



City of Pflugerville

Minutes - Final Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, February 20, 2014

7:00 PM

100 East Main Street, Suite 500

Regular Meeting

Commissioners:

Christie Crouch, Chair

Melody Ryan, Vice Chair

Ronda Gindin, Secretary

Edward Marburger, Member

Bret Stewart, Member

David Taylor, Member

Sarah Young, Student Member

Danny Vinzant, Alternate

1. Call to Order

Christie Crouch, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Commissioners: Bret Stewart, Dave Taylor, Ronda Gindin, Christie Crouch, Melody Ryan, Danny Vinzant, and Sarah Young were in attendance. Edward Marburger was absent. City Employees attending: James Hemenes, Parks Director; Pam Cosel, Special Events Coordinator; Carly Cox, Administrative Technician.

Items were addressed in the order as recorded in the minutes.

2. Citizens Communication

Ms. Crouch asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak to the Commission.

Darrell Landers - 1225 Towncenter Drive, Pflugerville, Texas 78660.

Mr. Landers works for Fun Flicks and they are considering bringing floating playgrounds, called Aqua Fun Parks, to Pflugerville. Their proposed location of the floating playground would be in Lake Pflugerville. He plans to return next month with more information for the Commission to receive and review.

3. Approval of Minutes

3A. 2014-2751

Discuss and consider action to approve the minutes from the Parks and Recreation Commission January 11, 2014 special meeting and worksession; and January 16, 2013 regular meeting.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes with revisions. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

4. Discuss Only

4A. 2014-2752

Director's Updates including information about Project Updates, Lifeguard & Summer Pfun Camp Hiring, Senior Dance, Birding Class, D Pfest Committee update by PARC Liaison, including Pfun Run, Parks Maintenance and Keep America Beautiful Award for Sarah Young.

Mr. Hemenes informed the Commission that he is still working with a consultant on the Lake Pflugerville Master Plan Project and that he last met with him on Thursday, January 30th. He said that he will have more information at next month's meeting. Mr. Vinzant asked if the issue of citizens moving through the "blast zone" during the Pfirecracker PFestival is going to be addressed. Mr. Hemenes responded that Pfirecracker PFestival meetings have only recently begun and that it is an issue that is being discussed. He continued to say there are ongoing discussions on different ways to transport people (shuttles, trams, etc.). Mr. Vinzant then asked if that is included in the 2030 Master Plan. Mr. Hemenes told him that it is not, but will be worked in. Mr. Hemenes continued with the update and informed the Commission that the Parkland Dedication Philosophy will be discussed at the City Council worksession on Tuesday, February 25th. He then clarified that it is not a joint worksession with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Youth Sports Policy may also be discussed. He continued to say that the Skate Spot contractors have informed him that construction will not begin until March 17th, due to finishing up another work site. The contractors will still be given the full 75 days to complete the project. Ms. Ryan asked for clarification on the actual budget for the Skate Spot, because she had understood that the budget was \$100,000 and the Commission was now being shown \$120,000. Mr. Hemenes told her that money was added from the General Capital Reserve Fund. He continued to say that an additional \$40,000 has been taken from the Tree Planting Project to go towards the North Shore Project at Lake Pflugerville, increasing the budget for the project from \$120,000 to \$160,000. Mr. Vinzant asked if the Tree Service fund would be replenished. Mr. Hemenes said that it is not likely at this time due to the extent of the drought the city is currently experiencing. There are not currently any plans to plant new trees this year, or until the conditions with the drought improve. At this moment, the drought is currently projected to be worse this year than last year. Ms. Gindin informed the Commission that she attended a meeting last week where it was discussed that the drought was expected to last anywhere from 10-15 years. She continued to say that Austin just planted trees and asked if the city could use their resources and techniques to get some planting done in Pflugerville. Mr. Hemenes said that the Utilities Department is currently looking into using cleaned wastewater. He also said new trees are "not essential" watering when it comes to the city's water use. Ms. Ryan then asked what is stopping the installation of the water fountains that were purchased. Mr. Hemenes answered that it had to do with staffing, as well as a need for water meters, as some of the areas where these new fountains would be installed do not have water meters at all. Ms. Gindin then asked if Mr. Hemenes now has supervision over the necessary staff. He answered that yes, as of Tuesday, February 18th. Mr. Vinzant then asked about the status of the Gilliland Creek pool house. Mr. Hemenes said that the asbestos has been removed and there was also some termite damage. He continued to say that it may take years for the full finding to be available to either repair or replace the pool house back to the conditions in place before the flooding on October 31, 2013. Ms. Ryan asked if there was an option to salvage the building. Mr. Hemenes said that it is an option, but there is also a temporary structure already in place and the pools opening on Memorial Day weekend for the summer season will not be affected. He

informed the Commission about the PISD Geometry Construction Project. Students from Pflugerville High School are going to design and build structures to be placed throughout the city. The teachers involved with the project would like to start laying things out this weekend and begin construction the first week of March. There was discussion about maintenance staff returning to the Parks Department and if installing the new structures built by the PISD students would be delayed. Mr. Hemenes continued the Director's Update and assured the Commission that staff does not see an issue with being able to hire lifeguards due to the construction of the Hawaiian Falls Adventure Park. The city pays more per hour, as well as trains the lifeguards with the Red Cross Program which includes training for shallow and deep water, as opposed to Hawaiian Falls using a different program and only training for shallow water conditions. Lifeguards who work for the city also receive a \$0.25 raise every summer season they return to work with the city. He also said that Kristina Cox has been hired as director for the Summer Pfun Camp and she will have counselors hired by April. Mr. Stewart then updated the Commission about what was discussed at the previous weeks Deutchen Pfest Committee meeting and told the Commission that if they have any questions, that he will pass them along to Ms. Sattler. Mr. Hemenes added that the Deutchen Pfest Committee is also in charge of the PFun Run, which will take place at 8:00 am on Sunday, May 18th. It is \$25 to register from February 1st-28th, \$30 from March 1st-May 2nd, and \$35 from May 3rd to race day. The Kids K registration is \$15. Mr. Hemenes continued to say that he has hired Patrick Tate as the Parks Operations Manager. Mr. Tate will be working with 13 of the Parks Maintenance employees that were moved to Public Works. Employees in this Park Maintenance staff will maintain and repair the parks and sports fields, as well as install benches and drinking fountains, and help with park improvements projects that have been on hold. 7 employees who remained in Public Works will now mow the rest of the city - streets, detention ponds, etc. There was discussion about park operation standards and about Ms. Young's award from Keep America Beautiful that she received in connection to her 2012-2013 Neighborwoods Project.

5. Discuss and Consider Action

5A. 2014-2753

Discuss and Consider Action regarding the recommendation of a project for the 2014 Deutschen Pfest Proceeds.

Ms. Crouch introduced the item. Mr. Hemenes showed the Commission a list of current projects ideas for the 2014 Deutschen Pfest Proceeds which included a replacement of the Gilleland Creek Gazebo, park restroom repairs, a security camera for the Fallen Warrior Memorial and Gilleland Creek Pavilion improvements. He stated that the Deutschen Pfest Committee was in favor of a project within the Gilleland Creek Park and Pflugger Park area to benefit Deutschen Pfest in terms of promotion and bringing more people to the event. The park restrooms were constructed in the late 1970's and have had many renovations since. \$15,000 would afford stainless steel fixtures and more stable doors in the facilities. There was discussion about getting a new security camera installed at the Fallen Warrior Memorial and establishing a dialogue with the Pflugerville Police Chief, as well as a request for more monitoring on the trails and in parks within the city. Mr. Hemenes stated that the Gilleland Creek Pavilion repair project would make improvements to Pflugger Park, such as a new park sign, irrigation additions, planting beds in the medians and fencing improvements. There are currently funds in the place to repave/reseal the Pflugger Park parking lot. Ms. Ryan requested a future discussion about the park's escrow fund and also made a suggestion for the 2014 Deutschen Pfest Proceeds to be used to construct the Brookhollow/Gilleland trail gap. She continued to say that this trail gap construction would greatly increase the accessibility between neighborhoods and parks. There was discussion about using the funds for bike racks to be placed throughout the city and the ownership of the stage used during Deutschen Pfest. Ms. Cosel, Special Events Coordinator for the city, added that she has a contact for a company in Austin that provides many types of bike racks. Discussion continued about types, placement, whether there is a local company, and if there is any requirement for bike rack inclusion in new parkland development. Ms. Crouch said that she liked the proposed Gilleland Creek Gazebo replacement and Gilleland Pavilion repair projects since that is a highly utilized area in the city, besides Deutschen Pfest, for other events and reservations made by citizens. The Commission continued on to the next agenda item without making a motion at this time.

5B. 2014-2668

Discuss and Consider Action to make recommendation concerning the use of existing Deutschen Pfest funds for Pfluger Park Playground Replacement.

Ms. Crouch introduced the item and Mr. Hemenes continued with his proposed project for use of the existing \$97,000 in Deutschen Pfest funds. His suggested project is to completely replace the Pfluger Park playground structure. He stated that the current playground structure has had many different elements added to it to keep up with current playground guidelines and safety standards. The new playground will include a "tot scape" for children ages 2-5, as there is a new guideline that states that there must be different areas for toddler aged children and elementary school-aged children. This playground replacement can be completely installed and ready to use in time for Deutschen PFest, if the order is placed by the end of March. There was discussion about previously dropped projects, a high-impact project being done in the park and receiving more frequent project updates. Mr. Vinzant then brought up how there are currently 14 undeveloped parks. Mr. Hemenes responded that since the funds are directly from Deutschen Pfest Proceeds, it is easier to use those funds for a project that directly impacts the improvement of the areas utilized during the event. Ms. Ryan said she would like to see the funds go towards a replacement of the Gilleland Creek Gazebo and Ms. Gindin agreed. Mr. Hemenes told the Commission that he is hoping for a suggestion from the Commission to address current needs as well, and that his proposed playground replacement would help improve one of the oldest and heavily used parks in the city. Ms. Ryan stated that there haven't been any funds used towards new parkland development since Lake Pflugerville was developed 5 years ago. Mr. Stewart added that the price to fully develop a new park is much more than the existing Deutschen Pfest funds amount despite the Commission suggesting and voting on projects to be completed. Ms. Crouch added that she is in favor of completing a huge project, and is especially in favor of the Pfluger Park playground replacement as needed due to factors such as not meeting current ADA requirements, current playground guidelines and safety requirements. It was noted that there is a new requirement of a clear distinction between toddler and school-aged playground structures as to further help in the avoidance of serious injury. The Commission continued discussion about interpretive signage; what type of signage(i.e. way finder, plant identification, mile marker), cost, and areas of installation (certain areas or throughout the complete park/trail system). Ms. Crouch suggested that the interpretive signage could be a project for a Boy Scout or Eagle Scout group. Ms. Gindin believes the existing funds should be used to replace a facility for the public which has been unusable. Mr. Stewart agreed, suggesting the funds should be used for something that can be utilized during Deutschen Pfest, as well as help promote Deutschen Pfest. There was discussion concerning the use of the existing funds to be used for a project that will directly benefit Deutschen Pfest and the park where it is held annually, and other funds should be used for repairs and renovations throughout the city. Ms. Crouch reiterated to the Commission that the playground in Pfluger Park is bordering on unsafe and would like to do the complete playground replacement as well as a plaque or some signage indicating that the new playground was made possible by funds collected from Deutschcen Pfest. She also said a brand new playground would attract alot of attention from people planning to visit the park during Deutshcen Pfest. Mr. Hemenes informed the Commission that the that the vendor was asked to match all the current structures currently available in the playground as well as to add a play web due to their increasing popularity. He

asked if both projects, the complete Pfluger Park playground replacement and the new Gilleland Creek Gazebo, could be completed would the Commission support that? The Commission agreed. Ms. Gindin announced to the Commission that they should all be in agreement to have high-impact projects completed. Ms. Gindin made a motion to utilize the existing Deutschen Pfest funds to replace the Pfluger Park playground and Gilleland Creek Gazebo and, if necessary, collect the additional funding needing to have both projects completed. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

2014-2753

Discuss and Consider Action regarding the recommendation of a project for the 2014 Deutschen Pfest Proceeds.

The Commission resumed discussion under this agenda item. Ms. Gindin suggested for the 2014 Deutschen Pfest funds to go towards developing a new park done from a current study. Ms. Ryan suggested the Pfluger Heights Park due to it being the smallest piece of land to develop, which will in turn require a smaller amount of funding, as well as there already being a play web purchased for use in that parkland. Mr. Hemenes added that there will also need to be a playscape, a shade structure and certain site amenities included. There was discussion as to what amenities to include in the Pfluger Heights Park. Ms. Gindin made a motion to use the 2014 Deutschen Pfest funds for the development of Pfluger Heights Park. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart, Ms. Crouch, Mr. Taylor, and Ms. Young voted in favor. Mr. Vinzant opposed the motion. The motion carried.

5C. 2014-2754

Discuss and Consider Action regarding the recommendation for 2014 General Capital Reserve Projects.

Ms. Crouch introduced the item. Mr. Hemenes told the Commission that the current 5 year CIP list is from suggestions made in the past. He continued to say that the city doesn't currently have a standard in terms of park signage. Every park should have a sign indicating the name of the park, the address and the park standards. There was discussion about way finder signage for parks and matching designs for way finders and park signage. Mr. Hemenes told the Commission about the need for new park and facility keys. He stated that the city currently has many key pad locks, which is a huge security problem, and that if this is not funded by General Capital Reserve it will be funded from other areas of available funding because the project needs to be completed in the near future. He then introduced improvements involving the donated house that was recently relocated to Heritage Park. Ms. Gindin mentioned hearing something about this house being potentially used for city office space, and if that is the case, improvements for that building should not be taken from the General Capital Reserve budget. Mr. Hemenes responded that if the funding for the improvements came from General Capital Reserve it would be used for the Parks Department office or an arts center. Ms. Gindin then suggested utilizing it for a senior center. Mr. Hemenes added that if the building is going to be used at all it needs to have accessible parking, which includes 2 handicap parking spaces, an accessible walkway to the house, and an accessible walkway to the bathroom with the appropriate ADA fixtures within the house. Ms. Ryan stated that she would rather see the General Capital Reserve funds go towards the development of parkland and the expansion of the city's trail system. Mr. Hemenes proceeded with the suggestion of using the General Capital Reserve funds for Recreation Center improvements. He continued to say that the building needs exterior paint, flooring improvements and new carpeting throughout the building. Ms. Gindin suggested that the money available in General Capital Reserve be used for new amenities within the city such as parks, trail gap construction and overall improvement of the trail system. Ms. Ryan suggested for the Recreation Center renovations to be done in phases. Mr. Hemenes continued with the next suggestion, which is two electronic marquee signs. Ms. Crouch asked about the cost for the electronic signs, because in the past the Commission was initially told the cost for two electronic signs would be \$30,000 and were later told that it would cost \$30,000 for each sign. Mr. Hemenes said he will get more information but that also the stick-up letter marquees currently in place are not ideal because we have pick which information and events are the most important due to limited spacing. Ms. Gindin agreed that there is a need for electronic signage but that the signs should be placed in a more visible area such as a busy intersection. There was discussion about keeping the current marquee signs at the Recreation Center and the Gilleland Creek Pool and putting the new electronic marquee signs in a more visible area to help promote events within the city. Ms. Ryan stated that the Commission should designate specific trail segments that they would like done so that the decision is not made for them by another party. Mr. Hemenes suggested that the Commission formulate a recommendation next month and have a list ready in May.

6. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Hemenes announced that the Youth Sports Policy will most likely not be on the agenda for next month's meeting because City Council still needs to finish with it. He also informed the Commission that there is a meeting with City Council next week to discuss the Parkland Dedication Philosophy, and that the Parks and Recreation Commission strategic plan will be discussed at next month's meeting. Ms. Ryan asked if the Commission could view the parkland escrow fund to see which neighborhoods have paid into that fund so the Commission can move forward with getting parks done in those areas. Mr. Vinzant requested an update for the Adopt-A-Trail program. Ms. Ryan requested a copy of the PowerPoint used at the meeting.

Approved as _____ on March 20, 2014.

Christie Crouch, Commission Chair