

Minutes
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Regular Meeting – Multipurpose Room
Richardson Police Department, 200 N. Greenville Avenue
October 13, 2020
6:00 PM

Member absent: Drew Hayes, Greg Kish

PARD Staff in attendance: Director Lori Smeby, Assistant Director Dan Baker, Assistant Director Yvonne Falgout, Superintendent of Athletics/Aquatics Chris Cottone and Administrative Secretary Paula Vieregge

Attending Commission Members:

Gene Fitch, Jr. - Chairman

Steve Hendry – Vice Chairman

Daniel Burdette – Member

Nancy Crowe - Member

Victor Garza – Member

Glenn Folse - Member

Kimberly Sisco - Member

1. Chairman Gene Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - September 8, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously. Member Victor Garza made a motion to approve and member Nancy Crowe seconded the motion.
3. Presentation
 - Athletics/Aquatics/Corporate Rec Division Report – Chris Cottone summarized the last year including the challenges that have occurred due to Covid-19.
4. Discussion Items
 - Bike Adv. Comm Update – Ms. Smeby provided a written Bicycle/Pedestrian report update, received from the Advisory Committee's liaison, Jessica Shutt. Dallas County has begun a feasibility study about possible extension of Central Trail from Richardson through Dallas.
 - Park Visits – Chairman Fitch went through the list of parks that were visited and asked the group to comment regarding their observations and their areas of opportunities. November's presentation will include Terrace park through the Spring Creek Nature Area. He requested reports be submitted by Friday, November 6th.
 - Boards and Commissions Policies – City Council reviewed some suggested changes to the ethics ordinance in their last meeting regarding a new social media policy affects elected and appointed officials. The key point is to be very careful on personal social media accounts. If anyone identifies him or herself as a city commissioner on social media, then it could be considered official business and consequently subjected to open records requests.
 - Parks Study Updates –
 - (1) Lori briefed the group regarding the name change from Trident property to Apollo Road property. A conceptual study is being done. Will come back later to develop a master plan. Sending out a survey to Richardson residents regarding their ideas about possible uses of the park. Lori requested that the group save the date in December, for a possible extra called meeting. Dates are 12/8 or 12/15.
 - (2) Doing an internal study on Breckinridge park, with the firm Studio Outside. Looking at a possible new playground location, near the gazebo. Improving some parking and potentially extending some trails.
 - Boards and Commissions Appreciation – the annual dinner will be a virtual event with prerecorded speeches. A link will be provided to all boards and commissions groups. The presentation will be held on Dec 2nd at 6:30pm.
5. Director's Reports
 - Parks/Planning – Dan Baker
 - (1) Duck Creek Trail Extension – closures of perma-track, another two weeks on the Plano Rd bridge.
 - (2) Spring Creek Nature Area – majority of two sections of trail have been poured. The trail has been shut down, for one week, to close the connections.

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- Recreation/Athletics/Events – Yvonne Falgout
 - (1) Senior Center Health Fair – a party atmosphere and was enjoyed; positive feedback.
 - (2) Brown Bag Thanksgiving – the Senior Center is doing a drive through lunch meal pickup. Goodie bag with activities will be included.
 - (3) Cottonwood On-line Merchandise – launched an online merchandise sale.
 - (4) Planning virtual holiday – the staff are planning creative options for this holiday season.
 - (5) Senior Center Update – Vice Chairman Steve Hendry asked if the new Senior Center renaming has been selected. Lori explained that it has been shelved temporarily since it is complicated to get in front of seniors at this time. Yvonne gave the group an update about the construction progress.

- Administration – Lori Smeby
 - (1) Hilltop Cemetery at Breckinridge park – Lori gave the group library newspaper photocopies about the cemetery's background.
 - (2) Breckinridge Trail – substantially complete. Ribbon cuttings should be happening in the first part of December, with a small group attending.

6. Department Calendar Items

- December 8th & 15th as a possible December Parks Commission meeting.
- December 2nd will be the Boards & Commissions virtual presentation.

7. Items of interest

- Member Nancy Crowe – great job in maintaining the parks.
- Member Steve Hendry – 2nd Nancy's comments. Posed a question regarding medians on E Spring Valley. Dan said we have funds for irrigation at that location.
- Member Glenn Folse – pass.
- Member Victor Garza – parks have become an important and vital part of our lives during this time. Thanks for all the great work. Heartfelt gratitude from the Garza family.
- Member Daniel Burdette – asked a question about the Christmas parade and Santa's Village. Lori responded that neither of the two will happen this year, but there is a plan to "Light the Plaza," at City Hall.
- Member Kim Sisco – have really enjoyed the park visits. We've started a monthly picnic in the park, with another couple where we pick a different park each time.
- Chairman Gene Fitch – asked about the Cottonwood Legacy Park award. Dan answered that we did not rank high enough this time, but we'll try again in a couple of years.

8. Chairman Gene Fitch adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM with a motion to adjourn by member Steve Hendry, and a second by Daniel Burdette. It was voted unanimous by the group.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paula Vieregge, City of Richardson Parks & Recreation Department

Minutes approved at November 10, 2020, regular meeting:

Gene Fitch, Chairman