

Park Board  
April 11, 2019

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Building, 401 S. Elm, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Chad Hicks, Chairman  
Ginger Cole Vice Chairman  
Coy B. Sevier  
Betsy Engelbrechtsen  
Byron Gibson

Member Absent: William Major

Others Present: John Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager  
Amber Villarreal, Assistant 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 March 7, 2019**

Chairman Hicks noted the following was corrected in the minutes under item 4:

*Mr. Martinez presented a layout for Spring Park parking improvements at Lake Waxahachie. He explained he worked with the City Engineer to develop a pedestrian friendly layout.*

#### **Action:**

*Mr. Coy Sevier moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of March 7, 2019 as amended. Mr. Byron Gibson seconded, All Ayes.*

### **3. Consider seasonal vendor permit at Lake Waxahachie**

#### **Action:**

*Vice Chairman Ginger Cole moved to approve the seasonal vendor permit at Lake Waxahachie for What's Sup & Kayaks. Ms. Betsy Engelbrechtsen seconded, All Ayes.*

### **4. Discuss park projects and activities and take any necessary action**

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

- Tulipalooza was successful.
- Classic Truck National Show is moving from Getzendaner Park to Coleman Junior High on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, due to the weather. Parks staff will still assist with the event.
- Crossroads of Texas Film and Music Festival will be held April 25-28 at the Chautauqua.

Mr. Martinez reviewed the following park projects:

- M&M Playground at Getzendaner Park is complete with new rubber, swing, and musical instruments. An official re-grand opening will be announced soon.

- Lee Penn Park baseball fields are progressing and LED lighting will provide the final touches in the next few weeks.
- Chautauqua Auditorium is complete with a new roof, restrooms, and ticket booth in addition to new sound and audio system indoor.
- Little Creek Trail is progressing with concrete poured and trail established in Chapman Park. The park will not reopen to the public until all construction is completed.

**5. Hear request from Tomahawks football group and take any necessary action**

Mr. Michael Langford, Tomahawks Organization, explained the Tomahawks is a non-profit youth organization that represents over 400 kids and their families amongst 5 sports: football, 7 on 7, cheerleading, track, and basketball. He noted the lack of practice/competition fields is an obstacle the organization is facing. For example, if they try to utilize the new football field at Penn Park, there are certain criteria that is not available at that field such as a scoreboard, parking, bleachers, and fencing. He explained the organization has been utilizing Life School facilities for competitions at a cost of \$1,250 a day as opposed to using WISD facilities at \$1,750 a day. He explained the facility use fees are a financial burden to the organization and that cost is offset through higher registration fees. He explained surrounding cities utilize partnerships with their school districts or organizations.

Councilmember Melissa Olson asked what the organization is requesting from the city and Mr. Langford explained he is looking to find or collaborate with the city for a place to play and practice for their organization.

Parks and Recreation Director John Smith thanked the organization for presenting the information on lack of facilities. He noted he will speak with city management on options to assist the organization. He suggested the possibility of partnering with WISD and the local churches.

The board agreed to help with fundraising and other efforts to help the organization. There was a consensus to discuss options with city staff and possibly the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation on utilizing the football field at the Sports Complex and preparing it to meet the criteria for competition play.

**6. Public Comments**

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Curtis Polk for managing Penn Park Pool the last three years. He announced the pool will open June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the splash pads will open May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal  
Assistant City Secretary