

**PARKS BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 21, 2008**

**Present:** Terry Teague, Soledad Najera, Lupe Alvarez, Lee Taylor, Rali Blomstedt, Hamilton Duplessis, Carol Buttler, Assistant City Manager; and Sandra Rodriguez, Deputy City Secretary.

**Absent:** T.A. Lopez

**1. Call to order:**

Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of September 16, 2008 Minutes:**

Motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to approve the September 16, 2008 minutes with changes. Motion carried all ayes.

**4. Nature Trail Park Update:**

Before the discussion began, Mr. Teague reported that he spoke to the City Council at last night's meeting regarding a letter Ms. Najera prepared for the City Council from the Parks Board requesting an additional \$75,000 for FY 2008/2009.

Ms. Buttler informed Ms. Najera that \$50,000 was initially included it in the first budget draft, but was removed during preliminary budget cuts.

The board discussed other items such as the possibility of Parks budget cuts, grant money, and the completion of current parks projects before beginning another park.

Ms. Buttler explained the grant process, requirements, and expense sheets. She also explained how the original \$75,000 was spent. The board had a lengthy discussion regarding the grant money. Ms. Buttler stated that the City would request a summary along with the reimbursement check from Texas Parks & Wildlife.

Ms. Taylor asked about the volunteers for the Nature Trail Park. Ms. Buttler stated that the earth team coverage is limited and therefore the volunteers will also sign a hold harmless agreement.

Ms. Buttler also reported that the City will request a one- year extension from Texas Parks & Wildlife for the completion of the nature trail. She stated that she and Ms. Hardin have already worked on the extension letter and it will be submitted.

Mr. Teague asked Ms. Buttler how far along the trail park project was to this date. Ms. Buttler informed the board that she, Mr. Denton, and Ms. Najera have all met and they are trying to get the final quotes for the trail preparation. She also stated that the Governor has placed all prisons on lockdown and that may hurt the work progress.

Ms. Najera reported that Mr. Whan is working on the specifications for the gravel and timbers and will forward them to Ms. Buttler for the bid process. She also reported that half of the water line is in place at the trail.

Ms. Najera stated that she had already spoken to Mr. Arcos regarding the electrical work for the nature trail. She also spoke about the fence work for the buffer line.

Ms. Najera asked Mr. Teague to remind the board about the groundbreaking ceremony on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and asked the board to try to attend.

Ms. Najera thanked the Hondo Garden Club for their donation of \$21,000. Mr. Teague stated that he would like for Ms. Taylor and Ms. Najera to thank the Hondo Garden Club on behalf of the Hondo Parks Board for all their hard work and donations.

**3. Sports Complex:**

Mr. Fousse was not available to report on this item.

Mr. Duplessis reported on his site visit. He asked if there will be a concession stand and restrooms at the complex.

Ms. Buttler stated that the complex will eventually have a concession stand and restrooms. What was really wanted for the complex was cost prohibitive at the time. Mr. Duplessis stated that the temporary restrooms are not handicap accessible. Ms. Buttler stated that staff will be out there as soon as time allows. They have several other projects they are working on.

Mr. Teague informed Mr. Duplessis that the restrooms and the concession stand were costly and therefore were postponed until a later date.

The board also discussed the maintenance of the fields throughout the entire year, not just during the season. Mr. Teague stated that he had already mentioned it to Mr. Sandoval.

The board had a very lengthy discussion regarding the slope of the outfield, irrigation, and Little League tournaments in Hondo.

Ms. Najera recommends that Mr. Teague and Mr. Duplessis get together regarding the fields and report back at the next meeting.

**5. T. A. Lopez Park-Pavilion Update:**

Mr. Fousse was not available to report on this item.

Ms. Buttler stated that she will report on what she knows and therefore reported that the piers and the concrete work is completed and they were supposed to start the installation of the pavilion a week ago. Ms. Buttler stated that she would find what the delay is.

Ms. Taylor stated that Mr. Fousse needs to attend all the Parks Board meetings.

**6. Updated list of completed parks maintenance:**

Mr. Fousse was not available to assist Ms. Buttler with this report of this item.

Ms. Buttler reported and referred to the list of the parks maintenance. She stated that the first things completed were the safety issues that were brought to staff's attention and therefore consider the list a draft.

Ms. Najera stated that according to the list, there are too many things pending to be completed. Ms. Buttler stated that there may be more things that have been completed, but she has not had a response from Public Works.

Mr. Duplessis had questions regarding the maintenance list. Mr. Teague informed Mr. Duplessis that a while back, the board had visited all the parks and compiled a list of maintenance needs. Mr. Duplessis and Ms. Najera suggested that all the work be done at one time at each park and therefore, that park could have all their maintenance issues resolved. Ms. Buttler stated that due to several other projects, and the different departments that perform the maintenance, it is difficult to get all the departments together at one time to perform these maintenance repairs. She also stated that the prison squads were not available to assist with these issues.

The board had a lengthy discussion regarding the maintenance list and how it is being completed.

Mr. Teague recommended that staff update the list and bring it back to the next meeting.

The board recommends that Mr. Fousse bring some department heads that could answer questions that he does not know.

**7. Discuss upcoming budget cuts and implications:**

Mr. Teague reported that he and Ms. Taylor attended the City Council meeting and they expressed their concerns regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Parks Department.

Council has not decided exactly what the budget cuts are and therefore, Mr. Teague stated that he did not have anything else to report.

**8. Comments from the public:**

Ms. Najera announced that she would like for the board members that are attending the groundbreaking ceremony to arrive at 9:00 a.m.

**9. Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, motion was made by Ms. Najera and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008.**

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TERRY TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN