

**MINUTES
CITY OF TAYLOR
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 15, 2014
CITY OF TAYLOR LIBRARY
801 VANCE STREET
TAYLOR, TEXAS 76574
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Kathleen Eason
Gary Gola
Daniel Philhower
Jennifer Jewett
Kenny Orts
Jason Richter
Stayci Roznovak-Burris
Lonnie Zycha

ABSENT

Nelson Alexander
Joseph Meller
Andrew Gonzales
Madeline Ward, student member

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike DeVito, P & R Superintendent
Leisha Morrison, Admin Assist
Matthew Temple, visitor
Brandt Rydell, Councilor
Jeff Straub, Interim City Manager
Brent Humphreys

Call to order and declare a quorum

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

Citizens Communications

Visitor Matthew Temple thanked Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito and the Parks and Recreation Committee for organizing the basketball program and implementing play as quickly as they did.

Approve the minutes from the meeting

Motion was made by Committee member Jason Richter to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Committee member Daniel Philhower. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Review member attendance and terms due to expire

Refer to previous minutes from the November 20, 2013 meeting. No action taken on this item.

Update on website

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito presented a page on the website with updates and told the Committee he would like to have all updates and changes completed by March 2014. Committee Chairman Gary Gola asked all Committee members to submit their ideas to Mr DeVito within a weeks time, so he could implement them into the website design. Some of the ideas are: to change programs/events wording to team sports programs and events, add link to the Committee roster on first page, add a calendar and to add facebook, twitter or some social media link. No action taken on this item.

Status of the proposed frisbee (disc) golf course

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito discussed the course design, location and time frame for the company Life Discs Sports to design and install the disc golf course. Motion was made by Committee member Jason Richter to recommend to City Council to find funding for the disc golf course. Seconded by Committee member Kathleen Eason. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Update on basketball league

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito told the Committee that 80 children are participating in the 2014 Basketball program. The City program cooperated with the Hutto Parks and Recreation department. Hutto Parks and Recreation paid the referees and the coaches. The City program paid for the participants jerseys and awards. The participant cost was \$50.00. The Taylor Independent schools offered their gym at their Main Street campus for game play, at no charge to the City. Mr. DeVito's goal for the 2015 basketball program is to have enough participants to have separate boys and girls teams. No action taken on this item.

Discuss scholarship program

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito suggested organizing a "Friends of the Park" program to raise funds for the scholarship program. Approximately 10 kids played for free or on scholarships. Committee member Daniel Philhower will research organizing a "Friends of the Park" group and have a report on that process at the next meeting. No action taken on this item.

Identify recreational needs for the City of Taylor

The next program will be soccer. Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mike DeVito stated that registration set up will be completed by the end of this week. Games will be held at the Taylor Regional Sports Complex. They will start April 1 and run through May 31, 2014. Ages available for play will be 3 year to 14 year olds. Mr DeVito's goal is to start a Taylor Youth Soccer league for future play. Other sports programs could include: flag football and kickball. Mr DeVito stated that the YMCA will be managing the pools this year. There are 2 more years left on the City's 3 year contract with the YMCA of Williamson County. No action taken on this item

Explore possibilities of theater and plays

This item was tabled for further discussion.

Discuss ways to gauge interest of citizens in activities

Facebook, surveymonkey, email, using City Parks website, sending out surveys in the water bills, letting the "Friends of the Park" do a survey were several of the different ways suggested to gauge interest in activities from Taylor citizens. This item was tabled until direction can be sought from City Council.

Discuss direction of Council for the updating of the Parks Master Plan

Updating the master plan was presented to City Council by Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Gary Gola at the January 9, 2014 Council meeting. The Committee will wait for Council to ask them to proceed. No action taken on this item.

Receive presentation for skateboard park

Brent Humphreys presented the idea of installing a BMX and skateboard park in the City of Taylor. Mr. Humphreys presented quite a bit of information on skateboard parks being installed around the state and country. He was very energetic and excited about the possibility of one being installed in Taylor, if a location can be determined and money can be raised to explore such an endeavor. The committee asked Mr. Humphreys to submit a formal presentation with all specific information, such as location, cost and size of park. Upon submission and after review and discussion by the Committee, and any further necessary meetings with Mr Humphrey, it will be presented to Council. No action taken on this item.

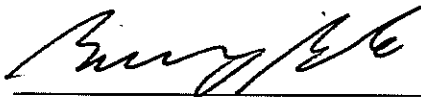
Identify items for next meeting

- Information of social media use in the Parks and Recreation web pages (Mike DeVito)
- Update on organizing "Friends of the Parks" group (Daniel Philhower)
- Explore possibilities of theater and plays (Madeline Ward)
- Update on website design and information (Mike DeVito)
- Update on status of soccer program (Mike DeVito)
- Elect Committee chairman and vice chairman (if Council makes appointments) (Mike DeVito)

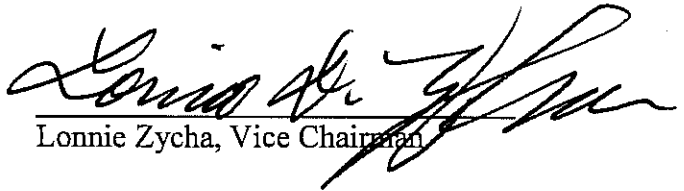
Next meeting date:

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2014.

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



Gary Gola, Chairman



Lonnie Zycha, Vice Chairman