

**MINUTES
CITY OF TAYLOR
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 17, 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PORTER STREET
TAYLOR, TEXAS 76574
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Kathleen Eason
Gary Gola
Andrew Gonzales
Jennifer Jewett
Davis Morris
Stayci Roznovak-Burris
Ginger Schneider
Timothy Tebeau, student
Matthew Temple
Lonnie Zycha

ABSENT

Laurie Connally
Kenny Orts

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike DeVito, P&R Superintendent
Leisha Morrison, Admin Assist
Celia Garrett, Visitor
Annette Maruska, Visitor
Thomas Sweet, Visitor
Vanessa Sweet, Visitor
Nellie Sweet, Visitor

Call to order and declare a quorum

The meeting was called to order and a quorum declared at 6:02 p.m.

Invocation was given by Committee member Stayci Roznovak-Burris.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizens Communications

Ms. Celia Garrett spoke in support of the dog park with fencing and water supply in Taylor. And also spoke against closing 5th street permanently for the Legacy campus.

Ms. Annette Maruska spoke against closing 5th street permanently for the Legacy campus.

REGULAR AGENDA

Approve minutes from the January 20, 2016 meeting

Motion: was made by Committee member Matthew Temple to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2016 meeting, with the correction of adding City of Taylor CIO Holli Nelson and Assistant City Manager Noel Bernal to the Present list.

Second: Committee Vice Chair Lonnie Zycha.

Vote: All voted aye.

Minutes approved.

Elect Chair and Vice Chair positions

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito opened the floor for nominations for the Chairman position.

Nomination was made by Committee member Matthew Temple to re-nominate present Chairman Gary Gola. No other nominations. Mr. DeVito closed the floor.

Motion: by Committee member Andrew Gonzales to recommend to City Council to re appoint present Chairman Gary Gola to another term as Chairman.

Second: Committee member Kathleen Eason.

Vote: Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion passed.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chairman position.

Nomination was made by Committee member Kathleen to re-nominate present Vice Chairman Lonnie Zycha.

Motion: Committee member Andrew Gonzales to recommend to City Council to re appoint present Vice Chairman Lonnie Zycha to another term as Vice Chairman.

Second: Committee member David Morris

Vote: Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion passed.

Receive presentation on Taylor Garden Club project in Murphy Park

Presentation by Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito explained that the Garden Club would incur all costs of installing the concrete beds and shrubs/trees/plants, totally approximately \$10,000.00. The City of Taylor will maintain the gardens, installing irrigation for watering. No action taken on this item.

Discuss Disc Golf Course

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito is waiting on information from company reached out to by Councilman Rydell, including a cost quote. No action taken on this item.

Discuss status of West End School

City Council has asked for an RFP, which will be discussed at the 2nd council meeting in April 2016. No action taken on this item.

Discuss pool operations contract and bid for services

Pool operations contract will be presented to City Council on Thursday, February 25, 2016. Mr. DeVito explained the bid process. The City of Taylor will want to get a 3 to 5 year contract with whichever company is awarded the contract.

Motion: Committee member David Morris to recommend to City Council to approve the outlined contents of the pool bidder packet as presented by Mr. DeVito.

Second: Committee member Kathleen Eason

Vote: Ayes: 7 Nays: 2 Committee member Jennifer Jewett and Vice Chairman Lonnie Zycha

Motion passed by majority.

Discuss Heritage Square Park/Legacy Campus

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito stated that 5 candidates have been interviewed for Phase I of the Heritage Park renovation. Phase I would focus mainly on "wayfinding" signage. Nothing has been finalized as of this date. There will be meetings set up with Committees, including the Parks and Recreation Committee and also public hearings will be held for the design phase. The committee stated that 5th street showed to be available for public use in the Downtown Master Plan. Committee members stated concerns about costs, overflow of students, teachers and buildings onto Heritage Square Park.

Motion: Committee member Andrew Gonzales recommends to City Council for Heritage Park to stand alone and to be bordered by public streets.
Second: Committee member Kathleen Eason
Vote: Ayes: All Nays: None
Motion passed.

Update on egret island

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito showed the Committee a powerpoint picture of a sample egret habitat. Committee members stated they would like something more natural looking to be put into Murphy lake for the egrets. Texas Parks and Wildlife came to Taylor to meet with Mr. DeVito, looked at Egret Island and said that it looked good for now. It will be a functional habitat for the egrets this year. No action taken on this item.

Discuss overpopulation of ducks in bull Branch park

Parks and Recreation Superintendent recommends relocation of ducks from Bull Branch park to possibly Murphy Park and/or Robinson Park. They cannot be relocated to the Taylor Regional Sports Complex due to it being a natural habitat, which means animals cannot be introduced to it, they have to come to it naturally. Mr. DeVito will bring back a proposal to the next meeting, March 23, 2016. No action taken on this item.

Discuss continued improvements on Doak Street ball fields

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito stated that the Hutto lighting would be put up for auction, not given to Taylor per the City of Hutto. No action taken on this item.

Discuss a dog park

Resident Celia Garrett spoke for creating a dog park in the City of Taylor, with water, fencing, shade and security. It was suggested to add this item to the Priority list. The Committee asked Mike for fencing costs and possible locations. No action taken on this item.

Review list of Board Parks priorities

All members were asked to prioritize all improvements shown on the Priority list handed to them and bring back their lists to the March meeting. No action taken on this item.

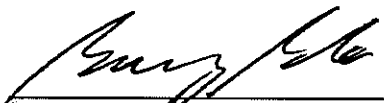
Identify items for next meeting

- Skate park/closing First Avenue
- Grant application status
- Priority list/ranking
- Dickey museum/qualify land for pocket park
- Disc golf course update
- Update on West End school
- Council approval of Pool contract
- Heritage Square Park motion by Committee
- Egret Island update
- Duck overpopulation proposal
- Doak Street ball fields
- Dog Park

Next meeting date:

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Gary Gola, Chairman



Lonnie Zycha, Vice Chairman