



**City of Farmers Branch**  
**Minutes**  
**Parks & Recreation Board**

Farmers Branch  
Community Recreation Center  
14050 Heartside  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Thursday, August 19, 2021

6:30 PM

Pecan Room

**Meeting held at 6:30 PM**

**PRESIDING: Bob Stewart, Chair**

**PRESENT: Christy Dimon  
Sarah Langhorst  
Susan Mathis  
Robert Stewart  
Marc Traynor**

**ABSENT: Steve Root  
Margaret Young (Emeritus)**

**STAFF: Rachael Arroyo, Recreation Superintendent  
Geoff Fairchild, Events Manager  
Paul Macias, Aquatics Manager  
Maria Minter, Recreation Center Manager  
Linda Gaucin, Administrative Assistant**

**GUESTS: Jan Woolridge  
Adrian Young  
Bobby Minter**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Bob Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

**B. AGENDA ITEMS**

**B.1 INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS.**

Robert Stewart began the meeting by introducing every person in the room and then asked each Board and Staff member to briefly introduce themselves. The Park Board welcomed new board members Jessica Zavala, Rinkesh Desai, and Daniel Musto to their first meeting.

No action taken.

**B.2 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 30, 2021 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Marc Traynor made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sarah Langhorst.

Motion carried.

**B.3 CONSIDER EXCUSING THE ABSENCE OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM THE JUNE 30, 2021 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Adhering to the Attendance Policy under the Ethics Policy City Council has adopted, the Parks and Recreation Board shall decide by vote at this meeting whether Marc Traynor, Susan Mathis, and Margaret Young's absences on June 30, 2021, was for a good cause or not.

As a matter of practice, the Board has excused the absence of a Board member when a member has a pre-noticed excusable absence. By excusing the absence, the Board member is not penalized with using one of two unexcused absences allowed in the Charter.

Robert Stewart requested that anyone in the future let him and/or Rachael Arroyo be aware of their absence 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Sarah Langhorst made a motion the absences of Marc Traynor, Susan Mathis, and Margaret Young. The motion was seconded by Jessica Zavala. Motion carried.

**B.4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Nominations for the office of Vice-Chair for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were taken at this meeting. Robert Stewart requested a volunteer, and Rinkesh Desai volunteered.

Robert Stewart moved by proclamation to elect Rinkesh Desai to Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Marc Traynor. Motion carried.

**B.5 RECEIVE THE AQUATICS CENTER QUARTERLY REPORT.**

Paul Macias presented the Financial Report for the year-to-date (YTD) totals for the Aquatics Center. The report included October 2020 - June 2021 data, including revenue from memberships, rentals, several programs, day passes, and expenses.

Paul noted that the Governor lifted Covid restrictions on March 10, 2021, so Aquatics operations returned to normal in April. Prior to COVID, 2019 was the Aquatics record year because the Carrollton Rosemead Recreation Center was closed due to construction. Paul Macias noted that the Aquatics Center did lose membership during COVID but had been ramping back up since re-opening. The day passes lagged behind due to May and June rainy weather but did have 13,200 guests for day passes. Frog Pond passes obtained 154 passes during this time.

On a positive front, lessons were completely full. Flex passes were given starting in April. The Aquatics Center held 659 private lessons, which helped rebound programs. Over 56 Party Packages were sold in May and June. Pre-hour rentals were more than the previous year. Towels and swim goggles earned the most revenue for Merchandise. Alcohol was served for the first time at the Frog Pond during a toddler swim to boost revenues. The concession stand was rented out to a third party.

Paul Macias noted that throughout DFW, there was a lifeguard shortage, but the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center was 99% staffed.

Sarah Langhorst asked if the Aquatics Center ever thought of having a movie night. Paul Macias explained that the sound and splash pond noises had to be shut off by 8:30 PM, so a movie is not feasible for this neighborhood of residents. Rinkesh Desai and Daniel Musto commented the swim lanes are always too full. Rachael Arroyo indicated that the four lanes were installed purely for recreational purposes.

Jessica Zavala noted that 14% in memberships seems low. Paul Macias stated again that the Aquatics Center lost memberships during COVID due to seniors not feeling comfortable with crowds.

No action taken.

#### **B.6 RECEIVE THE RECREATION CENTER QUARTERLY REPORT.**

Maria Minter updated the board for the year-to-date (YTD) totals for the Recreation Center. The report included October 2020-June 2021 data, including revenue from memberships, rentals, several programs, guest fees, and expenses.

The Recreation Center was re-opened at the end of April, and the cost recovery numbers are sluggish at this time because the renovation impacted accessibility. The cost recovery was at 34%, with the renovation costs included. Without including the renovation costs, cost recovery would be at 50%. Memberships continue to go up with 11,000 plus members scanned. There has been a 25% increase month over month.

A member asked if the land at Brookhaven College could be used for the Parks program. Maria Minter noted that it is not Farmers Branch property.

The Recreation's gymnastic instructor left, so Texas Dynamics partnered with the Rec Center to do the gymnastics program. Added to the programs are Kungfu and Piano. Rentals for the athletic fields were 58% higher than two years ago. Summer Funshine had 210 participants, and the Teen Camp had 30 participants.

No action taken.

#### **B.7 RECEIVE THE SPECIAL EVENTS QUARTERLY REPORT.**

Geoff Fairchild presented the third quarter report for Special Events. Revenue, expenses, sponsorships, and event attendance were noted. Geoff stated that the City Council approved a fifty-foot evergreen tree for Christmas in the Park. Lit décor of Christmas decorations will be expanded to ten locations.

The city's 75<sup>th</sup> celebration was moved to July 2 while working with Tourism and Communications to market the programs. He introduced Jeff Brady as the new Communications Director for the City.

Event Live concerts restarted in April with six productions. Sponsorships increased, and attendance for Denton Drive Live has been between 500 and 800 participants. Sarah Langhorst complimented Geoff and his staff for their efforts for the Fourth of July Fireworks.

Jessica Zavala requested more food trucks for Denton Drive Live. Geoff Fairchild noted the attendance numbers did not justify any cost recovery for the vendors.

The Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival is the only event that does not allow food or drinks so the vendor can make their revenues. The City asks vendors to give 30% of their profits, so vendors are reluctant to give up their business on Saturday nights for city events. He also noted that Food Trucks never serve alcohol.

Robert Stewart suggested citizens pre-order meals for pick up at local restaurants prior to events. Geoff Fairchild indicated this had been suggested before, and there are logistics transporting meals from restaurants to venues.

No action taken.

#### **B.8 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SIGNATURE PARK PROJECT.**

Rachael Arroyo brought the board up to speed on the proposed Signature Park at Oran Good. The Staff and the Committee have met with the vendor, Kompan.

The Government will fund \$2M this year and \$2M next year to fund this park as a phased approach. The Oran Good Park will be completely restructured. The design concept was explained via PowerPoint Presentation.

Robert Stewart pointed out that the park will be good to use at night. Rachael explained each level on a sphere would have different activities. Bobby Minter stated that the lights would be great.

Jessica Zavala asked if there would be a splash pad and was told no due to cost constraints. Daniel Musto asked about specific costs, and Rachael Arroyo stated she did not have those for this meeting but could provide them at a later date.

Adrian Young complimented Kompan for being so thorough with the planning. At the focus group, the children of all ages provided their input at the Kompan meeting last month. This park will have the first lighted outdoor playground. Rachael Arroyo noted the City Council had provided their approval for the plans and budget.

No action taken.

#### **B.9 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND PROJECTS.**

Rachael Arroyo informed the Board that Charles Cancellare has retired, and his replacement is still to be determined, likely in October. Jessica Alvarado, who was previously the Recreation Supervisor over Athletics and rentals, has been promoted to the Assistant Recreation Manager.

There is a new playground at Mallon Park. A shade structure has been requested but this may not be financially possible to do this now.

The Bark Park will be monitored closely to help build up the grass by sectioning off areas.

**B.10 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON PARKS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS OR FACILITIES ATTENDED IN THE CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH.**

Sarah Langhorst requested that all fountains be in working order at Rawhide Park. Rachael Arroyo stated an electrical outage and water overflows had caused damage to the fountains. The City is looking into the repairs but will move slowly as these are costly.

Rinkesh Desai said the train next to the monkey bars could be dangerous. He stated a child could fall backward onto the rail and hit their head. Rachael Arroyo responded that she would investigate this.

Susan Mathis stated that Artella was a great program sponsored by the Historical Park.

No action taken.

**B.11 DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Rinkesh Desai asked if playgrounds could have wood chips or rubber flooring. Rachael Arroyo stated updates are being made to the playgrounds for softer flooring covers. Christy Dimon mentioned several playgrounds already have these.

Sarah Langhorst asked if we could discuss the Bloomin Bluegrass Festival next month.

**B.12 RECEIVE AN UPDATED 2021 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Robert Stewart stated our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, and dinner is served at 6:00 PM ahead of each meeting. A decision will be made in November if the December meeting will be canceled. New agenda items must be submitted two weeks in advance.

No action required.

**C. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No comments received.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Daniel Musto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Susan Mathis. Motion carried.

The Park Board meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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Bob Stewart, Chair

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Christy Dimon, Secretary