



## City of Denton

City Hall  
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### Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board Minutes

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After determining that a quorum of the City of Denton, Texas, **Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board** is present, the Chair of the Board thereafter convened into an open meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center, Denton, Texas.

**Present:** Frances Punch, Gary Barber, Alana Presley Taylor, George Ferrie, Ben Huttash, and David Shuck

**Absent:** Kent Boring

**Staff present:** Laura Behrens, Assistant Director, Drew Huffman, Parks Superintendent, Jennifer Eusse, Special Event Supervisor, Cathy Avery, Aquatics Manager, Monica Martin, Aquatics Supervisor

**Guests:** Thomas Fletcher, Kimley-Horn, Brandon Lawing, Kimley-Horn, Bob Shelton, Developer

Chair Punch called the meeting to order at 6pm.

#### 1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

**A. Consider approval of the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting of November 5, 2018.**

Barber motioned to approve the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting of November 5<sup>th</sup> and Shuck seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**B. Receive a report from staff, hold a discussion, and provide staff a recommendation regarding the adoption of an ordinance granting approval, in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, of the non-park use of a part of Lake Forest park for the purpose of installing and maintaining a sanitary sewer line for the Good Samaritan East Development Offsite Utilities Project.**

Huffman reviewed the presentation. The proposed sale of park land for three easements (sewer, drainage, and street right-of-way) had been reduced to the need for only a sewer easement. The change was the result of a collaborative meeting between Parks, Real Estate, Engineering, Transportation, Legal and the developers to identify a solution that met everyone's needs. Additionally, we now had a firm price for the land which was previously undetermined.

Shuck asked about an outstanding question regarding the impact on trees. Fletcher outlined the tree requirements for this particular project. Behrens added that Haywood, the

Department's Urban Forester, was present at the last meeting and had reported a minimal number of trees were impacted and the project overall was subject to the tree ordinance. Fletcher reported Corp of Engineer land is also located in the area and tree removal is restricted in the area. The developer is aware of the requirements and will follow them.

Behrens highlighted that only one easement is now being requested instead of three and a value for the land has been established. Parks and Recreation is requesting a recommendation on the change in request and propose land value. Shuck motioned approval of recommendation. Huttash asked if we were still getting the minimum payment amount of \$74,974.90 originally proposed. Drew explained that the amount originally being considered included three easements. With the need for only one easement, the payment has decreased. Huttash asked for clarification from the last meeting in regards to the question of who was responsible for the costs and the undetermined amounts. Shuck explained that the new amount is coming from a value of \$40,000 per acre and less than an acre being needed for the easement. Huttash expressed his confusion. Behrens explained the question of who was responsible for improvement costs related to the project was still under discussion during the last meeting. Since then, all parties have met and it has been determined that only one easement is needed, the developer is responsible for the improvement, and a cost has been determined. Huttash believed it was "promised". Huffman and Behrens reiterated that there was no "promise". Fletcher added that a minimum amount was set for all three easements during the last discussion. Huttash commented that only one easements was on the agenda for November. Behrens stated that all easements were on the agenda for consideration. Punch agreed.

Barber asked if the process for determining land value had been worked out. Drew explained an appraisal was used to determine the value of the land. Behrens added that Gary Packan continues to work on setting a formal procedure for assessing land value that will be used in future projects.

Barber seconded the motion put forth by Shuck. Huttash opposed. Motion passed (5-1).

**C. Receive an informational report regarding a request by the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board to receive information on the scheduling and management of special events.**

Behrens reviewed the presentation. Punch asked if an on-line calendar was available for view. Behrens stated a calendar showing facility availability is available in Rec 1, the Department's on-line registration system.

Taylor asked what other efforts are being made to minimize the environmental impact special events have. Behrens described Solid Waste's role in the process and the responsibility and requirements of the event holders. Taylor would like for Keep Denton Beautiful and Sustainability to be involved in the process. She believes more than litter should be looked at such as what type of materials the vendors are using and the emissions produced by traffic and equipment. Behrens stated that Parks and Recreation can consult with the departments responsible for those areas. Ultimately, what requirements or actions

can be taken will depend on the regulations and authority a department has to monitor and enforce those activities. Promotion of desired practices and incentives would be an option.

Taylor asked if increased trash was noticed in the pond at North Lakes after athletic tournaments. Huffman stated there were some trash issues at Evers Park after games in the Spring but not North Lakes. This past Fall he sent a reminder to sport organizers of their responsibility to collect trash at their events. He believed that helped to prevent any potential issues at North Lakes. The trash that he sees around the ponds are more from everyday use. Taylor explained she had seen trash from birthday parties. Huffman advised he has not had any issues or complaints from park users or his staff on trash from those types of activities. Behrens added renters are responsible for trash pick-up. It is outlined in the rental agreement, including sporting events, and a labor fee is included if Parks staff have to clean up.

Behrens noted that in our own agreement with a concession stand vendor, a condition of the contract was to use sustainable products. Ferrie proposed encouraging more collaboration between events and merchants for the larger annual events to work together on providing / using more sustainable products.

Barber asked if the information presented addressed the concerns raised by the organizers of the Blues Festival. Behrens confirmed that it did. Punch asked that the Denton Black Chamber be contacted as a follow-up to the issues they raised.

Behrens explained, overall, parking will still be an issue for larger events. Parks will continue to work on minimizing issues and will begin with the evaluation of scheduling events.

Huttash asked if the software system being considered will send notifications to the event organizer on the status of their event. Behrens confirmed that is a desired feature of any potential system. Huttash recommended the system should also send certain renters, such as birthday party renters, an email 11 months after the rental to promote future rentals.

Huttash asked if higher wattage electrical outlets could be provided to help reduce the need to use generators therefore reducing emissions. Drew stated that could be explored but explained the cost to convert the existing electrical outlets would be cost prohibitive for the approximately three big events held in Quakertown.

Behrens advised a final policy will be brought back to the Board prior to presenting to Council.

**D. Receive an informational report regarding a request by the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board on hours of operation for Water Works Park (WWP).**

Behrens reviewed the information provided in the agenda information sheet. Taylor stated she posed the question of WWP hours on two social media outlets as an informal survey to solicit feedback. Her main concern is exposure to the heat during operational hours. Many

of the comments received were that parents with toddler age children and working parents were not utilizing WWP because of the mid-morning opening hour and 7pm closing time. She asked if later hours could be considered or be an option once a week or once a month. Huttash stated he would also support increased hours that were more family friendly.

Behrens stated staff would review the hours and explore options for earlier/later hours. Trials with new hours can be done to assess need and attendance.

Taylor mentioned a comment she received unrelated to WWP from an older resident who shared that she was unable to use a swim lane at times because of the number of people participating in a class or a swim lesson. Avery stated staff is aware of the issue. The pool is shared with the Denton Independent School District (DISD) and we work together on scheduling and programming. Growth in both city and school populations since the natatorium was built has increased the demand. Martin explained this has been a challenge. Because of the demand for space in the lap pool, the wave pool was design to set up 3 additional lanes that will be open to the public beginning this summer in the morning before the WWP opens.

Barber asked if the Nat could be opened earlier on the weekends to accommodate early morning swimmers. Martin stated the Nat has been opened earlier in the past for specific programming such as a swim class. The lanes are used in the morning prior to opening for staff training. Barber asked if the Nat could be opened at 5:30 am on Saturday similar to the weekday hours. Martin advised we are currently not staffed or budgeted to provide the additional hours. Barber inquired about the staff required to operate the pool. Martin outlined the staff required to man each pool and 100 staff members for a full operation during the summer.

Ferrie also supported trying out later hours on select days during the summer, suggested on the weekend. If there is low attendance, the hours can be scaled back again. Shuck believed the trial might work better on a weekday for working parents. Avery agreed that weekdays would be better since most after-hour rentals are on the weekends. She also shared that a survey of other water parks shows WWP is consistent with the operational hours of other parks.

Taylor proposed another option would be to add more shade. Avery and Marin discussed the current seating and shade availability and the additions that have been made. Taylor asked about adding additional trees. Avery advised that could be an option and Monica added issues that could complicate tree planting is all of the underground piping and infrastructure of the pools and the tree debris in the filtration systems.

## **2. CONCLUDING ITEMS:**

The Board asked that the next agenda include:

- Possibility of opening North Lakes on Sunday - Shuck
- Samples of artificial turfs - Frances
- List of funding sources - Taylor

Avery commented with the discussion of the water park and natatorium, she shared that the new sprayground is open earlier in the morning and stays open later in the evening and is free of charge. A WWP pass also gives you access to the Nat which is an option to escape the heat.

Barber asked when the dog park was going back to Council for presentation. Drew confirmed the date of December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Barber moved to adjourn the meeting; Shuck seconded the motion. Motion passed (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.