

Park Board
June 6, 2019

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Chad Hicks, Chairman
Ginger Cole, Vice Chairman
William Major
Betsy Engelbrechtsen

Members Absent: Coy B. Sevier
Byron Gibson

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chad Hicks called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of minutes of Park Board meeting of April 11, 2019

Action:

Vice Chairman Ginger Cole moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of April 11, 2019. Ms. Betsy Engelbrechtsen seconded, All Ayes.

3. Discuss park projects and activities and take any necessary action

Parks and Recreation Director John Smith reviewed the following park activities:

- Splash pads were turned on May 13th.
- Lee Penn Park swimming pool opened last week. Mr. Gerard Johnson is the new pool manager. He is a WHS graduate and currently attending SAGU and is a football coach there. Mr. Johnson hired five very qualified life guards.

Chairman Hicks referenced the portable restroom at the splash pad downtown and requested it be moved from the gate. Mr. Smith stated staff will relocate it.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley recommended looking into getting a nicer portable restroom where the exterior looks more like a building. She stated the one that is currently there looks like it is there for a temporary event. Mayor Pro Tem Shipley asked staff to look into it noting the city needs higher quality facilities. Mr. Smith stated staff will investigate and bring options to the next board meeting for consideration.

- Summer recreation has begun with Mr. Bill Midkiff as supervisor. He is employed by the City as a seasonal part-time staffer. Mr. Midkiff oversees the camps such as open gym and open weight rooms. Turner Middle School gym is open in the mornings for school age children and open in the afternoons to the general public. He stated children enjoy the gym and it keeps them active.
- Park pavilions – all are booked at all parks and currently booking for July.

- Memorial Day weekend at Lake Waxahachie – staff utilized the same orange fencing and no parking signs used last year on Fourth of July and as a result there were no complaints. The police department kept crowds under control.

Chairman Hicks recommended respraying the picnic benches making them more attractive.

Mayor Pro Tem Shipley referenced Memorial Day weekend activities at Lake Waxahachie and recommended using the orange fencing to block off the parking on the north side of the street noting traffic has difficulty getting through.

Chairman Hicks stated he noticed in the boat parking area where boat trailers are to park was full of regular vehicles.

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Gumaro Martinez reviewed the following park projects:

- Spring Park parking renovations at Lake Waxahachie will bid this week and staff will present to City Council for approval. Once approved, Spring Park will be closed for construction.
- Little Creek Trail is paved from Global High School to Chapman Park and the trail is under construction in Brown-Singleton Park.
- Penn Park – Renovations are completed and will complete a punch list. The park will be ready for the Juneteenth celebrations.
- Settlers Glen playground is almost complete. Mulching materials will be spread and an ADA connection from the sidewalk to the playground will be installed.
- Oak Lawn Park pavilion is underway and hope to have it completed by the July 4th celebration.

Chairman Hicks referenced the Parks Master Plan and asked if it was time to revisit it since the community has drastically changed. Mr. Smith stated the city will be looking at their Master Plan and at that time the Parks Master Plan will be reviewed.

4. Discuss park activities and take any necessary action

See Item 3

5. Public Comments

Ms. Faustina Duvall, 2300 Dakota Drive, Waxahachie, referenced the park at Settlers Glen noting the community loves the pirate ship with the shade structure. She asked if there would be sidewalks and/or walking paths. Ms. Duvall stated there is no additional shade and no seating. Mr. Smith stated Staff will gather information and bring it back to the board for consideration.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright, City Secretary