

**PARKS BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
June 17, 2008**

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

Public: Richard Wood

**Absent:** T.A. Lopez

**1. Call to order:**

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

**2. Approval of January 15, February 26, May 20, and May 27, 2008 Minutes:**

Motion was made by Ms. Blomstedt and seconded by Ms. Najera to approve the January 15, 2008 minutes as written and approve the minutes of February 26, May 20, and May 27, 2008 with additions. Motion carried all ayes.

**6. Discuss and consider recommendation of playground equipment for Nature Trail Park:**

Ms. Buttler stated that Mr. Denton invited Mr. Wood to attend tonight's meeting, since he was in the area. Ms. Buttler went on to explain the purchasing procedures and stated that staff was working on obtaining three required quotes, if no one is on the buy board.

She stated that the Parks Board is in charge of making a recommendation if they want staff to pursue a wood constructed playground. She stated that staff will make all efforts to get the quote information needed and award the bid at staff level, based on the information received.

Ms. Najera requested clarification from Mr. Wood regarding the installation assistance. Mr. Wood clarified and went over the nine steps installation instructions. He stated that he would submit the installation instructions and if accurately followed, there should be no problems. He recommends gig framing and for his production manager to be here for the installation; the estimated cost for him to be here is \$990.

Mr. Wood informed the board and staff that he has a strict company policy; he will not bid or enter the bidding process of any job that does not have precise and specific bid specifications. He explained in greater detail.

Ms. Najera requested sample materials and asked about color schemes. Ms. Taylor asked if the siding and handrails are available in several colors. Mr. Wood stated that there are several colors available.

Ms. Najera requested that Mr. Wood get with Mr. Denton and present at least 2 options.

Motion was made by Ms. Najera and seconded by Ms. Taylor to recommend Playwood Playground equipment for the Nature Trail Park. Motion carried all ayes.

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

Mr. Teague introduced Mr. Fousse to the board. Mr. Fousse explained his efforts and intentions as Public Works Director and stated that all his departments will be working together to ensure the best service for the citizens of Hondo.

**4. Discuss and consider recommendation for Parks Board Member:**

Ms. Taylor began the discussion and stated that Mr. M.I. Stevens is interested in serving on the Parks Board.

Mr. Teague stated that Mr. Hamilton Duplessis is interested in serving on the Parks Board and read

some personal information on Mr. Duplessis.

Motion was made by Ms. Najera and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Hamilton Duplessis to the Parks Board. Motion carried all ayes.

**5. Discuss and consider recommendation of playground equipment for T.A. Lopez Park:**

Ms. Najera started the discussion and informed the board that the price clarification information is in the packet. Mr. Rodriguez informed the board that there was an error/misprint regarding the prices of the playground equipment. Ms. Najera stated that the correct price for the equipment is \$15,577.97. The budgeted amount for the project is \$20,000.

Ms. Najera announced that a gentleman working on a re-construction project is willing to donate rail road ties for the T.A. Lopez Park. She stated that she would get with Mr. Rodriguez regarding the rail road ties and the material for the bottom of the playground equipment.

The board also discussed color schemes for the playground equipment.

Motion was made by Mr. Alvarez and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to accept the Miracle Playground equipment quote for \$15,577.97. Motion carried all ayes.

**7. Discuss and consider plans for Highway 90 landscape:**

Mr. Teague asked Mr. Fousse to explain the status on the Hwy. 90 Project. Mr. Fousse informed the board that due to right of way issues between TxDOT and the rail road, the project was delayed for 6 months from the time it was awarded to the time it was supposed to start. The issues are being resolved. He stated that the project should start on October 6, 2008 and will be done different that the previous project on the west side of town. This project will start on the west side and move east. The road portion of the project will be compartmentalized into groups and each section will be completed before moving on to the next section. The project is expected to take 18 months to complete.

Ms. Taylor expressed concerns regarding the poor maintenance and the need for watering at Memorial Park, Hwy 90, and the swimming pool. She also asked about the sidewalks along the south of the highway. Mr. Fousse stated that it would be rebuilt and would go all the way through town.

Ms. Najera stated that the board has concerns regarding irrigation issues. Mr. Fousse informed the board that the plants and trees along the highway are obviously in harms way and the construction of this project will be very extensive. He informed the board that TxDOT will be installing a large diameter pipe for the drainage system on the north side of the highway and may conflict with an existing utility structure. The storm water will move along the north side of the highway, through town and down to Elm Slough. Mr. Fousse informed the board that the marker and stars will have to be moved.

Ms. Najera asked how many feet would the project take. Mr. Fousse stated that there is no telling how many feet, but it will be a significant impact on the green space between the rail road tracks and the highway.

