

Park Board
August 1, 2019

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room, 401 South Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Ginger Cole, Vice Chairman
 Coy B. Sevier
 William Major
 Betsy Engelbrechtsen

Members Absent: Chad Hicks, Chairman
 Byron Gibson

Others Present: John Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation
 Gumaro Martinez, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
 Lori Cartwright, City Secretary
 Melissa Olson, Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Ginger Cole called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of minutes of the Park Board meeting of June 6, 2019

Action:

Mr. William Major moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of June 6, 2019. Mr. Coy Sevier seconded, All Ayes.

3. Discuss Park activities and take any necessary action

Director of Parks and Recreation John Smith reported July was busy with several events. He stated Juneteenth at Penn Park was a two day celebration. Recently at Penn Park the “Stop the Violence” event was held promoting a happier, healthier, and loving community. Mr. Smith stated the Parks Department employees were on hand to assist with the Crape Myrtle Festival and parade. He reported last Friday evening the Chautauqua held its Birthday party with an astrology event. Summer activities included open gyms for summer recreation, and summer swimming at Penn Park will close this weekend. Mr. Smith stated in the middle of summer he was approached by “Hands and Hearts” organization to set up in Penn Park for a lunch program. He reported several children were fed.

In summary, Mr. Smith stated the summer was very successful and the parks, gyms and swimming pool were utilized by many people.

4. Discuss Park projects and take any necessary action

Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Gumaro Martinez reported on the following parks:

- Little Creek Trail – most of the concrete walking trail is complete in Brown-Singleton Park and Chapman Park. The connections between the two parks is lacking due to a water line issues and the Parks Department will continue to work on the matter.

- Chapman Park – the pavilion has arrived and will be erected soon. Completion of the park is slated for the end of September.
- Lee Penn Park – currently meeting with the contractor on some issues with one of the fields and the Parks Department will not take ownership until staff is comfortable with the grass. Plans for the next fiscal year is to continue with Phase 3.
- Oak Lawn Pavilion – was heavily used and it worked well with the Oak Lawn Reunion. The Parks Department hopes to develop that area more next year.

Mr. Martinez reviewed photos of Getzendaner Park pointing out issues with erosion. He stated some areas are retaining water. Mr. Martinez presented photos of natural rock beds that is aesthetically pleasing as an option to stop the erosion.

Vice Chairman Cole asked if the city has policies that certain pesticides are not used. She asked what would be sprayed on the rocks to prevent grass and weed growth. Mr. Smith stated the city will use chemicals that are used on waterways and easements.

Action:

*Mr. Coy Sevier moved to charge the Parks Department to explore the dry riverbed bottom and if budget allows to install it. Mr. William Major seconded, **All Ayes.***

Mr. Martinez stated Spring Park is underway with parking improvements. Once completed it will help facilitate the use for the patrons and safe parking.

Dr. Jamal Rasheed, President and CEO of the Ellis County African American Hall of Fame, reported the 8/47 Memorial will be built next week and after completion he will arrange for a dedication. He stated the design will have three sets of praying hands. He thanked the Park Board for making the project materialize.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright
City Secretary