



City of Pflugerville

Minutes - Final

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, September 15, 2016

7:00 PM

Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Rd

Regular Meeting

Commissioners:

Kimberly Castillo, Member

Christie Crouch, Member

Raul Capetillo, Member

Sahaj Shah, Student Member

Lisa Ely, Member

Jim McDonald, Member

Laura Sager, Member

Scott Langer, Alternate Member

1. Call to Order

Christie Crouch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Scott Langer, Lisa Ely, Laura Sager, and Jim McDonald were present. Raul Capetillo, Kimberly Castillo, and Sahaj Shah were absent. Staff attending: James Hemenes, Parks & Recreation Director; Sheila Wiora, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Trey Fletcher, Assistant City Manager; Patrick Tate, Parks Operations Supervisor; Corey Abbate, Senior Programs Coordinator; Pamela Cosel, Special Events and Marketing Coordinator; Carly Cox, Parks Admin Tech.

2. Citizens Communication

There was no one present who wished to speak.

3. Presentation and Discussion

3A. [2016-5190](#)

Presentation and discussion regarding Bat Houses.

Jessica and Bethany Johnson are Girl Scouts who are researching and planning for their Silver Award Project. Their proposed project is to build and place bat houses in parks that have water. This project will help keep the bat population up and help decrease the insect population. Instead of using pesticides and killing all insects, bats will eat only the bad insects (such as mosquitos) and are much more environmentally friendly than harsh pesticides. To fund their project, they will seek donations from the community and businesses in Pflugerville. They then showed a blueprint of their bat house design. There are currently 1.5 million Mexican Free Tail bats in the Austin area & a colony can eat up to 30,000 insects every night. To maintain the bat houses, 2 volunteers will check on the houses every 2 months. The volunteers

will check for damage, occupants, and also watch to see that the bats can exit safely. Ms. Sager asked why they selected this project. They responded saying that this project will affect the entire community and as girl scouts, their goal is to help make the world a better place. They hope to accomplish this goal before Winter, when the bats go into hibernation.

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4A. [2016-5186](#) Discuss and consider action to approve the minutes from the Parks and Recreation Commission August 18, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Langer made a motion to approve the August 18, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Sager seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

5. Discuss Only

- 5A. [2016-5187](#) Director's Updates including information about the Project Status Report, Monthly Departmental Financials, Parkland Dedication, Senior Programs Coordinator and Upcoming Special Events.

Ms. Crouch introduced the topic. Mr. Hemenes began by giving an update on the November 2014 Bond projects currently being worked on. Wilbarger Creek Park design has started, and the Trail Gaps are still under construction. With the recent rain, there were some delays, and the construction crews are still working on the new bridge on the Settlers Valley Trail. Pfennig parking lot is 99% complete; we're still waiting on further electrical improvements. Construction documents are 90% complete for the Swenson Farms trail gap project. Mr. Hemenes then showed a draft of the grading and utility package for the 1849 Park; Mr. Hemenes anticipates groundbreaking for this package in early November. He also informed the commissioners that he is currently going through the permitting process for Stone Hill Park and that he received approval from City Council for competitive sealed proposals. This will allow staff to compare bids by additional factors, other than just the cost of the project. Mr. Hemenes anticipates this project to go to bid during the first part of October. Mr. Hemenes then introduced Corey Abbate, Senior Programs Coordinator. Ms. Cosel then informed the Commissioners of the upcoming events – Final Music in the Park of the season will be on Friday, September 16. She also gave a recap of the Move in the Park, held at the Green Red Barn on Friday, September 2. Chili Pfest will be on Saturday, October 15 from noon to 5 p.m.

Mr. Hemenes then gave an update on the funds available in the Park Escrow fund. Within the last fiscal year, the city has received 3 fee-in-lieu checks from developers whose parks within the development were less than 3 acres. In FY 2016, \$228,837.32 was received. \$232,515.82 are available as of September 15, 2016. These funds must be used within the neighborhood area but if no parkland site is available in that area, it can go towards community parkland.

- 5B. [2016-5188](#) Staff Report and discussion regarding Parks Operations & Maintenance.

Ms. Crouch introduced the topic. Mr. Hemenes introduced Patrick Tate, Parks Operations Supervisor. Mr. Tate gave a presentation including an overview of his staff, their tasks, what area of Pflugerville each crew is assigned to, and photos of staff working on special projects and emergency projects. A few

special & emergency projects completed this year were replacing the floor in the Windermere Clubhouse, repairing the retention wall on the Gilleland Creek West trail near Windermere Park, downtown clean up and lake restroom painting. Discussion began on needing more staff, pending projects, what is considered an emergency project and more.

6. Discuss and Consider Action

6A. [2016-5189](#)

Discuss and consider action to place items on future Parks & Recreation Commission meeting agendas.

Mr. McDonald made a motion to have a discussion on a future site for a potential Recreation Center. Ms. Sager seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Hemenes will give an update during the next regularly scheduled meeting in the Director's Update agenda item on the following: changing the monthly meeting date, the red-tagged electrical meter for the lighting on the underpass on the Brookhollow trail, and the trimming of an overgrown tree near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Applewood Drive.

7. Adjourn

Mr. McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ely seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved as _____ on October 20, 2016.

Christie Crouch, Commission Chair