. He also told them that it was discussed at the DFW Directors meeting also. The Open Carry Law cannot prohibit anyone from carrying at a park, a park function or city event. Unless the law is amended, the City will have to be careful on how it is handled.

A motion was made by Board member Priest for adjournment; seconded by Chairperson Johnson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. unanimously.



Ram Willis
Recording Secretary



Leo Bell, Jr.
Vice-Chairperson