

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Held at Civic Center – Conference Room 202
October 14, 2014
6:00 PM

Members absent: Collin Hayes & Gene Fitch, Jr.

City Council Liaison in attendance: Kendal Hartley

PARD Staff in attendance: Shanna Sims-Bradish, Robbie Hazelbaker, Kurt Beilharz, Sarah Burt

Attending Commission Members:

Kenan Brandes – Chairman

Susan Fischer - Member

Pam Krause - Member

Jeanne Hooker – Member

Jeremy Thomason - Vice Chairman

Kevin Williams - Member

AV Vaghela - Member

Visitors: Assistant City Manager David Morgan

1. Chairman, Kenan Brandes, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Visitors
 - Chairman Kenan Brandes introduced Deputy City Manager David Morgan, as well as Park Planning Superintendent Kurt Beilharz.
3. On a motion by Pam Krause and Kevin Williams, the minutes of the September 9 meeting were approved.
4. Chairman's Report
 - a) New Vision and Initiatives for the Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Chairman Kenan Brandes commented on the level of involvement by members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and expressed his gratitude for the time the members have already spent on commission duties. Mr. Brandes proposed a new initiative with the goal of encouraging more participation and gaining more hands on knowledge of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Brandes is suggesting members of the Parks and Recreation Commission visit parks and park facilities that they are less familiar with and make observations to be shared at Parks and recreation Meetings. Additionally, members of the commission would be encouraged to observe Parks and Recreation operations at an event in a neighboring city and attend one of their Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to gain further knowledge. Parks and Recreation staff have ordered name badges that identify Parks and Recreation Commission members as they visit facilities and allow them to use the facility for a workout at no charge during their term. Mr. Brandes and Vice Chairman Jeremy Thomason have been brainstorming about an appropriate way to implement these ideas and will present more at the November meeting.
5.
 - b) Corporate Challenge Closing Ceremonies Reminder

- Chairman Kenan Brandes reminded everyone about the event on Friday, October 17 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

c) Huffhines Art Trail Event Reminder

- Chairman Kenan Brandes reminded about the upcoming Huffhines Art Trails event on October 25-26.

5. Briefing on Spring Creek Nature Area Real Estate

- Deputy City Manager David Morgan gave a briefing on the acquisition of nearly 60 acres of parkland from Galatyn Properties Ltd., associated with the Margaret Hunt Hill family. Mr. Morgan used the same presentation that was given to the City Council on Monday night's meeting. The acquisition will contribute to the enhancement of the nature area, as well as continued development of the outer urban areas of the property. Mr. Morgan's presentation provided a history of the Hill Family Trust involvement with the City of Richardson and the evolution of the nature area.
- After Mr. Morgan's presentation, Chairman Kenan Brandes acknowledged the presence of two unexpected visitors that came in after the meeting began. Michael Webber and Jeff Burns introduced themselves and began discussing their desire to use the ponds at Huffhines for model battleships. They are part of a club that participates in battles with other model battleships and are looking for a new site for their ships. Mr. Webber recognized that there is an ordinance prohibiting motor operated devices on park ponds. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish gave Mr. Webber her card and asked for him to e-mail her at a different time so that the request can be handled internally.

6. Parks & Recreation Department Report

a) Overview of Cottonwood Arts Festival

- Assistant Director Robbie Hazelbaker gave a brief recap on the results of the Cottonwood Arts Festival, explaining that there was an excellent turnout from guests and artists. Additionally, informal reports from various artists result in close to \$1 million in art being sold in the park over the weekend of October 4-6. Mr. Hazelbaker showed graphs to indicate that this most recent festival brought in the highest amount of revenue yet for Cottonwood Arts Festival.

b) International Festival and Events Association (IFEA) Conference Update

- Assistant Director Robbie Hazelbaker expressed his gratitude for the Parks and Recreation Commission's support in training opportunities and how his recent trip to the International Festivals and Events Association Conference was beneficial for both him and Community Events Superintendent Serri Ayers.

- Mr. Hazelbaker shared a Power Point presentation of some of the trends in festivals today and tools for soliciting Sponsorship. He attended many panel discussions on best practices by experts from a variety of events across the US and the World. He intends to integrate many of the ideas discussed at the IFEA Conference into the sponsorship process here in Richardson.

c) 2010 Bond Program Update

a. Playground Renovations

- Superintendent of Park Planning, Kurt Beilharz, gave an update on meetings for playground renovations to hear from the community; Mr. Beilharz is also working with an ADA consultant to make sure disability guidelines are met.

b. Update on Northrich Park

- Mr. Beilharz announced that the groundbreaking ceremony will be on October 30, 2014 at 10:00 A.M., with Northrich Elementary students in attendance

c. Update on Dog Park

- Mr. Beilharz gave a status update on the dog park and shared information that a contract has been awarded and is now in Austin with TXDOT for final approval before construction can begin.

d. Update on McKamy Springs Historical Marker Request

- Mr. Beilharz informed the Parks and Recreation Commission that he has collaborated with Stacy Davis of the Library, who wrote an excellent research paper for the marker. Upon approval from the Dallas County Historical Commission, the historical marker will hopefully be complete in 2015. Pam Krause recognized Mr. Beilharz and Ms. Davis for doing an outstanding job and appreciated Mr. Beilharz for his dedication to the project.

e. City Entry Signs

- Mr. Beilharz stated that 2 potential sign designs came in and they were over budget, so the staff will continue to evaluate this project.

d) Santa's Village Update

- Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish informed the Parks and Recreation Commission about the new "Hometown Nights" for Santa's Village. There will be many different forms of communication throughout

Richardson so that citizens will be aware of which days are Hometown Thursdays and how to acquire tickets. Residents receive 8 tickets each, and the tickets are for different days. Mrs. Sims-Bradish discussed that this is a trial run to see how this new night works for the City.

e) Parks and Recreation Director Recruitment Update

- Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish updated the Parks and Recreation Commission that there have been 51 applicants for the Director position within the department, and that the deadline for receiving applications is Friday, October 17, 2014. Mrs. Sims-Bradish stated that with the upcoming holidays it could be January before a successful candidate is selected.

7. Parks & Recreation Commission round table of community interest items

- Chairman Kenan Brandes requested two more volunteers to be a parade judge for the Christmas parade on December 6 on the east side of the city. Pam Krause and Jeanne Hooker volunteered, along with Kevin Williams.
- Chairman Kenan Brandes reminded everyone that opening night for Santa's Village will be the same day as the Christmas Parade, with the awards Parade awards ceremony beginning at 5:00 PM.
- Pam Krause and Kevin Williams once again acknowledged the efforts of Superintendent of Park Planning Kurt Beilharz for his research in regards to the McKamy Springs Historical Marker. Chairman Kenan Brandes also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Williams and Ms. Krause being involved in the initial research of this project.

8. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chairman Kenan Brandes adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Sarah Burt, City of Richardson Parks & Recreation Department

Minutes approved at November 11th, regular meeting:
