

Park Board
January 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room, 401 South Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Chad Hicks, Chairman
Betsy Bell
Byron Gibson
Jenny Bridges

Members Absent: Ginger Cole, Vice Chairman
Dr. William Major

Others Present: John Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation
Gumaro Martinez, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Michaela Drewry, Recreational Specialist
Clarice Crocker, Administrative Clerk
Melissa Olson, Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chad Hicks called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments

Director of Parks and Recreation John Smith introduced new staff members of the Parks and Recreation Department: Ms. Michaela Drewry, Mr. Cole Bessent (not present), Mr. Kevin Goforth, Mr. Orlando Maldonado, and Mr. Ronnie Littles.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Park Board meeting of November 7, 2019

Ms. Jenny Bridges amended the November 7, 2019 minutes as follows:

Action: (item 3)

Ms. Jenny Bridges moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of October 3, 2019.

~~Mr.~~ **Dr. William Major** seconded, **All Ayes.**

Action: (item 5)

~~Mr.~~ **Dr. William Major** moved to accept the bid from Lantana Lawn Care in the amount of \$19,800 for irrigation improvements at Lions Park. ~~Mr. William Major~~ **Ms. Betsy Bell** seconded, **All Ayes.**

Action:

Ms. Betsy Bell moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of November 7, 2019 as amended. Mr. Byron Gibson seconded, All Ayes.

4. Discuss Park projects and take any necessary action

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Gumaro Martinez gave an update on the following park projects:

- George Brown Plaza Splash Pad – referenced the prefabricated concrete restroom at this location. He stated the process has begun noting the restroom is already sitting but awaiting for the plumber to install all the stubs for the plumbing.
- Spring Park – explained recently redid park and added parking. Landscaping with trees and shrubs will be added. He stated irrigation should be complete by the end of the week.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley expressed concern with no shoulder being on the road near Spring Park. Mr. Martinez noted approximately three weeks ago additional grading was added to the ditch. Mr. Smith stated he will get a recommendation from the Street Department for a solution and suggested to appropriate funds for covered culvert.

Chairman Hicks asked about funds to place park equipment at Spring Park. Mr. Smith commented it would need to be put into the 5 year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) plan. Mr. Martinez added they have had discussion with City Management about adding a covered pavilion to accent the rocky area or a play structure to the opposite park area where there is green space noting it is a matter of planning for it in the CIP.

- Boat Dock Park – noted funds were appropriated for a new play unit which has been ordered and colors selected; awaiting delivery and installation.
- Oak Lawn Park – mentioned recently redid basketball court and added parking. Horticulturist Chris Seale has worked on planting trees and irrigation and will proceed with additional landscaping. Mr. Martinez stated they are going to add smaller picnic pavilions.

Chairman Hicks noted the drainage ditch at this location and how a splash pad could be placed there.

- Little Creek Trail – presented pictures showing trail progress to the Board emphasizing the stone columns around the base of the pavilion, exercise fitness area, example of archway signs at entrance points, semi circles to showcase art projects along the trail, and bridge at Chapman Park with lighted flag pole.

5. Discuss Park activities and take any necessary action

Mr. Smith reviewed the following park activities noting:

- Christmas decorations are down.
- The Parks Department is partnering with Chautauqua Preservation Society to present First Friday Movies in the Chautauqua noting the Chautauqua Preservation Society will pay for the movie rentals and the Parks Department will staff the event to help present movies free to the public. He stated the first movie will be held in February – Ground Hog Day and in March – Angels in the Outfield. Mr. Smith explained they will partner with Miracle League Baseball for this particular event and the concession stand will be

open with Miracle League running the concession stand the first three movies as a fundraiser. In addition, there will be prizes and trivia contests held before the movie noting the event will open at 6:00 p.m., contest at 6:30 p.m., and movie will start at 7:00 p.m.

- Recently had a meeting with Nicole Matthews, Sims Library, to partner with the library to assist with children activities for spring break and summer break and to utilize park spaces.
- Disc golf continues to grow and it appears Waxahachie Disc Golf Club have weekly mini tournaments at the disc golf course noting they held a major tournament in December. Mr. Smith stated they will be placing portable goals at the course.
- Look for monthly bird watching updates with Susan Kosoris on the City's Facebook page noting a boy scout has recently built bird houses for the trail and cemetery, and Ms. Kosoris is assisting the Parks Department on where to place certain plants and feeders to attract more birds.

6. Discuss Little Creek Trail opening

Mr. Smith informed the Board they are planning an event for the opening of Little Creek Trail to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Ms. Michaela Drewry, Recreational Specialist, stated the event will be held at Chapman Park to allow adequate space, hot dogs will be served, H-E-B Buddy will be in attendance, raffles will be held, Keep Waxahachie Beautiful seed packets and water bottles handed out, and portable disc golf baskets will be placed at the event.

Board member Ms. Jenny Bridges mentioned incorporating a banner for attendees to sign and Mr. Smith suggested the banner be displayed on the bridge.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarice Crocker
Administrative Clerk