

**PARKS BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 19, 2008**

**Present:** Soledad Najera, Lupe Alvarez, T. A. Lopez, Hamilton Duplessis, Carol Buttler, Assistant City Manager; Tim Fousse, Director of Public Works, and Sandra Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant.

Public: Chavel Lopez, Councilmember

**Absent:** Terry Teague, Rali Blomstedt, and Lee Taylor

**1. Call to order:**

Vice Chair Najera called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**2. Approval of June 17, 2008 Minutes:**

Motion was made by Mr. Alvarez and seconded by Mr. Lopez to table the June 17, 2008 minutes and bring back to the next meeting for clarification of changes requested by Ms. Taylor. Motion carried all ayes.

**3. Introduction of new Parks Board member Hamilton Duplessis:**

Mr. Duplessis introduced himself and made a short statement regarding himself and his family.

**4. T.A. Lopez Park – Update on the Pavilion and Playground Equipment:**

Mr. Fousse began the discussion and informed the board regarding the pavilion. He informed them that both contracts had been let; one for the concrete footers work and one for the erection of the pavilion. The concrete footer project was awarded to Cuatro T, who submitted the lowest quote.

Mr. Fousse explained the pavilion project and stated that it is under budget by approximately \$10,000.

Ms. Buttler reported on the playground equipment and stated that they are waiting on the installation to take place in the next couple of weeks, which will be followed by an inspection. Other issues discussed were: sample material (wood chips), landscaping timbers, and irrigation.

**5. Sports Complex –Update on the letter from the Parks Board to the City Manager:**

Carol Buttler reported that she and Chairman Teague held a conference call with a consultant in Pennsylvania concerning the slope at the ball fields. It was stated that the ball fields are graded to plans. Therefore, no more issues with the ball fields, everything has been resolved, no justification to boycott tournaments in Hondo. Mr. Duplessis asked if anyone was at the complex site, when the inspection was performed. Mr. Fousse said no. After a lengthy discussion, it was recommended that the Mr. Teague and Mr. Duplessis perform a site visit and come back and give a report to the board.

**6. Nature Trail Park Update:**

Carol Buttler reported that the gazebos are to be delivered tomorrow or Thursday and the playground arrived this morning.

Ms. Najera reported that an update regarding the nature trail was presented to Commissioner's Court and to City Council. She also stated that a letter was presented to the Commissioner's Court asking for a monetary donation. She also reported that toilets, sinks, and urinals were donated for the project and are kept in storage.

Other items discussed: Path for the gazebos, ground breaking ceremony, city employee helping with DC-4, electrical lines located, approval to order water lines, preparation of resolution for 5 acres for buffer, waiver for volunteers, observation decks, explanation of the Earth Team program, septic tank, money from Tx Parks & Wildlife, fencing, and extension letter.

**7. General Maintenance of all City Parks:**

Mr. Fousse stated that he understood that there had been some comments regarding the poor condition of the parks. Therefore, he went on to explain to the board that it is a difficult time for the Parks Department to spend all their time on the parks. There are other projects that need to be completed at some point in time. The other dilemma is that the Parks Department has lost one employee and is down 160-180 working hours per month and it is also vacation time. He informed the board of the Parks Department last four weeks operating man hours- 434 hours of parks maintenance, 232 hours on ball fields, 290 hours brush pick up, 58 hours on city facilities, mowed 80 acres of open land, 404 hours on special projects, 46 hours on equipment up keep, 30 customer contacts, 266 hours on cemetery work. The crews also created a new burn pit for the brush, cleaned out 300 yards of new cemetery land, were sent out again for brush pick up, pulling plants along Hwy 90,

Ms. Najera asked Mr. Fousse if he has heard from TxDOT in reference to the irrigation system. Mr. Fousse informed the board that TxDOT will be replacing the irrigation system. Ms. Najera thanked Mr. Fousse for his efforts in reference to the irrigation system.

Ms. Najera asked about the list of parks maintenance issues. Mr. Fousse stated that several of the items on the list were taken care of immediately. However, some of the other projects will require the coming budget year for the money to be available. Ms. Najera requested that Mr. Fousse and Ms. Buttler get together and provide the board with a list of the completed items.

**8. Discuss and consider rules and procedures for conducting board business:**

Ms. Buttler stated that since she and Mr. Teague discussed this subject, it would be better for Mr. Teague to be present and suggested that this item be tabled until Mr. Teague is present. She also stated that it would be better for Mr. Teague and Ms. Taylor be present, in order to consider their input, when discussing rules and procedures.

Ms. Najera stated that it was to her understanding, all she had to do was come in by the Tuesday prior to the meeting, and request items be placed on the agenda. She was disappointed to find out that three of the items that she requested be on the agenda were pulled. A very lengthy discussion regarding this was held,

Motion was made by Mr. Lopez, and seconded Mr. Duplessis to table this item and bring back at the next meeting. Motion carried; all ayes.

**9. Comments from the public:**

Mr. Alvarez inquired about the restrooms for City Park #3. Ms. Buttler stated that they are in the plan; however, the City has to wait another year for the restrooms.

Mr. Duplessis thanked Councilmember Chavel Lopez for attending the meeting and if he had any concerns to feel free to approach the board.

**10. Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Alvarez and seconded by Mr. Lopez to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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

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TERRY TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN