



City of Farmers Branch
Minutes
Parks & Recreation Board

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

Thursday, September 16, 2021

6:30 PM

Pecan Room

Meeting held at 6:30 PM

PRESIDING: Bob Stewart, Chair

**PRESENT: Christy Dimon
Susan Mathis
Steve Root
Marc Traynor
Jessica Zavala
Daniel Musto, Alternate 1
Rinkesh Desai, Alternate 2
Margaret Young (Emeritus)**

ABSENT: Sarah Langhorst

**STAFF: Rachael Arroyo, Recreation Superintendent
Linda Gaucin, Administrative Assistant**

GUESTS: Robert Ciasollo

A. CALL TO ORDER

Bob Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comment was made by any citizen; therefore, no action was taken.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 19, 2021 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

A motion was made by Steve Root to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Christy Dimon.

Motion carried.

C.2 CONSIDER EXCUSING THE ABSENCE OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM THE AUGUST 19, 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 Steve Root and Margaret Young's absences on August 19, 2021, were 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.

A motion was made by Christy Dimon to excuse their absences. The motion was seconded by Susan Mathis. Motion carried.

C.3 DISCUSS BIENNIAL UPDATE TO CITY COUNCIL.

Bob Stewart explained that an update is given to the City Council every six months for accomplishments made by the Parks and Recreation Board. The meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2021.

Bob showed a draft of a PowerPoint presentation beginning with the Mission and Vision of the Parks Board. He noted that he would briefly discuss the Bark Park, the renovated Recreation Center, and the Natatorium. Bob requested input from the Board what they would like to see included in the PowerPoint presentation.

Jessica Zavala recommended adding Denton Drive Live and the Fourth of July events. Bob mentioned that he might also add the Signature Park meeting and the future upstairs Recreation Center renovation. Margaret Young noted that the Summer Funshine program did an excellent drive-through carnival which could be included in the presentation. Susan Mathis suggested showing the old Recreation Center pictures versus the newly renovated Recreation Center pictures.

No action taken.

C.4 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Rachael Arroyo reminded everyone that a quarterly events calendar is sent to the members each quarter. She indicated The Branch Connection has an upcoming Game Night for September 18, 2021. Rachael and Bob Stewart noted how fun this event is and that everyone over fifty should go.

Rachael Arroyo reviewed other upcoming events for this quarter, including Viva Farmers Branch, Bloomin' Bluegrass, the Craft Fair, Haunts & House, Day of the Dead, and Halloween in the Park.

No action taken.

C.5 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON PARKS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, OR FACILITIES ATTENDED IN THE CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH.

Rachael Arroyo noted that the City reviewed the Rawhide Park playground, specifically the train next to the Monkey Bars, for possible issues. The Parks staff will continue to evaluate and will make any necessary changes.

Jessica Zavala asked if the Movie Night could have been at The Grove rather than the Historical Park. Rachael Arroyo explained that Family Night is a large-scale event that could not be held at The Grove. She also pointed out the screen is too big for The Grove and that the Historical Park can accommodate more people since the venue was changed from Date Night to Family Night.

Jessica Zavala asked if the City could provide more balloons and tattoo artists at Denton Drive Live. Rachael Arroyo would direct the suggestions to the Events team but explained the stipulations of hosting competing vendors at these events. However, the Board suggested the option to have chosen vendor add another line to reduce the length of lines.

No action taken

C.6 DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Jessica Zavala asked where nine-year-olds can sit while parents are working out at the Rec Center. Rachael Arroyo stated that the Kidzone accepts six months to nine years old, but there has not been enough interest in offering childcare for older children. Before the renovation, a teen room existed for older children, but it was highly under-utilized. Staff continues to evaluate current programming and trend usage and recommends programs that reach the 10-13 age range. The Kid Zone is open specific timeframes, but in the future, if the usage and interest support it, the Rec Center will look to expanding it's Kid Zone hours. Last fiscal year, there were several requests for Saturday morning, and that was accommodated.

Susan Mathis asked that we circle back to having more pickleball areas for play. Rachael Arroyo said she would put pickleball on a future agenda and update the John Burke Nature Preserve, the Signature Park, Phase II of the Rec Center renovation planned for upstairs, and the November through December events.

No action taken.

C.7 DISCUSS FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE SUMMER FUNSHINE PROGRAM; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Rachael Arroyo provided the background of the Summer Funshine fees. There have been minimal increases since the program's inception 30 years ago, with the most recent in 2018. When all fees were evaluated, the goal was to raise the fees incrementally to market rate but continue to serve our residents. She discussed the implementation of a Financial Aid tier, adding a second level that would be provided so that no residents would be left out, and she noted that the market rate is currently \$140 per week.

Rachael explained the increase to \$125 from \$95 per week for residents and \$160 from \$150 for non-residents, with added value to the program. Lunches will be provided Monday through Friday from the ISD.

Rink Desai asked if we could have sponsorships for the programs. Margaret Young noted that the City does get scholarship money. Steve Root added that the Boy Scouts are also involved in the program they have added significant value to the City.

Dan Musto moved to approve the new fee structure as presented. Marc Traynor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C.8 DISCUSS MONTGOMERY PARK SAND VOLLEYBALL PROJECT; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Rachael Arroyo explained the process of how the City staff introduced the sand volleyball project at Montgomery Park to City Management. This new program will benefit the citizens with this popular sport as well as the potential to bring in revenue.

Rachael indicated that there were fourteen projects presented to City leaders, and this was the one that was chosen. The cost of having two sand volleyball courts is \$21,000. There is potential revenue generation by having leagues, tournaments, and rentals. Rachael Arroyo provided the Board with final rendition of the two courts. There still be plenty of space for public use and for Blair Elementary to use as well.

Christy Dimon moved to approve the Montgomery Park sand volleyball courts as presented. Marc Traynor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Park Board meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Bob Stewart, Chair

Christy Dimon, Secretary