

Park Board
May 3, 2018

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Parks & Recreation Building, 401 South Elm, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Chad Hicks, Chairman
Ginger Cole, Vice Chairman
Coy B. Sevier
William Major
Betsy Engelbrechtsen

Member Absent: Byron Gibson

Others Present: John Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation
Chris Seale, Horticulturist
Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager
Amber Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary
David Hill, Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chad Hicks called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of minutes of Park Board meeting of March 8, 2018

Action:

Mr. Coy Sevier moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of March 8, 2018. Vice Chairman Ginger Cole seconded, All Ayes.

3. Consider seasonal vendor permit at Lake Waxahachie

Action:

Vice Chairman Ginger Cole moved to approve the seasonal vendor permit at Lake Waxahachie for What's SUP & Kayaks. Ms. Betsy Engelbrechtsen seconded, All Ayes.

4. Request to appear by Dr. Jamaal Rasheed to discuss new historical information about park(s) and future design ideas

Dr. Jamaal Rasheed, President and CEO of the Ellis County African American Hall of Fame, appeared before the board to discuss new historical information about parks and future design ideas. He explained *The Negro Motorist Green-Book* is a historical book written to guide African Americans to safe locations when traveling during segregation. He noted there are three locations in Waxahachie that are listed in this book: 427 E. Main, 418 E. Main, and 430 E. Main (Freedman Memorial Park) and he would like to have signage or a historical marker to identify these locations.

Dr. Rasheed also informed the board about Ellis County's most tragic truck accident on August 5, 1947 that killed a total of twenty men, nineteen of which were African American who were riding together on their way to pick cotton. All nineteen men are buried in Prince Hall Fraternal Cemetery in Waxahachie. He reported there is a slab where a house once set that was used as an African American hospital that he would like to put a memorial to honor all twenty men killed.

Board members thanked Dr. Rasheed for attending the meeting and suggested he also contact Historic Waxahachie and the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone for assistance in the projects.

5. Hear update on park projects

Mr. Smith reported on the following park projects:

- Mustang Creek Park should be completed in the next few weeks.
- Little Creek Trail design documents are in and staff is working on easements with property owners.
- Boat Dock Park reconfiguration to the entry ramps and board parking will be evaluated over Memorial Day weekend. If successful, Spring Park reconfiguration will be next.
- Penn Park Phase 2 bid will be out next week.

Mr. William Major inquired about charging fees for lake permits. Mr. Smith explained that is still an option to evaluate after Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Betsy Engelbrechtsen asked if Mr. Smith is following up with the surrounding homeowners at the lake and Mr. Smith noted they are following up with him.

Vice Chairman Ginger Cole inquired about the trail from Waxahachie to Midlothian. Mr. Smith explained the city's grant money is being used but the project is conceptual at this point.

Mr. Major asked about extending the current hike and bike trail. Mr. Smith explained he has submitted a grant to the State of Texas to extend with a soft surface trail from the amphitheater to Howard Road.

6. Hear update on park activities

Mr. Smith reported the lady campers in the park event held two weeks ago was a success. He praised his department for preparing the park and assisting throughout the weekend. Assistant City Manager Albert Lawrence noted he and City Manager Michael Scott received several praises on all city staff assisting with the camper event and the Film Festival.

Mr. Smith also mentioned the following upcoming activities:

- Car show
- Church revival at Penn Park. He noted citizens are really utilizing the park and pavilion.
- Tree trimming/tree climbing event
- Splash pads will open next week

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7. Public Comments

None

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
Assistant City Secretary