

**PARKS BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
February 26, 2008**

Present: Terry Teague, Soledad Najera, Bill Grimes, Rali Blomstedt, Lupe Alvarez, Lee Taylor, T. A. Lopez (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Carol Buttler, Assistant City Manager; and Yolanda C. Benitez, City Secretary.

1. Call to order:

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

2. Approval of January 15, 2008 Minutes

Soledad Najera pointed out changes to the minutes as follows:

- On page 2, under the “Sports Complex” report, Ms. Najera requested that some additional verbiage be added; however, City Secretary Yolanda Benitez listened to the tapes and could not decipher what Ms. Najera was trying to say. Therefore, Ms. Benitez will schedule a meeting with Ms. Najera in order to get the appropriate language and the minutes will be brought back at the next regular meeting for Board approval.
- Also on page 2, under Item 5. Discuss and consider Alcohol Ordinance – Sports Complex vs. T. A. Lopez Park: Ms. Najera stated that the board had actually approved the Ordinance as presented. These changes will be made and brought back to the next meeting for Board approval.

3. Presentation by Ray Vernon of Exerplay Corporation – Playground Equipment

Mr. Vernon provided each of the board members with a brochure displaying the different types of playground equipment available. He stated that they are the largest company in the world, having been started in the late 60’s. Mr. Vernon also pointed out that we can design our own structures and that they would take approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery. The approximate cost per structure, such as the type that the Board is interested in would be \$38,000 to \$40,000 plus installation, which he stated he would supervise.

4. Rick Taylor Center: Citizen Observations

Chairman Teague read a letter received by Ms. Maryann Pringle concerning problems and concerns she had with the Rick Taylor Recreation Center. Assistant City Manager Carol Buttler noted that she and Rec Center Manager Nufie Rodriguez had met with Ms. Pringle prior to the meeting and her issues are being addressed. Chairman Teague stated that he would meet with Ms. Buttler and make a decision on the issues brought to their attention. Ms. Buttler emphasized that the Parks Board does not have jurisdiction over the daily operations of the Rec Center; and that the Rec Center staff reports directly to her. Therefore, she will address any and all issues concerning the Recreation Center. Chairman Teague directed the staff to send a copy of the letter from Ms. Pringle to the Mayor and Council.

5. Nature Trail Update by Craig Denton

Mr. Denton reported that the area has been cleared; however, a large number of trees still need to be removed. Chairman Teague inquired about having a company in San Antonio haul off the limbs and brush. A lengthy discussion then followed with regard to this issue. Ms. Najera reviewed a letter which Mr. Denton sent to Ms. Buttler and also noted the responses from Ms. Buttler.

The letter to the FAA has not been sent yet.

A meeting has already been held with Vulcan Materials and another one will be held this week in order to create a plan.

Ms. Najera reported that the Everchange Students work every Friday with the girls coming one week and the boys the next week.

The illegal dumping sign will be posted this week.

The board spoke of the recommendation they made, at the beginning of the project, to have the Finance Officer establish two (2) accounts for the Nature Trail Project to keep track of donations and expenditures; one for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant and the other for additional expenditures of the Nature Trail not covered by the grant. Ms. Buttler stated that she has met with the Finance Officer and she has offered alternatives for handling the Nature Trail revenues and expenses. She also pointed out that the only authorized signers for the Nature Trail will be the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Secretary.

6. T. A. Lopez Park: Pavilion Update

Parks Manager Felipe Sandoval reported that three (3) Monterrey Oak trees, donated by the Hondo Garden Club, are currently being planted and he should be done within the next couple of weeks. Ms. Najera stated that two (2) crepe myrtles are to be added, which are being donated by the Hondo Garden Club. The Arbor Day ceremony is planned for April 15th and everyone is invited. Mr. Lopez complimented Mr. Sandoval on the beautification which has taken place at the park.

7. Sports Complex: Restrooms and Fields Update by Robert Byerly

Request was made for the contract for the sports complex. Mr. Grimes commented that the sports complex has a lot of deficiencies. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Najera asked why the engineer or the city staff did not follow the Little League requirements.

8. Recognize Chamber Award Recipients: Bill & Janie Grimes, Soledad Najera, and Recognize Richard Torres & Family for donation of park.

Chairman Teague recognized Soledad Najera for receiving the Citizen of the Year award at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet; as well as Bill & Janie Grimes for their Special Award.

9. Comments from the public

None

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by Soledad Najera and seconded by Rali Blomstedt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2008.

TERRY TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN