



City of Sachse, Texas

Sachse City Hall
3815-B Sachse Road
Sachse, Texas 75048

Minutes Parks and Recreation Board

Thursday, August 13, 2015

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Sachse will hold a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers in Sachse City Hall, 3815 Sachse Road, Building B, Sachse, Texas to consider the following items of business:

Present 6 - Chairman Cyndi Mitchell, Board Member Diana Smith, Board Member Michael Kellam, Board Member Niloufer Watkins, Board Member Nieves Marquez Jr., and Board Member Terry Bennett

Absent 1 - Board Member Terri Hibbs

Also present: Youth Advisor Jeremiah Stewart, Parks and Recreation Director Lance Whitworth, and Recreation Supervisor Cynthia Wiseman.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flags.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Cyndi Mitchell. The invocation was given by Lance Whitworth and the pledge to the US and Texas Flags was led by Jeremiah Stewart.

2. Regular Agenda Items:

Consider approval of the minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting.

Executive Summary
Review of the minutes of the most recent meeting.

A motion was made by Terri Bennett and seconded by Diana Smith to move Item 6 to Item 4 and move Item 4 to Item 6. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Diana Smith and seconded by Michael Kellam to accept the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss and receive an update on the Friends of Sachse Parks & Recreation.

Tricia Lindsey reported that they are almost finished with the Firefighters tribute project. They have spoken with contractors and finalized the design. The benches have been shown to the sponsors for approval. The installation of the tribute should be completed at the end of August and Saturday, September 12, will be the dedication ceremony. It will be scheduled for 11 AM. After this project the group's next focus will be on trails.

4. Discuss possibility of future dog park.

Becky Rodriguez, 3212 Elmwood Circle in Sachse - discussed reasons why the group wants a dog park in Sachse. Citizens are going to other cities to visit dog parks which leads to a decrease in patronage to local business in Sachse. Homes are being built on smaller lots, so people need places to take their dogs. NTCOG reports that there are between 1,000-2,000 dogs in Sachse. The group is requesting the City dedicate 1 1/2 to 2 acres of the undeveloped park space to building a dog park in Sachse. The group suggested the open area at Salmon Park because of the parking that is already there at the park.

The board discussed the dog park and things brought up during the discussion included: increased staff maintenance time, cost for construction of fencing, dog waste stations, water, etc., as well as the recent needs assessment survey that went out to citizens in which the dog park came back ranked as number 6 on the survey. The board asked staff to look into regulations, rules and the process of building a dog park in a designated area of an already existing park. The board also discussed looking into reasons why some of the surrounding cities that have more park space than Sachse, don't have dog parks.

Debbie Stout, 6711 Eastview Dr. in Sachse - was part of a group that tried to get a dog park in the City of Garland. The group started in 2004 and eventually tried to work with the Animal Shelter to get a dog park built. The City eventually pushed the idea aside because they had other projects and priorities that they spent bond money on. A decent dog park needs about 3 acres and \$75,000 cost for just fencing, and water (that doesn't including parking). The area must be fully fenced if it's near a road. This could be an attraction to home buyers coming in from other cities. She suggested using a portion of the utility line easement to dedicate to an area for a dog park. Suggested that if there is a group that wants to raise funds for a dog park, then the group would need to wait until the City actually dedicates an area for the park to be built. She stated it would be impossible to raise money on a maybe.

Merideth Crane, 6307 Parkview Dr. in Sachse - discussed reasons why a dog park would be utilized in Sachse and how simple it can be. You can put up signs that says the liability is on the owners. She said that she would be able to create a Go Fund Me account to try and help raise funds for building a dog park in Sachse.

Chance Lindsey, 3718 Rockhouse Rd. in Sachse - he brought up that the radio tower will be put in front of the Animal Shelter that would take up too much space that we would not be able to put a dog park there. He feels we should look into a different area. He mentioned that those items like the trails, and recreation center are items that will require a bond election to be built. He believes that the board should focus on smaller projects such as the dog park that can be achieved at this level.

Christy Bolen, 6914 Falcon Crest in Sachse - has lived here for 14 years and drives to Allen to their dog park. Suggested that maybe places like Petsmart would sponsor the park if they could put up their signage on the fencing.

