

**PARKS BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
April 21, 2009**

Present: Soledad Najera, Chairperson; Hamilton Duplessis, Vice Chair; John Polizzi, Cassandra Correa, Lucille Boone, Robert T. Herrera, City Manager, James W. Danner, Mayor, Tim Fousse, Director of Public Works & Aviation, and Sandra R. Torres, Deputy City Secretary.

Absent: T. A. Lopez and Lupe Alvarez

1. Call to order:

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. Boone led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizen Comments:

Ms. Najera asked why items #8 & #9 were placed on the agenda. Mr. Herrera explained to the board.

4. Approval of March 10, 2009 Special Meeting and March 17, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Najera and seconded by Mr. Polizzi to table the minutes until further review. Motion carried 5 to 0.

5. Status Report – Hondo Nature Trail & Park:

Mr. Fousse began his report by informing the board that he had met with the Nature Trail Committee and discussed the results from the survey work done by Mr. Rothe and his associates in reference to the trail and slope issues. He also stated that he is waiting for clarification from Margret Harding in reference to application with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in reference to ADA accessibility of the park. He stated that the trail on the northern edge of the park, along FM 462 will not be able to be constructed ADA accessible.

Mr. Fousse explained the trail issues in more detail and stated that the total feet of trail would be approximately 6,000 ft. He also stated that Margaret Hardin is working on getting the correction/clarification from the Texas Parks & Wildlife to get the trail issues completed.

Mr. Polizzi stated that it was a bad idea for irrigation, especially at this time with the current water restrictions. Ms. Najera stated that irrigation is in the grant.

Other items discussed:

- concrete for the 2 low water crossing areas
- walking bridges; engineer preliminary plans ready by Thursday or Friday
- gravel material for the trails
- specifications for the trails

- specifications for the septic tank
- removal of one water main for the septic tank
- irrigation issues

6. Status Report-Skate Park:

Mr. Fousse reported that he had received quotes to enclose the concrete structure located on the eastern edge of the park. He stated that a small concrete footer will be built and then seal it off with a cynder block wall.

7. Acknowledge the donation of two (2) trees by Soledad Najera for the Arbor Day Celebration:

Ms. Boone and Mr. Polizzi acknowledged the donation of the cedar elm trees.

Ms. Najera asked Mr. Fousse and Mr. Herrera if they would allow the trees to be planted at the skate park. One will be planted on the east side and one on the west side. The planting will take place on Tuesday, April 28th at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Fousse stated that he would have the area ready. Ms. Najera also recommended the placement of dedication plaques for each tree; one for the 2009 Park Board members and the other for her son, Jose Luis Najera, who initiated the skate park project.

8. Hold and Executive Session pursuant to § 551.071 (Consultations with Attorney), to discuss legal issues related to claims asserted against City Commissioners, Boards, and/or Board Members. (City Attorney Perez)

The board had questions and concerns regarding this item. City Attorney Perez explained the item in full detail.

Motion made by Ms. Boone and seconded by Ms. Correa to table the item. Motion carried 4 to 0; with Mr. Polizzi abstaining.

9. Hold an Executive Session pursuant to § 551.074 (Personnel Matters) concerning the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against a public officer or employee. (City Attorney Perez)

The board had questions and concerns regarding this item. City Attorney Perez explained this item in full detail.

Motion made by Ms. Boone and seconded by Ms. Correa to table the item. Motion carried 4 to 0; with Mr. Polizzi abstaining.

10. Adjourn:

Ms. Correa motioned and Ms. Boone seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 to 0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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

HAMILTON DUPLESSIS, VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:

Sandra R. Torres, Deputy City Secretary