He also suggested that the Parks Board work with the Garden Club to save the trees and plants that can be saved and replanted. Mr. Teague asked if TxDOT replaces what is lost. Mr. Fousse stated "No". Ms. Taylor suggested replanting what is saved at the Nature Trail Park. The board discussed options on how to go about saving what can be saved. Mr. Fousse stated that with the addition of the Sports Complex, Nature Trail and 8 acres of cemetery land to start clearing, it would be impossible for the Parks Department to take on such a task. Mr. Teague suggested on getting volunteers to help

or meet with the Garden Club and Mr. Fousse to come up with a plan.

Mr. Fousse stated that he should have the TxDOT plans for the Hwy. 90 project showing how much green space will be left to work with. He also explained the irrigation issues and the fact that Mr. Friesenhan is pushing to have the irrigation added back to the plans. However, it probably will not happen due to the fact that TxDOT is rapidly running out of money and we are fortunate that this project was not cut. Mr. Fousse continued the lengthy discussion in more detail.

Other items discussed: recycling issues, a pre-construction meeting within 30 days, city lease with rail road, Ave. I & Ave. P closure will allow additional area for landscaping.

**8. Staff Status Reports:**

**T.A. Lopez Park:**

Mr. Fousse began the discussion by announcing that the pavilion should be delivered in 4 weeks, around mid July and the blue prints for the footers are expected to arrive tomorrow. Mr. Fousse stated that several contractors will be needed to erect the pavilion. Mr. Fousse stated that he had concerns with security issues once the material is delivered. Ms. Najera suggested contacting Mr. Morin, the adjacent property owner to keep an eye out. Mr. Fousse stated that he would get with the Police Department to get extra patrol of the area and get some neighbors to participate. Ms. Buttler suggested setting up temporary lighting. Mr. Fousse explained in detail the erection process. Ms. Najera asked if the bid process was necessary. Mr. Fousse explained bid/quote process for the pavilion.

**Nature Trail:**

Ms. Buttler started the discussion by informing the board that a copy of the letter from TxDOT and the City Manager's agreement with all the terms and conditions, were provided in the packet. Ms. Butter thanked Mr. Fousse for being instrumental in obtaining the documents. She stated that everyone needs to understand that aviation takes precedence over anything and yes they have allowed the City to use the area as a park, but the primary use is aviation. Ms. Buttler stated that it is also a significant piece of the City's flood control.

Ms. Najera recommended that Ms. Buttler work on a resolution for the land. Ms. Buttler stated that she had already contacted Ms. Hardin regarding the resolution.

Mr. Fousse recommended that all the board members read the letter from TxDOT to fully understand it.

Based on the letter received from TxDOT, it was consensus of the board to direct staff to prepare the resolution to present to City Council. Mr. Teague announced that the resolution would be presented to City Council at the July 21<sup>st</sup> City Council meeting and stated that he would like all members to attend.

Ms. Najera stated that she would present an update of the Nature Trail Park to the City Council on July 7<sup>th</sup> and would like everyone to attend. She also stated that she will have a presentation at the next Medina County Commissioner's Court meeting.

**9. Discuss and consider recommendations for 2008/2009 Budget:**

The Board discussed landscaping, irrigation, and watering issues for Memorial Park. Mr. Sandoval stated that he was instructed not to water due to the lack of rain. Mr. Fousse stated that the City is

under strict watering restrictions at this time and also stated that the City has been informed to cut back on water pumping by 20%.

Mr. Sandoval explained his future plans for the new Highway 90 landscaping. Ms. Najera and Ms. Taylor stated that the Garden Club is willing to help with landscaping etc.

The board went into detail discussion on the following needs:

- Swimming Pool-spraying along the fence, resurfacing the tennis courts, irrigation system, signs missing, broken lights, painting of benches
- Sunset Park-resurfacing of the walking track and a sign indicating the distance walked
- Skatepark-filling of the holes along the concrete, check the contract with Rex Ramps, replacing old playground equipment, fix broken benches, sign for the men's room, painting the restrooms, volleyball & basketball nets missing, grills missing

Ms. Najera recommends coming up with a yearly budget plan for landscaping, irrigation, etc.

Mr. Fousse requests a list of the projects. He will need the list for the upcoming budget process.

**10. Comments:**

Mr. Denton stated that the Nature Trail Project needs to be included in the budget. It will be up and running after the budget is approved.

Mr. Fousse stated that additional staff is being considered for the Parks Department due to the additional work load with all the new projects.

Ms. Najera stated that she and Mr. Denton are working on a letter to Universal Rundle requesting toilets and urinals and will also try to contact the Torres Unit and request assistance at the Nature Trail.

**11. Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Alvarez and seconded by Ms. Blomstedt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008.**

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TERRY TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN