

**PARKS BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
March 17, 2009**

Present: Soledad Najera, Chairperson; Hamilton Duplessis, Vice Chair; Lupe Alvarez, T. A. Lopez, John Polizzi, Cassandra Correa, Lucille Boone, Robert T. Herrera, City Manager, Tim Fousse, Director of Public Works & Aviation, Crain Denton, Nature Trail & Park Project Manager, and Sandra R. Torres, Deputy City Secretary.

1. Call to order:

Chairman Najera called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Alvarez led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizen Comments:

None

4. Approval of February 24, 2009:

Motion was made by Mr. Duplessis and seconded by Mr. Alvarez to approve the minutes with the changes made by Ms. Najera. Motion carried 6 to 0; with Mr. Polizzi abstaining.

5. Discuss and Consider Hondo Nature Trail & Park Recommendation:

Ms. Najera introduced Mr. Stuart Franke of the Hondo Nature Trail & Park Committee.

Mr. Franke began his update and stated that per Ms. Najera's request, he put together some cost estimates for the irrigation system for the nature trail. He described in detail the system and the work that needs to be completed for the installation.

Mr. Franke asked Ms. Najera if she had the list of cost estimates. Ms. Najera stated that she did have the list and it was also submitted to the Texas Parks & Wildlife as required when the City requested an extension for the project. Mr. Franke explained the list of cost estimates.

Ms. Najera thanked Mr. Franke for his presentation and also announced that the display stands were received.

Mr. Herrera stated that he would look at the estimate list and put together a bid specification in order to meet the grant requirement.

Mr. Denton informed the board that the City approached Mr. Franke and requested his guidance because it was understood that the Texas Parks & Wildlife would not grant the City an extension for the park unless the City provided specifications for irrigation. However, later on it was known that the specifications were for the future, not for the extension.

Mr. Herrera suggested having a meeting with the Nature Trail & Park sub-committee in regards to the irrigation system. He also stated that the items in the grant should be completed first in order to be in good standing with Texas Parks & Wildlife for

future grant requests.

Mr. Herrera recommended fulfilling the grant obligations first.

It was consensus of the board to schedule a Nature Trail & Park sub-committee meeting.

Mr. Denton made closing comments regarding his job and the decisions needed to be made in order to complete of the project.

Mr. Herrera also made closing comments regarding the requirements

Ms. Najera also made comments and asked Ms. Correa to read a memo she received on Saturday regarding the nature trail. Ms. Najera also requests a formal response as to why the recommended proposals for the nature trail were not accepted.

Mr. Herrera informed Ms. Najera that quotes were not accepted because it appeared that the bid was being split and that may be a violation of state law.

Mr. Fousse stated that he is working on bid specifications that will include all the facets of the project in order to avoid any future problems.

Ms. Najera had questions regarding the advertisement of the bid and requests that it also be published in the Medina Valley Times.

Ms. Najera addressed concerns regarding the time line for this project. She stated that the work should already be done and the board has been discussing this for the past 7 months.

Mr. Denton explained to the board how he handled the quotes. He also suggested that all the board members meet at the nature trail park and look at what needs to be done. Mr. Polizzi agreed with Mr. Denton's suggestion. Therefore, it was consensus of the board to schedule a Nature Trail & Park sub-committee meeting.

Mr. Franke also had closing comments regarding the importance of moving forward and completing the project.

After a continued discussion, Ms. Najera announced that she would be proceeding to Item #6

Motion was made by Mr. Polizzi and seconded by Mr. Alvarez to fulfill the necessities of the grant. Motion carried 7 to 0.

6. Discuss and Consider Skate Park –Landscaping & Irrigation:

Ms. Najera asked Mr. Fousse to update the board on the status of the irrigation. Mr. Fousse stated that he was not aware of having to give a presentation. Ms. Najera asked if he could update the board on the status of the irrigation for the skate park.

Mr. Fousse informed the board of the Edward Aquifer rules regarding irrigation.

Ms. Najera stated that the City has a budget for irrigation. Mr. Fousse stated that the

budget was only for the ball fields and other parks and the skate park was not included.

Ms. Najera stated that the board had recommended irrigation for the skate park. Mr. Fousse stated that he was not aware of the recommendation and was not in charge of putting the budget together.

The board continued the discussion and informed Mr. Fousse that the irrigation was needed for the landscaping the Boy Scouts were going to do near the berm area. Mr. Duplessis informed Mr. Herrera of his safety concerns near the berm area.

Mr. Herrera stated that the safety factor will be taken care of first. He also stated that a release form should be signed for 3rd party work to be completed.

The board discussed the different ways to fill the berm area.

Mr. Polizzi stated that he was for xeriscaping of the park.

Motion made by Mr. Duplessis and seconded by Ms. Correa to proceed with the landscaping plans and table the irrigation for further review. Motion carried 7 to 0.

7. T. A. Lopez Park Update:

Mr. Fousse informed the board that staff has met with Mr. Lopez and discussed his concerns regarding the amenities the park should have. Mr. Fousse provided a two-page overview drawing of what Mr. Lopez would for the park.

Mr. Fousse described the amenities in detail

The board also discussed fencing issues, concrete walkways, benches, picnic tables, and barbeque pits.

Mr. Herrera also commented regarding the use of the pavilion.

Ms. Najera referred to the Parks Master Plan and stated that the construction of the pavilion at T.A. Lopez Park was prioritized and moved up to FY 2007/2008 from 2008/2010.

It was consensus of the board that the basketball court nets be removed and the pavilion only be used for family outings.

8. Discuss and Consider Arbor Day Celebration:

Ms. Najera explained the proposed Arbor Day celebration and showed Arbor Day Foundation cards. She asked that each member donate a tree. She asked the board for ideas regarding the celebration. Board members did not have any ideas

Motion made by Mr. Duplessis and seconded by Ms. Correa to table the item. Motion carried 7 to 0.

9. Torres Park Update:

Ms. Najera reported that the City Council accepted the Parks Board recommendation for the Torres Park.

10. Discuss and Consider recommendations to amend Parks Board Ordinance #854-06-06:

Ms. Najera asked if the members had time to read the ordinance. She also informed the board members of the City Council's action in changing the term limits. Ms. Najera stated that new limits are two 3-year terms.

Ms. Najera asked Mrs. Torres to read the ordinance aloud.

The board had a brief discussion regarding the ordinance and how the changes would affect the current board members. Mr. Fousse explained the changes to the board. It was consensus of the board to bring the item back at the next meeting.

11. Adjourn:

Ms. Correa motioned and Mr. Duplessis seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7 to 0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 16TH DAY OF JUNE, 2009.

HAMILTON DUPLESSIS, VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:

Sandra R. Torres, Deputy City Secretary