

Park Board
May 28, 1997

A meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Wednesday, May 28, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber at the Waxahachie Police Building, 216 N. College, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Betty Getzendaner, Chairperson
Robert Baber
Rufus Venters
Renda Hickerson
Mark Clemmons

Member Absent: Evelyn Pitts

Others Present: Gerry Heine, Assistant City Manager
Elaine Prater, Assistant City Secretary
George Brown, Council Representative

Mr. Gerry Heine called the meeting to order.

Mr. Mark Clemmons moved approval of the minutes of the Park Board meeting of November 14, 1996. Mrs. Betty Getzendaner seconded, **All Ayes.**

Mr. Gerry Heine gave a progress report on the formation of the Four B's Corporation - a group of citizens who promoted a ½ cent sales tax increase for the construction, operation and maintenance of a proposed Civic Center and sports/recreational projects. A Sales Tax Election was held on May 3, 1997 and Mr. Heine stated it was successful. He explained the City Council would consider the Articles of Incorporation to form the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation and appoint a Board of Directors to the Corporation at the regular meeting on Monday, June 2nd.

Mr. Gerry Heine stated the grant application for the Waxahachie Creek Corridor Project was submitted in January, 1997 and that he had a copy of the application if the members would like to review it. The State would notify the City in July or August if the City was successful in receiving the grant.

Mr. Heine discussed with the Board members the need for more softball and soccer fields. He explained there's a possibility of acquiring land on the King property which could be used for possible expansion of Getzendaner Park and the City Cemetery. There is approximately 85 acres of land with approximately 50 acres in the flood plain -- this could be used for practice fields. Mr. Heine stressed the overcrowded conditions at Lion's Park with the number of people participating in the various sports events each season.

Mrs. Hickerson asked about using the fields behind Southwestern Assemblies of God University for softball. Mr. Heine stated this had been discussed with SAGU but they requested two (2) cement jogging trails be constructed which made the project cost prohibitive.

It was the consensus of the Board members to proceed with the possibility of expanding Getzendaner Park as the sports activities bring in revenue for the City and it does keep the kids off the streets and out of trouble.

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Mr. Jack Stroope with the Soccer Association was present to discuss the use of soccer fields. He explained the soccer fields are not only being used by the citizens of Waxahachie but also citizens from surrounding towns. The Soccer Association is requesting a user's fee of approximately \$2.00 per child be charged - this could be included in the registration fee. The user's fee would be placed in a special fund to be used to help make needed improvements to the fields from time to time as well as regulate the use of the fields.

It was the consensus of the Board members the fields needed to be regulated and the user's fee should be charged.

Mr. Gerry Heine stated at the June 2nd City Council meeting they would consider plans and authorize advertisement of bids for the construction of a softball field behind Penn Park. He stated \$70,000 was allocated in this year's budget for construction and the lighting for the fields would be considered in next year's budget. The project should be completed by October 1, 1997.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Prater
Assistant City Secretary