

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – MARCH 11, 2019 CITY HALL – BRIEFING ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alexander (Sandy) McLachlan, Chair
Reginald Hurd, Vice-Chair
Leo Bell, Jr.
Don Johnson
Beth Farrell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ed Priest
Pamela Rogers

Bart Stevenson, Director of Parks & Recreation, Timothy Hamilton, Parks Superintendent, Angie Martinez, Recording Secretary, and Officer Kamecha Johnston, Police Department were staff members present.

Guest included Ed Purcell, former mayor, and Elizabeth McIlrath of Dunaway.

Chair Alexander McLachlan noted that there was a quorum present and began the public meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

No one commented.

Item #2 – Discuss and Consider Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Board Member Leo Bell; seconded by Vice-Chair Reginald Hurd to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2019 Regular Meeting, and the February 11, 2019 Joint Meeting with City Council, passing 5-0 in favor.

Item #3 – Board Member Announcements:

Board Member Leo Bell stated that he plans to attend the next school board meeting to inquire about possible Wi-Fi at the parks at the expense of the school district.

Chair Alexander McLachlan commented that he read a post on the Nextdoor website about the Harrington gates not working. Chair McLachlan said he contacted Director Bart Stevenson with the information and it was rectified.

Chair Alexander McLachlan welcomed back Park Ranger, Officer Johnston.

Item #4 – Staff Reports:

A. Police/Park Ranger Report – Officer Johnston was present from the Police Department to give a report. Officer Johnston reported the following data for the month of February 2019:

- 57 self-initiated and calls for service
- 6 suspicious activities
- 4 reports – Alexander Park (criminal mischief), Lions Park (recovered stolen vehicle and possession of a controlled substance, Waterview Park (possession of a controlled substance).
- 2 arrests

B. Recent and Upcoming Events and Programs – Director Stevenson commented on the great turn out for the Daddy Daughter dance. He also stated that the upcoming Flavor of Duncanville will be held at the Duncanville High School on Thursday, March 14, 2019. Director Stevenson reminded everyone of the upcoming 2019 Boards and Commission Banquet to be held at the Duncanville Fieldhouse on Thursday, April 25, 2019 and to expect an invitation in the mail soon.

C. Bond Project Schedule Update – Director Stevenson provided a detailed bond project schedule to the board but advised the board that it not be shared with the public. He explained that the schedule is a collaboration from various departments.

Chair McLachlan asked board members to stay current on specific project updates: Leo Bell - Rotary Park; Don Johnson – Pavilion; Pamela Rogers – Harrington; Beth Farrell – Bike Trails.

D. Rental Policy Amendments – Director Stevenson commented that the City Manager would like to add discussion of use of facilities for political purposes.

E. Cedar Hill Leathers Playground Projects – Director Stevenson recommended for the board to take a tour of the new park and the existing splashpad in Cedar Hill, Texas. The date is to be determined pending confirmation of schedules.

Item #5 – Consider a Proposal by Mr. Ed Purcell for Improvements to Memorial Park:

Chair Alexander McLachlan welcomed Mr. Purcell. Mr. Purcell gave a brief history of the City of Duncanville’s memorials. Mr. Purcell is proposing to update the War Memorial at no expense to the city. The update will include a purchase of two new park benches, to sandblast the existing white rock, and to place a new plaque honoring those who have served in the military. He also stated that he will be requesting Governor Gregg Abbot to speak at the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony.

Board Member Don Johnson thanked Mr. Purcell for the memorial.

Director Stevenson recommended to review wording of the proposed new plaque before approval.

Vice-Chair Reginald Hurd requested for the city staff to contact the Cultural Affairs for a recommendation of a cleaning solution for the plaque.

Item #6 – Consider a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Concept Plan for Kidsville/Splash Pad at Armstrong Park:

Chair Alexander McLachlan welcomed back Elizabeth McIlrath of Dunaway. Ms. McIlrath commented that phase one of the project will be the demo and rebuild of Kidsville and to also add the splash pad.

Board Member Bell inquired about the lifespan of the proposed umbrellas for the new playground; Ms. McIlrath commented that the average lifespan for steel structured umbrellas is 50 years, and the shade fabric used is 10-12 years.

Board Member Farrell would like to see a bike option at the Meadows section of the park.

Board Member Bell inquired about the timeline for possible grant submittal for additional funding for the park; Director Stevenson stated that the October 1, 2019 is the first day to begin submitting grants.

A motion was made by Board Member Don Johnson; seconded by Vice-Chair Reginald Hurd to make the recommendation to go to City Council regarding the concept plan, passing 5-0 in favor.

Item #7 – Discuss the FY 19-20 Budget Process and Provide Input for Potential Park Projects for the One Time Project Fund:

Director Stevenson stated that the FY 19-20 budget kick off is scheduled for March 8, 2019. He commented that now is the time to think about one-time project suggestions to be considered for the upcoming fiscal year.

Vice-Chair Hurd would like to see the space between the tennis court and bus lot at Armstrong Park be made into a pump track. Vice-Chair Hurd also suggested the expansion of parking for Harrington Park in place of Nichols Park. Vice-Chair inquired if amenities for the splashpad project may be bought during the FY 19-20; Director Stevenson explained that amenities may only be purchased using bond money, and the one-time projects may not be used.

Chair McLachlan would like to see drainage improvements to Armstrong Park, as well as the removal of the tennis court to be replaced with a basketball court.

Item #8 – Discuss the Local Bike Plan and Consider Establishing a Committee to Assist with Prioritizing Trail Projects for the Bond Program:

Director Stevenson made a recommendation to establish a subcommittee to assist with prioritizing the trail projects.

Chair McLachlan suggested contacting upcoming Councilmember Anderson (District 3), and Councilmember Cooks (District 4) for consultation of proposed trail projects and bike plan.

The board agreed to establish the committee to include park board members Beth Farrell, Ed Priest, and Vice-Chair Reginald Hurd.

Item #9 – Review the Parks and Recreation Website and Provide Feedback for Improvements:

Director Stevenson commented that the City has a new Public Information Officer, April Reiling. He also explained that with the transition of the new PIO, access to the City website has been limited.

Vice-Chair Hurd commented that some of the updates requested have already been addressed and no further changes are needed.

Item #10 – Adjourn Regular Meeting:

A motion was made for the meeting to adjourn by Board Member Don Johnson; seconded by Vice-Chair Reginald Hurd. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.


Angie Martinez
Recording Secretary


Alexander (Sandy) McLachlan
Chair