

Park Board
November 14, 1996

A meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, November 14, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Waxahachie Police Building, 216 N. College, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Robert Baber
Rufus Venters
Evelyn Pitts
Renda Hickerson
Mark Clemmons

Member Absent: Betty Getzendaner

Others Present: Gerry Heine, Assistant City Manager
Elaine Prater, Assistant City Secretary

Mr. Gerry Heine opened the Public Hearing and introduced Mr. Dennis Sims with Dunkin Sims Stroffels, 9876 Plano Road, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Sims stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to give citizens an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the needs of future park facilities for the City of Waxahachie. Mr. Sims explained the procedures for applying for a grant. He stated participation of all of the organized leagues would be evaluated against the facilities the City has and the end product would identify the priorities in rank. Mr. Sims explained there is a twenty (20) point category in the grant which the State reviews and the grant would be awarded according to the points. Mr. Sims noted grant applications could be submitted twice a year - January 31st and July 31st. He asked if there was anyone who wished to speak concerning the recreational needs of the City.

Mr. Hershell Allen, representing Central Ellis County Soccer Association, stated there were not enough soccer fields and the sport was getting more and more popular. He explained youth from the Cedar Hill and Duncanville area come to Waxahachie to play soccer at Lions Park on Saturday mornings. Because 70 - 100 plus teams use the fields, they are in bad need of repair. Mr. Allen stated he felt the youth in the community had been neglected, therefore, he would like to see more soccer fields provided.

Mr. Jack Stroope agreed that more soccer fields were needed as well as more practice fields. He noted the fields needed to be upgraded - they are borderline to being dangerous. He stated he periodically does minor maintenance on the fields and is familiar with the condition of the fields. Mr. Stroope extended an invitation to the Park Board members to come out to Lions Park and he would be glad to show them around. Mr. Stroope stated he would like to see any grant monies received to be used to upgrade the various fields. Mr. Stroope stressed the City of Waxahachie would experience an economic impact if there were facilities where tournaments could be held.

Mr. Mark Clemmons commented he felt there were two (2) areas that needed to be addressed - youth soccer and youth baseball. He stated there is a lot of participation in these sports.

Mr. Sims commented the City's need for more park facilities is not an uncommon problem but it takes time to get things accomplished.

There being no one else to speak the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Gerry Heine gave a brief update on various recreational projects.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Prater, Assistant City Secretary