Mr. Whitworth spoke about the dog park in Allen and how he does use this dog park to take his own dog. But as a City Staff member he is looking at what the Citizens of Sachse have asked staff to do in regards to the recent needs survey that was sent out. While he agrees that trails, recreation center and pools are

big items, there are other items on the list like the playground, pavilions, and picnic areas which aren't as hard to accomplish. It is hard for staff to recommend something that is not in the top 5 on the needs assessment and recommend it to a voting organization such as City Council. He did commend the group about going through the proper process to the board and that we will bring this item back to the board to discuss it again after more information is looked at during the next meeting. He does not support the Salmon Park location because of the location being next to a residential area and the large use that the park gets as well as parking being used during baseball season. We will make this another agenda item for the next meeting.

5. Discuss the Parks & Recreation annual staff report as presented to the City Council.

Mr. Whitworth went over the Parks & Recreation staff report that was presented to City Council in July 7, 2015 meeting. The department consists of the Parks & Recreation Department, Senior Center and just recently added the Facility Maintenance Department. Additions in the 2014/15 year have been the addition of Firefighters Park, the 2 youth advisors, the second year for the City Scholarship, 4 Eagle Scout Projects, tables added to the City Complex and Joe and Patricia Stone Park, and installed 3 new scoreboards at Heritage Park.

6. Discuss and consider the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, including the Mater Trail Plan and the recent citizen survey.

Mr. Whitworth reported the results of the survey that was recently sent out as compared to the previous survey in 2008. He made note that the top 5 are the same as they were 5 years ago with trails at number 1, recreation center at number 2, picnic area with pavilion at number 3, playground area at number 4 and swimming pools at number 5. He went over the priorities of the master trails plan. The highline from Miles Rd. to Bunkerhill Rd. is a project that the city has applied for a grant twice. The City was denied the grant the last time it was submitted. We are now working with a grant writing company, Blaze and Associates, to help the City in applying for these grants. This company is going to meet with Texas Parks & Wildlife to go over the deficiencies in the previous grant submitted and then go back and resubmit the grant after addressing these issues. The second priority for the trails is the 5th Street to Sachse Rd. and then Sachse Rd. to Miles Rd. This road has been approved for a street widening project and as part of the project, we were approved to put in an 8 ft. wide trail as part of the project. The preliminary plans have been reviewed but it is still in the works. There is another project that is in the works from the expansion of Woodbridge Pkwy. from Hwy. 78 to 544. There is a collaborative effort between the City of Wylie, Wylie Independent School District and Sachse, on submitting a trail grant to TXDOT for the safe route to schools grant. We should know by October if it is approved. The City is working to enhance the trail system.

7. Discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Parks & Recreation budget that has been submitted to City Council.

Mr. Whitworth reported on the budget that has been submitted to Council. We submitted supplemental requests for a replacement truck, a zero turn commercial mower and there are just a few requests to increase some line items, such as small tools. Ms. Wiseman reported that we have been approved to purchase new registration software with remaining bond money. This will be a huge asset to the department, as we have been using the same registration software for 11 years now. This new system will cut down on staff

time spent on entering registrations. Mr. Kellam asked if the Firefighters restrooms were approved. Mr. Whitworth reported they were not approved in the budget, but we could look into using park development fees at a later date.

- 8. Receive staff updates regarding current activities, special events, and personnel.

The Movie in the Park will be held on Saturday evening. There will be popcorn and drinks. The Fall/Winter brochure went to the printer and it should go in the mail tomorrow.

- 9. Request for future agenda items.

Requests were made to discuss the dog park (including estimated costs, pros and cons), report on the meeting that staff has with the grant writer and Texas Parks and Wildlife (staff will also bring the list of the 12 projects that were funded in the past), update on Firefighters Park restrooms status, discuss setting a Park Tour date, Pumpkin Prowl, Park Pals update.

- 10. Set upcoming Parks and Recreation Board Meeting date.

The meeting was set for September 10, 2015, at 7 PM.

- 11. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Niloufer Watkins and seconded by Diana Smith at 8:34 PM.

ATTEST:



Diana Smith, Secretary

APPROVED:



Cyndi Mitchell, Chairman