

Park Board  
January 19, 1994

A meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Wednesday, January 19, 1994 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber at the Waxahachie Police Building, 216 N. College, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: George Kendrick, Chairman  
Robert Baber  
Mark Clemmons  
Evelyn Pitts  
Betty Getzendaner  
Carolyn Leslie

Member Absent: Rufus Venters

Others Present: Gerry Heine, Director of Parks & Recreation/  
Acting City Manager  
Elaine Adams, Asst. City Secretary

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Mr. Gerry Heine stated a petition was presented to the City Council at its regular meeting on January 17, 1994 requesting another bond election be held concerning an athletic/sports complex. It was noted a bond election was held on January 16, 1993 to consider the complex and the proposition failed. Mr. Heine stated the citizens he had talked with commented they thought the proposition would pass so they did not vote in the election.

Mr. Heine stated plans were to construct the complex on approximately 45 acres located at the intersection of 287 Bypass and Broadhead Road. The land would be acquired from the WISD and would contain the following:

1. Four (4) lighted softball/baseball fields
2. Four (4) lighted soccer fields
3. Four (4) tennis courts
4. Jogging track
5. Playground
6. Concession stands/restrooms

Mr. Mark Clemmons stated most of the citizens of Waxahachie feel a recreation complex is needed. He commented Optimist Park is so crowded that Little League sign-ups are limited and parking is a problem. Softball tournaments are held at Lion's Park on the weekends and three (3) games a night are scheduled throughout the week - it's difficult to fit all games into the schedule. He commented the City benefits from the revenue generated from activities being held at Lion's Park. With so many youths and adults participating in baseball, soccer, etc., he felt the complex was sorely needed.

It was the consensus of the Committee a recreation complex would improve the quality of life for many citizens in the City.

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Mr. Gerry Heine stated he had talked with the President of Southwestern Assemblies of God College about the City possibly entering into a land lease agreement with the College to build practice fields on land between Solon Road and East University. Besides practice fields, there would be a walking/jogging trail. He explained the College would maintain and patrol the land - the fields would not be lighted. Mr. Heine commented the City carries blanket liability insurance and coverage for the practice fields could be added to the City's policy for a nominal fee.

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Mr. Heine gave a brief review about a study that was made in 1986 by a group of students from Texas A & M University with reference to the Waxahachie Creek Corridor Project. The proposed project would allow for improvements to the area along Waxahachie Creek beginning in the Sardis area, extending along the Waxahachie Creek through Getzendaner Park, through the City and to Lions Park. The planned improvements included biking and walking trails, picnic areas, restroom facilities, etc.

Mr. Heine stated Rex Odom is donating some land to the City and it was in the process of being surveyed; hopefully some of the walking and biking trails would come to pass. He explained North Central Texas Council of Governments offers funding to help with projects like these - the City might be able to obtain some assistance.

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Mr. Gerry Heine stated he was contacted by a member of the Garden Club expressing a desire to help with planting trees, etc. and plants in the parks and right-of-ways around town. Mrs. Getzendaner commented donations had been made in the past but maintenance was a problem - funds have not been adequate to take care of things already planted. She felt that any donations or plantings should include maintenance.

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Mr. Heine reported the Junior Service League donated equipment for a handicap play area in Getzendaner Park approximately two (2) years ago. Special swings, ramps, etc. were installed to be used by special children around the County. The League contacted Mr. Heine recently and expressed a desire to construct restrooms in the area of the handicap playground. They have approximately \$10,000.00 available at this time and would like for it to go toward that project. The Park Board members felt restrooms in this area are a very much needed project.

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Mr. Heine stated a Strategic Planning Session for Council and City Staff would be held February 18 and 19 at Comfort Inn. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss priority issues and long range planning for the City of Waxahachie. He asked the Committee members to let him know if they have items they would like discussed at the Planning Session, other than what had been discussed at this meeting.

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It was noted a new Chairman for the Park Board should be nominated. After a brief discussion Mrs. Betty Getzendaner moved George Kendrick be elected to serve as Chairman. Mrs. Carolyn Leslie seconded, All Ayes.

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Adams  
Assistant City Secretary