

**PARKS BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 20, 2008**

**Present:** Terry Teague, Soledad Najera, Lee Taylor, Rali Blomstedt, Lupe Alvarez, Carol Buttler, Assistant City Manager; Nufie Rodriguez, Recreation Director, Abby DeLeon, Assistant Recreation Director, Felipe Sandoval, Parks & Grounds Manager, Craig Denton, Nature Trail Project Manager, and Sandra Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant.

Public: John Whan.

**Absent:** T.A. Lopez and Bill Grimes

**1. Call to order:**

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

**2. Approval of April 15, 2008 Minutes:**

Ms. Buttler reminded the board that the April 15, 2008 meeting was not an official meeting, due to lack of a quorum.

Motion was made by Ms. Najera and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to approve minutes with additions. Motion carried all ayes.

**3. Introduction of Public Works Director Tim Fousse:**

Chairman Teague announced that Mr. Fousse was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

**4. Receive presentation on new signage for all City Parks:**

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was aware that the board had previously discussed the need for signage for all city parks and asked them to bear with him. He presented a power point presentation illustrating the sign format and park rules. Mr. Rodriguez informed the board that the sign format would be the same as Hondo's famous God's Country sign. He stated that he received a quote from Sign-A-Rama for the amount of \$3,900 per sign. He stated that he did not hear back from the local sign business on Ave. M. The board discussed the type of material and color for the signs, quotes from local sign companies, and a total of 8 signs for all parks.

**5. Discuss and consider recommendation of signage for all City Parks:**

Motion was made by Mr. Alvarez and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to approve the signage format and color for all City Parks. Motion carried all ayes.

Chairman Teague instructed Mr. Rodriguez to continue looking into different prices for the signs and present them at a later meeting.

**6. Status Reports:**

**T. A. Lopez Park:**

Ms. Buttler reported that the pavilion has been ordered and we are awaiting its arrival. She further stated that staff is trying to get local bids for the installation. Ms. Buttler informed the board that the cost for the materials is \$23,000, with the total budgeted amount being \$60,000. The completion date is scheduled for the end of July. She also stated that three (3) formal quotes are required. A few of the board members inquire with regard to the types of material and size of the structure, for which the staff provided explanation.

Ms. Buttler reported that staff performed research concerning the 60' easement at the park. Staff will continue their research in order to determine the ownership of the easement. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Najera suggested ending the discussion until further information is provided. Chairman Teague stated that he would get information from Mr. Graff regarding the sale of the

property to Mr. Bradley.

**Nature Trail Park:**

Mr. Denton reported that the project should be completed within 60 days, depending on several issues which need to be decided on. He stated that the inner trail is 90% determined and is ready to be laid out and dozed, once the railroad ties are received. These should start coming in within the next two to three weeks. Mr. Denton also stated that they have received seven loads from Vulcan Materials, which are being delivered two to three loads a day and delivery should be complete by the end of May.

Mr. Denton stated that decisions regarding the rental of a dozer or contracting out the layout work need to be made. He described, in detail, what has been done and what needs to be done at the site. A lengthy discussion followed. The following issues were discussed:

- Certificate of City Liability Insurance
- Maintenance of Rental Equipment
- Availability and cost of a City Full-Time Equipment Operator
- Pros and Cons of renting and contracting out
- Monthly rental fee for a DC4 Dozer-\$2,700
- Sizes of Dozer Equipment
- Collision Insurance for rental equipment
- Reason for the delay in setting up the accounts
- West end restrooms
- Weed Control
- Gazebos
- Butterfly Garden
- Deepening of the west end of the pond
- Buffer Area on the south end
- Old water line going to Mr. Saathoff
- Final decision needed for electrical work
- Hydraulic Study
- The recommendation by John Whan to prepare a letter to Texas Parks & Wildlife requesting a one year extension

Ms. Najera suggested meeting with Public Works Director Tim Fousse to discuss the equipment operator from the Street Department. She also suggested the Mr. Denton check what type of insurance coverage is available through the equipment company and Ms. Buttler will decide on Friday during a meeting with Ms. Najera and Mr. Denton at 9:00 a.m.

It was consensus of the board that the extension letter be prepared. Ms. Buttler stated that she will get with Margaret Hardin to draft a letter and hold it.

**Swimming Pool:**

Ms. Taylor stated that the landscaping needs to be completed by opening day. She stated that she had talked to Mr. Sandoval regarding this need and he assured her it will be done.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the pool is already open and parties are already in progress. Chairman Teague asked about the water aerobic classes due to comments he received from a citizen regarding the availability of the classes. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the classes will be held and he will put up

flyers to inform the citizens.

**7. Receive presentation of playground equipment:**

Mr. Wood passed out handouts regarding the equipment and made his presentation. He addressed the following issues:

- safety
- fall zone materials and quotes
- borders
- installation cost-\$45.00 per hr., trip time, and per diem
- installation by City must be supervised
- supervision quotes
- installation by volunteers
- colors of equipment

Ms. Najera asked Mr. Wood why the current price quote was different from the last one, and Mr. Wood stated that the cost of materials had increased. He further noted that the previous quote was only good for six months.

Ms. Najera asked for sealer recommendations in his proposal, and about the guarantee. Mr. Wood stated everything contains a 10-year guarantee. Mr. Wood continued his presentation and stated that he would get quotes on materials to Ms. Najera.

**8. Discuss and consider recommendation of playground equipment for T. A. Lopez Park and Nature Trail Park:**

After Mr. Rodriguez made his presentation, Chairman Teague stated that he would get the information regarding the easement to Ms Buttler, after which a special meeting regarding the playground equipment recommendation and dozer information will be called.

It was consensus of the board to schedule a special meeting for next Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

**9. Comments from public:**

None

**10. 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 7:59 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2008.**

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TERRY TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN