

Park Board
January 29, 1991

A meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Tuesday, January 29, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, City Hall, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Linda Strength, Chairman
Mrs. Hubert Braden
Rufus Venters
Carolyn Leslie
George Kendrick

Members Absent: Evelyn Pitts
Betty Getzendaner

Others Present: Bob Sokoll, City Manager
Elaine Adams, Asst. City Secretary
Gerry Heine, Director of Parks and Recreation

Ms. Kathy Moore, representing the Junior Service League, stated the league was interested in raising money to install a handicap play area in Getzendaner Park. She presented photos of a park located in the Dallas area showing the different kinds of equipment which could be installed. They would like to locate the special play area on the East side of Getzendaner Park close to the King Property in order to use the sloped land for wheelchairs and walkers. She stated there might be a need to remove some poles to allow for more parking as the play area would be used by special children throughout the County. Cement walks are proposed with street type signs, ramps instead of stairs to accommodate the special children, handicap swings, etc. and the handicap play area would be given a special name. This would be a long-term project over a period of 5 years or more and the league hopes to have approximately \$15,000 raised by summer. Ms. Moore stated the park is beautiful and the league chose the East side because of the shade trees. She explained equipment is very expensive ranging from approximately \$300.00 to \$30,000 and would be added as funds are available. Ms. Moore stated the league wants the City to maintain the special area as it maintains the rest of the park.

Mr. Bill Midkiff asked if the Service League had looked into State or Federal funding. Ms. Moore stated the league was depending on contributions from the community; therefore they had not checked into other methods of funding.

Carolyn Leslie asked if a plan for each years' accomplishments had been devised. Ms. Moore stated a step by step plan had not been drawn up - everyone would need to work together on the project.

It was the consensus of the Board that a handicap play area in Getzendaner Park is a good idea and the City would maintain the special play area like the rest of the park. The Junior Service League would keep the Board informed of the equipment that is being purchased and of the installation of the equipment. Ms. Moore also stated that they would get approval from the Park Director before purchasing any park equipment.

Mr. Bill Midkiff, Summer Recreation Superintendent, explained the City and the Waxahachie Independent School District sponsored a recreational program in the summer of 1990. He explained the office was housed in the building at Hot Well Park and he reported to Gerry Heine, Director of Public Works. The program was well accepted by the community last year. He explained baseball and adult softball programs were already organized but extra help was needed. Mr. Midkiff explained there was very little slack time - he was very busy. He stated Gerry Heine stayed on top with keeping the fields cleaned and mowed and he felt the public was pleased with the program.

City Manager Bob Sokoll stated the City hopefully would be able to promote the program in a better way with some promotional material.

Linda Strength asked about the status of the Optimist Swimming Pool and whether or not the City would be able to operate the pool this year. She stated some children were not able to use the YMCA pool because of its location. City Manager Sokoll explained the City has other financial responsibilities and would not be able to put the pool back into operation at this time. It was explained maintaining the pool is a big financial responsibility - insurance is costly as well as keeping the filter equipment in running order, buying the needed chemicals and paying salaries for operators.

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Mr. Gerry Heine stated the old Matthews Street Bridge will be installed at the East end of Getzendaner Park as per the plan by the Waxahachie Creek Corridor Committee.

Mrs. Braden asked how often Police Officers patrol Getzendaner Park. Mr. Heine stated although it varies they have been asked to step up patrolling because of vandalism.

Mr. George Kendrick stated the fire ants were a real problem. Mr. Heine stated fire ants travel around creek areas but the park crews are treating the ant hills on a regular basis.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Adams
Asst. City Secretary