



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney St.
Denton, Texas 76201
www.cityofdenton.com

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, December 2, 2019, at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center, Denton, Texas.

Present: Frances Punch, George Ferrie, James Emerich, Denona Lee, and David Shuck (arrived approximately 6:30 pm)

Absent: Alana Presley Taylor (Excused), Kent Boring (Excused)

Staff Present: Gary Packan, Director; Laura Behrens, Assistant Director; Drew Huffman, Parks Superintendent; Cathy Avery, Parks Program Area Manager; Jason Barrow, Athletics Manager; Monica Martin, Aquatics Supervisor

Denton Parks Foundation: Brooke Moore, Executive Director

Guests: Sarah Williams, UNT student

Chair Punch called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Consider approval of the minutes of November 4, 2020.

Punch announces absenteeism from the November 4, 2020 meeting.

- One Board member excused absence, and one Board member unexcused absence

Chair Punch requested a motion to approve the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting minutes of November 4, 2019. Ferrie motioned, and Lee seconded. Motion passed (4 - 0).

B. Receive an informal report regarding the Strategic Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Barrow presented the PowerPoint (PPT) for Strategic Plan (SP). Barrow stated that the process started in 2017 and representatives from all of Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) took part in the process. First step was to create the mission statement. We are currently working on each Key Focus Area. He went through the entire presentation but mentioned that 3.3 somehow got erased from the PowerPoint. Jason stated that he is the “quarterback” for the Strategic Plan.

Emerich asked when the strategic plan goes in effect. Barrow responded that the Department has already started. Packan confirmed some areas in the strategic plan will be an ongoing work in progress with continuous improvements.

Emerich asked how success is measured. Packan responded how the department has various performance measurements we need to meet including analyzing each program capacity, field

maintenance requirements, meeting project deadlines, capital standards etc. Lee asked if the department metrics is benchmarked against the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) metrics and other like Cities. Packan confirmed staff enters the department metrics on an online NRPA database to compare and determine the success of the strategic plan for the department. Packan gives an example how the NRPA metrics can be used to evaluate how much parks, benches etc. are needed in Denton.

Martin also commented about the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation process that the department is trying to complete by next year, and how the department is trying to meet standards in all categories to be an accredited agency. Packan summed it up by mentioning the department uses multiple sources to measure success such as national, capital, and internal standards. Barrows mentioned his role leading the strategic plan and how to get more people involved in the department with projects. Ferrie complimented Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) by saying that "Y'all are crushing it."

C. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the future park amenity in Quakertown Park that is to be located on the south side of the Emily Fowler Library.

Packan showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the future park amenity at Quakertown Park. City Council had expressed interest in an outside stage area. Packan explained "The Nook" would be a multipurpose outdoor entertainment venue at Quakertown Park. Packan stated that Glenn designed The Nook. The Nook can be used for variety of events and has room for a 1 or 2-man band. Packan discusses the types of amenities currently in Quakertown and in parks. Packan stated that the Rotary Club had raised approximately \$55K for this project. He added that the Rotary Club is celebrating 100 years anniversary.

Punch asked for more clarification about the three suggested improvements Packan mentioned in the beginning of the presentation.

- Main Stage at Quakertown Park
- Stage behind the Senior Center
- Emily Flower Library ("The Nook" stage area)

Staff clarified that the suggested improvements for entertainment venues was a City Council goal and initiative. Punch asked about the status of the new bathrooms at Quakertown Park. Staff and Punch concluded that the new bathrooms will complement the new improvement at Quakertown Park.

Emerich shared that Austin has a 200-acre park and Quakertown Park is only 30 acres. Emerich asked if the existing park land can increase in size. There was a discussion about covering the drainage ditches and using that space as extra parcel of land. Huffman shared the estimated cost to put the drainage ditches underground was approximately \$8 million and mentioned it's cheaper to buy more land. Packan mentioned possible options and requests such as building another Senior Center which will free up more grass space or expanding the parking lot. There was a group discussion on how to increase park size to accommodate better venues in the future, and also the challenges to increase park size.

Ferrie asked about the budget and annual maintenance costs for The Nook. Huffman stated it is low maintenance and the cost (budget) should not change compared to what it is now. Huffman also states it also depends on the usage of the space. There was a brief discussion on the type of materials that could be used in The Nook.

Punch asked if this would affect Arts & Jazz Festival. Huffman confirmed that this will not affect Arts & Jazz Festival. Packan stated that the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) will beautify the area (muddy, etc.) and also stated that the Historical Landmark Commission was okay with this project.

Lee asked if the big trees will be saved. Packan confirmed the trees will be saved. Staff also mentioned where ADA accessible will be located and including future improvements.

There was a group discussion regarding homelessness in the area and how this project can be a positive impact to Quakertown, and possibly including future programming in "The Nook."

David Shuck arrived during this section at approximately 6:30pm.

It was determined that no motion was necessary and that this was just a discussion to give PARC direction.

D. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the option to add a tour in the January 2020, Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting.

Options were discussed:

- Do a tour in January and start at 4pm when City Staff is there and have a meeting at City Hall East.
- Wait until May and combine with the City Hall East and Park Tour together with the usual Board Meeting.
- Packan mentioned that PARC staff preference would be to do it in May in combination with the park tour to accommodate all Board Members schedule.
 - Shuck mentioned that last year park tour was already a tight schedule. Shuck also suggested to move this agenda item to the January meeting since two Board members are absent.
 - Ferrie stated that would be a long day if did it in May.
- There was a discussion that this item must be discussed in a regular Park Board meeting, and not discussed via email.
- Ferrie recommended that the Board should decide in the January Board Meeting to gather input from the other two Board members.
- Shuck commented to table the discussion until January.

Chair Punch requested a motion to move the discussion in the January 2020, Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meeting to gather feedback regarding adding the tour in a future Board meeting. Shuck motioned, and Emerich seconded. Motion passed (5- 0).

2. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Requests:

- Emerich – Trail system map discussion in the January Board meeting.

Huffman gave project updates:

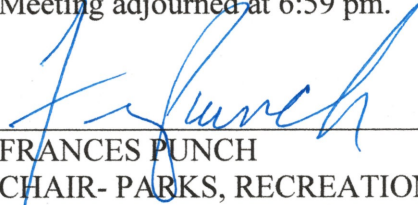
- Adding a sculpture pad at Vela – Art Committee decides the art.
- Tentative – Soft opening December 14, 2019 for Dog Park, which has decomposed granite.
- Dallas Dr. & Teasley is 90% complete. Will hydro mulch this week.
- Eagle/Elm on pause – they are replacing water and sewer lines.

- Punch asked about absence of the lane lines on the road. Punch asked if lack of the lane lines were caused from the road construction. Packan was going to look into it.

Shuck gave compliment about pickleball courts.

Chair Punch requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ferrie motioned, and Emerich seconded. Motion passed (5- 0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.



FRANCES PUNCH
CHAIR- PARKS, RECREATION AND BEAUTIFICATION BOARD
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS