

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
6-26-2024

Call to Order

Doris called meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Edward Lock	<i>present</i>	Karen Fitzgerald	<i>present</i>
Robyn Taylor		Molly Slaid	<i>present</i>
Heather Tuggle	<i>present</i>	Michelle Mitcham	
Lynda Schubring		Isaac Recinos	<i>present</i>
Ashley Brown		Alexander Harris	<i>present</i>
Doris Michalak	<i>present</i>	Sebastian Marquis	
Rachel Beazley		Robert Basford	<i>present</i>
Thomas Huebner	<i>present</i>	Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>

Approval of Minutes from 6-5-24

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Edward and was seconded by Karen.

Citizens Comments

None

Items for individual consideration

July 4th Event

Staff had an internal department meeting to plan activities for the next week.

Tasks were assigned to Sebastian, Alec, and others, with a focus on setting up the event by Wednesday evening. Concerns about parking and float lineup were addressed, with plans to secure the Champions Forest parking lot on Wednesday evening. Volunteer support was discussed, particularly for the parade judging. The parade route and lineup were detailed, including a new staging process to organize floats by category (golf carts, regular vehicles, floats). Logistics for parade participants, including check-in and route details, were reviewed, with plans for a pre-parade meeting. The festival after the parade includes food trucks starting at 7 PM. Music starts at 7:15 PM, performed live by Seven Bridges, an Eagles tribute band. Fireworks are planned for later in the evening, with logistics managed to ensure smooth traffic flow and safety. Overall, the team is prepared with volunteers, lifeguards, and logistics to ensure a successful event.

Fall Frolic

Quick update - The possible merger with the radio station KSBJ will not happen because KSBJ is focusing on a women's health event instead. As a result, the Fall Frolic event will proceed independently. The merger outcome would have been the same regardless of any votes.

Fishing Tournament

Discussion with Michael from Fishing Futures is ongoing about potentially including older teenagers. One challenge is that participants over 17 need a fishing license, which involves an extra fee and liability issues. There is a consideration to require registrants to have a license. Collaboration with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will help with advertising, and at least one game warden is expected at the event.

Laura Capps in Human Resources, is being consulted about liability issues regarding licenses. A site visit is planned for next week to decide the best access points, likely in the southwestern quadrant. Marketing materials are being created, and sponsorships are being sought. The

marketing materials are expected to be online next week. The logistics of including food trucks and access are being considered. There is also a debate on whether to register participants individually or by family due to competition fairness. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7th, just before the event, and an email update will follow after the site visit. The event has been approved, and preparations will ramp up after July 4th.

Parks and Recreation Directors Report

The ADA chairs have been installed at the pool, with some delay due to the need to install an anchor and scheduling the work. Several meetings were held leading up to July 4th, including finalizing shuttle details with the golf course and discussing emergency contracts with MU Science for hurricane season, ensuring fuel supply for city vehicles.

Lifeguard policies have been implemented, and internal safety policies and SOPs are being improved. Efforts have been made to update the website, including adding a contact page and a reporting issues page to streamline communication and improve accessibility for residents. The senior fitness program is progressing well, and collaboration with the library is enhancing summer programming. The Carol Fox Art Day was successful, and efforts are underway with a high school student to host a fundraiser for replanting trees lost in the recent storm.

Lifeguards have received praise for their vigilance and professionalism, with three successful rescues this year. The pool has met and exceeded revenue goals for most aquatic programs and rentals, and new protocols and rules have been well-received. There is an emphasis on transparency and communication regarding pool and splash pad closures.

Marketing and social media efforts are ongoing to promote events and rentals. Town forums have been well-attended, and the department is working on next year's budget to introduce sustainable programs and events. The pool season attendance is strong, and new swim lesson sessions are being offered, with all lessons sold out.

The pickleball court at Clark Henry Park is operational, with lines painted under the pavilion. Currently, usage is managed by email requests, and equipment is provided by lifeguards. The process is being refined to potentially introduce structured programs or leagues as popularity grows.

A mural painting project is underway, with the base layer completed by the community and the final touches to be added by the artist over the next two weeks.

Robert provided an update on Carol Fox Park, focusing on new design plans developed by Kimley-Horn and staff. The team incorporated feedback from Founders Day, resulting in a beach-themed design with popular climbing features. Despite the inability to include a slide in a volcano due to maintenance issues, the goal was to create a combined 2-12 age range play area. Key highlights include a taller structure with rope climbing features and protective elements, retained features like the Kraken with additional climbing options, New beach-themed elements such as a whale, whale shark, and boats and old-school, ground-level merry-go-round spinners.

Robert showcased renderings of the designs, noting climbing aspects with netting for airflow. An alternative design included houses, which were somewhat opposed due to a recent addition of similar features. He emphasized the importance of interactive elements over expensive visual features.

Additional points discussed included ensuring compliance with code and space requirements between structures, intent to include a balance surfboard feature, and plans for rubberized flooring to connect new and existing play areas.

Robert addressed color preferences, noting some concerns about the loudness of purple but overall satisfaction with the oceanic theme. He highlighted the need for minor adjustments, like repositioning the Kraken's eyes for better visibility.

The project is budgeted, with final approvals and orders expected by August 20th. Construction completion is aimed for February-March, ideally before spring break. The playground will remain partially open during construction, with strategic closures. Additional improvements include engineered shade structures rated for high winds. Robert expressed excitement for the project and readiness to proceed pending any further feedback.

Doris asked the committee members to vote on whether they were in favor of Robert moving forward with the Carol Fox plan. The committee voted in favor of this unanimously.

Pool update – council said no pool next summer regardless of the bond election outcome. As a result of that, staff have been working on alternative programming featuring a summer camp for next year. The revenue would offset expenses. Will present program plans to council on July 12. Will keep the lifeguards to help run the programs.

The Bond Committee has met frequently, to discuss the pool project. Comprehensive information, including updated designs, maintenance reports, and public feedback, is available on the website. All documents and notes discussed by the council and committee are publicly accessible. The website provides detailed financial implications for homeowners regarding the bond costs.

Initial assessments by Progressive Commercial Aquatics and a more detailed one by Councilman Hunsaker identified the need for significant pool updates. The committee reviewed several concepts: a lap pool with a shallow entry and play structure, a similar setup with a slide, a larger two-body system with multiple slides, and renovations to the existing Z-shaped pool. An expanded Z-shape design with eight lanes was also considered. The committee leaned towards new pool options in the 10 million dollar range. A recommendation for the council is expected at the July 15th meeting.


Future agenda item request

Next Meeting Date

August 7, 2024

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Edward and was seconded by Thomas.



Maria Thorne, Administrative Assistant