

**PARKS BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
September 16, 2008**

Present: Terry Teague, Soledad Najera, Lupe Alvarez, T. A. Lopez, Lee Taylor, Carol Buttler, Assistant City Manager; Tim Fousse, Director of Public Works, and Sandra Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant.

Public: Mayor James W. Danner

Absent: Rali Blomstedt and Hamilton Duplessis

1. Call to order:

Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of June 17 and August 19, 2008 Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Najera to approve the June 17 and August 19, 2008 minutes with changes. Motion carried all ayes.

3. T.A. Lopez Park-Update on the Pavilion:

Mr. Fousse began the discussion by informing the board that the project was behind schedule due to the recent rain. They did pour the balance of the concrete for the piers. It may take 10 days before the erection of the building is started because the concrete has to dry up. The contract for the erection of the structure has already been signed. He also stated that the contractor has waited patiently for the concrete work to be completed and hopefully has not gone off to do another job.

Ms. Najera stated that Mr. Lopez had called her with concerns and questions regarding the change of the use of the pavilion. Mr. Fousse stated that he did not change the intended use of the pavilion and understood it was to be used as basketball courts with a cover over it for multi-use. Mr. Fousse also stated that the project was already in progress when he took over as Public Works Director. Mr. Fousse described the project in detail. Mr. Lopez went on to state that he recalls that the pavilion was to be used only as a pavilion and not a basketball court. He also stated that the courts are not being used and they have been there almost 10 years. Mr. Lopez also expressed his concerns with the height of the roof.

Mr. Teague reminded Mr. Lopez that the dual use of the pavilion has been discussed at several past meetings for almost 2 years. The board had a very lengthy discussion regarding the use of the pavilion and the height of the roof. Mr. Teague also stated that it was too late for the height of the roof to be changed since the material had already arrived and the project has been started.

Mayor Danner recommended that the city require citizens reserve the pavilion in order to avoid use conflicts.

Mr. Teague recommends that the concrete surface be re-done so it will not be too slippery. Mr. Fousse stated that there are plans to re-paint the concrete slab surface and install lighting at the pavilion.

At the consensus of the board, the basketball court poles and nets will remain for dual use of the pavilion.

Ms. Najera asked how soon the playground and timbers would be installed. Ms. Buttler stated that the contract for assistance with the Torres Unit has already been signed and they will try to get an additional crew to help if possible.

Mr. Fousse informed the board that T.A. Lopez Park is closed off in order to avoid any accidents.

Ms. Najera asked Mr. Fousse to report on the irrigation system for watering the trees at T.A. Lopez Park. Mr. Fousse stated that he did not have the report and will report on it at a later date.

4. Nature Trail Park Update:

Mr. Fousse began the discussion and referred to paragraph 5 of Mr. Denton's Nature Trail Park update. Mr. Denton states on the update that no work has been done to provide water and electricity services to the nature trail park. Mr. Fousse stated that some work has been done to provide utility services to the nature trail and considers the statement to be inaccurate. Ms. Buttler asked Mr. Fousse to let them know what has been done. Therefore, Mr. Fousse explained in detail what has been done.

Mr. Teague & Ms. Najera expressed their concerns regarding the deadline for the completion of the project and recommends that the extension letter be prepared and sent out. Ms. Buttler stated that she and Ms. Hardin have discussed the preparation of the extension letter and Ms. Hardin suggested preparing it in October. By doing so, staff will know how far along the project is and we will have a better idea of how much time the city will need to request.

Ms. Taylor asked if the all the plants have been ordered. Ms. Buttler stated that she has not ordered any plants.

Ms. Najera asked Ms. Buttler about the status of the drawing regarding the bridges and observations decks that the engineer was to submit, benches, reimbursement from Texas Parks & Wildlife, removal of weeds, payment of invoice for the gravel, update on what has been paid, letter of waiver for the Hondo Garden Club-entrance, letter for the Hondo Garden Club donation,

Ms. Buttler responded to Ms. Najera's concerns and also informed her that she reported at the August meeting that the letter of waiver had been completed.

Other items discussed:

The groundbreaking ceremony for the nature trail, drainage issues, amphitheatre, concrete work at 3 areas, railing issues for safety, 4,352 ft. of fencing, butterfly garden, water recycling, arrival of the gazebo.

The board had a very lengthy discussion regarding the fencing of the trail park.

5. Discuss and consider rules and procedures for conducting board business:

The board discussed the procedures for placing items on the agenda and it was consensus of the board to submit agenda items by noon on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Ms. Najera expressed her concerns regarding items that were not placed on this meeting's agenda. She referred to the list of completed work for the parks and the Sports Complex. Ms. Najera stated that she would like to see those 2 items on the next agenda. Ms. Buttler stated that she will place them on next month's agenda.

Ms. Najera expressed her concerns regarding the name change addition of the word "advisory" on the agenda and the minutes. She referred to the ordinance and it was determined that even though the board is an advisory board, it should be referred to as the "Hondo Parks Board" and therefore the word advisory should be left off.

6. Comments from public:

Mayor Danner commended the board for their hard work. He also stated that there is a lot of work to be done and for them to have patience with all the City Departments.

7. Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Alvarez and seconded by Ms. Taylor

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to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 21st DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008.

TERRY TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN