



City of Denton

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Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board Minutes

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, May 6, 2019, at 4 p.m. in the Civic Center, Denton, Texas.

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

Absent: None

Staff present: Gary Packan, Director, Laura Behrens, Assistant Director, Russell Koch, Parks Manager, Eddie Valdez, Management Analyst

Denton Parks Foundation: Simone Royster, Hutch Ice, Brooke Moore

Guests: Jon Hohman (Present at the Denia Recreation Center)

Chair Punch called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Receive a report on the following sites that will be visited during the park tour: North Lakes Tennis Center, North Lakes Dog Park, North Lakes G. Roland Vela Soccer Complex, Rayzor Ranch Park, McKenna Park, I.O.O.F Cemetery, Eagle & Elm Beautification Node, Denia Park, Southwest Park, and Patrick Park.**

The Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board members, Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) staff, and the Denton Parks Foundation boarded the bus to begin the tour of park properties at 4:06 pm. Staff provided information and responded to questions for each site during the tour.

North Lakes Tennis Center – Packan discusses the design of the new Tennis Center.

The Pro Shop will be bundled with ALH. Taylor asked if there are plans to include art in the facility. Packan confirms art will be included.

North Lakes Dog Park – Packan discusses the design of the new dog park. Depending on the weather, the grand opening is targeted for Labor Day. Shuck asked how many vehicles can park at the airfield parking lot. Packan clarifies the parking lot can vary since there are no parking lines in the lot. Moore asked if there are plans to have special events in the dog park. Packan discusses the types of special events that could be available when the dog park opens.

North Lakes G. Roland Vela Soccer Complex – Packan discusses the design of the new Vela Soccer Complex and points out areas where there will be sculpture. There was a brief discussion about recommending Spanish translation on the park signs.

Rayzor Ranch Park – Packan discusses the design of the new park at Rayzor Ranch and points the berms, staging area, and possibly to plant more trees for added shade in the future.

McKenna Park – Packan points out where the new parking lot, loop trail, and playground will be located. Also, the house and old parking lot will be removed. Taylor asked if there are plans to have an adult playground. Packan discusses where the adult fitness station could go.

I.O.O.F. Cemetery – Packan discusses the grant and renovations to I.O.O.F. Cemetery such as fencing and headstones. Packan points out the old and new fencing.

Eagle & Elm Beautification Node – Packan points out the location and construction area of the beautification node.

Denia Park – Packan points out the new playground and discusses lifespan of playgrounds.

Southwest Park – Packan points out the location of the new Southwest Park and where the development of new homes will be located.

Patrick Park – Packan discusses the new park and points out where the playground and pavilion will be located. There was a discussion and concerns of only having street parking.

Following the tour of City parks, the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board reconvened at the Denia Recreation Center, Pavilion, to consider the following items on the agenda.

B. Consider approval of the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting of April 1, 2019.

Chair Punch request a motion to approve the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting of April 1, 2019. Ferrie motioned, and Barber seconded. Motion passed (7 - 0).

C. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the updated Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

Laura Behrens reviews the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

Taylor asked which athletic fields gets sprayed. Koch discusses areas the athletic fields gets spot sprayed with glyphosate and which turf gets broadcast sprayed. Taylor asked how long broadcast last in the turf. Koch explains the re-entry interval is four (4) hours, but research shows it gets neutralized once it in the soil. Taylor asks the time of day the spraying gets done. Behrens clarifies broadcast spraying happens after hours when the park is closed, and signs are posted on the main entrance of the park to notify people. Behrens also notes spot spray during regular maintenance hours and is mixed in with blue dye.

Ferrie wants clarification the cost for option 1. Behrens confirms the cost is an addition to the current budget.

Taylor asked what chemicals are used in the fertilizer. Koch discusses the type of products and fertilizers used. Taylor asked if Nitrogen will impact the water and water system. Koch explains there is a lack of Nitrogen through a soil test but couldn't comment about how Nitrogen affects the water. Taylor asked if Nitrogen can be eliminated. Behrens explains how eliminating one product will be substituted for another environmental footprint. Also, the use of organic products will increase mowing.

Barber recalled a discussion in the McKenna Park meeting of a resident commenting about stickers being an issue in the park. Behrens and Koch clarify that stickers and burrs are an issue. Barber asked what the contingency is. Behrens discusses the use of glyphosate to kill weeds effectively versus using other products. Koch discusses the products, fertilization, and cycles used on different types of turfs.

Ferrie asked clarification about the organic use at a park that was not successful. Koch confirms the park was Joe Skiles and was a pilot program. Koch discusses challenges to the program.

Taylor is concerned about the use of a product called Safari because it is a neonicotinoid. Behrens comments the limited use of that product and discusses Bill Hartley's help going through the product list. There was a brief discussion of the diversity of background that showed up to the focus group. Taylor referenced Safari on page 54 of the IPM proposal (exhibit 3) and comments it doesn't state how Safari is used.

Punch asked Hohman to introduce himself. Hohman introduces himself a resident of Denton.

Boring asked if there are organizations that don't use RoundUp and are successful. Behrens explains mainly organizations in California, some universities, and Miami is successful. However, it is difficult to get a good comparison with other organizations that are similar to the City of Denton. Behrens gives an example of how Miami uses glyphosate and Denton uses less of it. There was a brief discussion on how California was successful and how Denton uses Austin as a format for the IPM program.

Huttash points out a large number of weeds on a patch of grass at Denia Park and wants clarification of what is considered acceptable. Behrens explains Dr. Garret's recommendation starting a clean slate with Denia Park and only using organic products. There was a discussion about the use of organic versus other chemical products and how starting a clean slate can be a success to the program. Ferrie comments a combined program would be a good option.

Taylor asked if there is a hierarchy to determine what options to use. Packan references page 61 (exhibit 3) on the breakdown of classes and Behrens referenced page 63 for the action threshold guidelines. There was a brief discussion on how to publish the IPM document to educate people of the official plan and also to notify people using signage.

Hohman asked if there is education on the effects of chemicals in fertilizers and surrounding environments. Behrens confirms there is a strategy on that subject under the watershed section of the document (exhibit 3). Behrens reviews cross contamination and drift of the waterways and the conditions of when using broadcast spraying. Behrens also clarifies there hasn't been an issue that she is aware of chemicals entering the waterways and beyond park property.

Hohman had a concern the fertilizers used is not organic. There was a brief discussion on the use of fertilizers, and Denia Park the only site the use of organic products. Also, there was a discussion of Denia Park as the pilot site to learn from and to possibly use as a model for other parks in the future. Hohman still has a concern the use of synthetic fertilizers and the effects of chemicals going to the waterways creating algae bloom. Behrens reference strategy 15 (exhibit 3) written by the environmental department outlining waterways and how the Parks and Recreation Department will work closely with them on evaluating products.

There was a discussion of the training provided for Parks Maintenance staff when using a product, to retain a high level of safety for staff and park users.

Hohman wants clarification on how the subject of IPM was started. Behrens explains it was a concern of the use of glyphosate that brought up this subject. There was a discussion about expectations for the conditions of the parks to meet resident needs. Packan and Behrens clarify what people's expectations to keep up with the level of service in the parks while balancing the different use of the products and keeping a record of it. Hohman is concerned what the standards level of expectations are, asked if a soil scientist was involved, and what Dr. Garrett's qualification. Behrens confirms a soil scientist was not involved. There was a brief discussion of Dr. Garrett's qualification, and how to approach this subject recommending an option.

Chair Punch requests a motion to recommend moving forward with option 3 with a set period of time at Denia with the topsoil. Ferrie motioned, and Shuck seconded.

Taylor motioned to amend the motion for option 3 with the addition of phasing out neonicotinoids. Barber seconded. Motioned passed (7 - 0).

2. CONCLUDING ITEMS:

Punch goes over future items on the list for the Parks, Recreation and Beautification meeting.

- Shade structure for playgrounds
- McKenna Park signage for Avant Garde
- Owsley Park and Patrick Park

Barber and Punch requests to add wildflower and medians as a future discussion for the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting.

Boring comments if there could be a future joint meeting with the Denton Parks Foundation and Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board.

Chair Punch requests a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shuck motioned and Ferrie seconded. Motioned passed (7 - 0). Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.