



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Rowlett Community Center
5300 Main Street, Room D * Rowlett Texas 75088

PRESENT: Wayne Baxter, Lonnie Cornwell, Ron Miller, Norman Tsao, Debby Bobbitt, Gabriel Palma, Karen Scholz, Ken Romaine, Erica Moss, Matt Grubisich

ABSENT: Sonja Sackor, Norman Scown

VISITORS: Dan Roberts, Greg Craig, Mike and Nancy Lancaster, Kyle Johnson, Brady Cox, Cheryl Harris, Carrie Boyd, Jerry Barshop

STAFF: Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Bill Sharp, Interim Parks Division Manager; Dianne Zachary, Sr. Administrative Assistant

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A quorum was present
3. Discuss and consider approval of the minutes of the February 10, 2010, meeting.
4. The Board discussed the potential for a "Dog Park" in Rowlett with Jeff Oshner from the Rowlett Animal Shelter and Jeri Fontenot with the Animal Advisory Board.
5. A discussion of earmarking land, tree and water mitigation funds for Parks was led by Terri Symonds, President of Symonds Ecology, Inc.
6. Update on the application for Rowlett to become a part of the Playful City USA Program was tabled after a motion by Debby Bobbitt that was seconded by Ron Miller and a unanimous affirmative vote.
7. Update on Kaboom Playground Build was tabled after a motion by Ron Miller that was seconded by Debby Bobbitt and a unanimous affirmative vote.
8. The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) was discussed in conjunction with representatives from Keep Rowlett Beautiful. Greg Craig, Landscape Architect of the project, gave the following highlights:
 - The focus will be on Energy, waste conservation, solid waste minimization, recycling, alternative energy applications, urban forestry and urban wildlife management, xeriscaping and adapted plantings.
 - The ELC will incorporate the participation of volunteers, area educators, and experts in fields of xeriscaping, forestry, solar power, water conservations, LEED architects and Master Naturalists.
 - Greg Craig and Dan Arrowwood did the initial design in 2001 including red barn, amphitheater, ponds, and learning center.



- USGBC sustainable construction.
 - The plan is to make the ELC a LEED “Platinum” or “Gold” certified facility and completely energy neutral.
 - In February of 2010 KRB applied for a Sustainable Sites Initiative pilot program in conjunction with: American Society of Landscape Architects, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center – UT Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden. Decision should be made in a couple of months.
 - Greg Craig explained the sustainable site initiative. USGBC focuses on the building, but LEEDS focuses on the site. Low impact development has to do with maintaining storm water on site. This is a unique project, because it is a learning facility. We need to try for “Platinum” because many other cities are developing like projects that will compete.
 - This is a nationwide application, and should we be selected, it would bring local and national publicity to Rowlett.
 - Current estimated cost of \$1.75 million, through grants, gifts and donations, and look to the city for staffing costs. As technology advances, we will implement those as they come.
 - In the end we will conserve only what we love, love only what we understand and understand only what we are taught. (1968 ecologist Baba Dioum)
 - The next step is to go City Manager and City Council with Jermel’s help in making an endorsement to the city and involve GISD.
 - Teach kids about original technologies, modern and future technologies. Teach the history.
 - A motion was made by Lonnie Cornwell for the Park Board to encourage the plan to go forward to gain the support of the City Council so that we can solicit funds for construction through grants and in-kind donations. The motion was seconded by Ron Miller, and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
9. Jermel asked for volunteers for Eggstraordinary Egg Hunt Saturday, March 27th and Diversity Day, April 24.
10. Jermel led a discussion of the Park ProRata Fund and how it can be used for park amenities with direction from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. He distributed a spreadsheet showing funds available and the areas of the city in which the funds would need to be utilized.
11. Discuss a Board retreat.
- Saturday, April 24’ 10am-2pm- To discuss goals of Board and state of the parks discussion.
 - Possible quorum must be posted.
12. Public Announcement. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.
- Senior Health Fair, Tuesday, April 6 at RCC



13. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matters have been properly placed on a posted agenda.
- Update on the application for Rowlett to become a part of the Playful City USA Program
 - Update on Kaboom Playground Build
14. Lonnie Cornwell made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Ken Romaine seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.



Wayne Baxter, Chairman



Jermel Stevenson, Parks and Recreation Director