

Rowlett

PARKS & RECREATION
MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Community Centre, Room D
5300 Main Street, Rowlett, TX
March 12, 2008 - 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Wayne Baxter, Becky Tate, Lonnie Cornwell, Karen Scholz, Robert Kittrell, Norman Scown, Howard Marsellus (Alternate), Ken Romaine (Alternate) and Louis Lebel (Alternate)

ABSENT: Jeff Jenkins

VISITORS: Brett Rotan (RHL); Ethan, Christy & Blake Margolis (Mayor's Park); David Johnson

STAFF: Dalan Walker, Assistant Parks Director; Katie Corder, Assistant City Manager; Dianne Zachary, Sr. Administrative Assistant

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Baxter at 6:36 pm.
2. Louis Lebel made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Karen Scholz. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.
3. The Chair introduced guests Blake, Christy and Ethan Margolis who were invited to address their request to solicit private donations for the development of Mayor's Park. Blake, who is 7 years old, read a statement to the Board in which he asked for permission to collect donations. His parents, Ethan and Christy Margolis, ask about guidelines for such donations, and Wayne Baxter explained they could be made through the new non-profit association for parks called "PARDners". Dalan Walker explained that the original concept for the park that appears in the Park Master Plan does not have to be adhered to specifically, but any changes to the plan should be approved by the City. He told the Margolis' and the Board that he could certainly look into phasing the project as donations from the Homeowners' Associations in that neighborhood made additions to the park possible. Katie Corder explained the PID program where projects such as this that are funded by donations may be approved by the City Council. She suggested having two or three families from the neighborhood meet with staff to discuss the details of this project and to receive input from the neighborhood. GIS can provide mailing lists for all residents in the neighborhoods surround the park and the Public Information Office will do the publicity.
4. Lonnie Cornwell, Debby Bobbitt and Becky Tate met prior to this meeting as a subcommittee of the Parks Advisory Board and reported on that meeting. The subcommittee is now questioning whether their efforts on behalf of the citizens of Rowlett who use the Skate Zone is an effort in futility since the City is considering giving the ramps from the City owned Skate Zone to a church that has requested the equipment to add to their skating facility.

Katie Corder explained the Church of the City has made a request of the City for the donation, but no decision has been made. Staff is asking the Parks Board for feedback. The Board agreed that if the following parameters are met by the Church of the City, the donation would be approved by them:

- The City has first right of ownership if the Church decides to close the skate facility.

- The church should expand its current access to the skate facility so the Skate Zone users will have public access more than one night per week.
- The church should be willing to work with the Skate Zone users and involve their parents.
- There should be a community partnership with the church.
- Moving costs for the ramps should be covered by the Church.
- Bring the negotiated agreement back to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Louis Lebel and seconded by Karen Scholz to ask the City to have exploratory negotiations with the church in regard to the Skate Zone ramps with first right of refusal and return the negotiated agreement to the Parks Advisory Board prior to making a final decision. The motion passed with one abstention from Becky Tate.

5. Katie Corder asked the Parks Board if they want to use their recommended Sports User Fees as a benchmark or formally take the recommendation to Council now. The options would be:
 - a. Council takes the Board's recommendation immediately or
 - b. Use the Board's recommendation as a benchmark to be used in individual meetings with members of the Sports Association to allow two months in which staff will meet with each association separately for fine tuning contracts which will be taken to Council on June 3rd and signed before June 6, 2008

Louis Lebel made a motion that the Board give staff time to negotiate with the objective of getting as close to the Park Board recommended fees as possible. Becky Tate seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. Litter abatement and restroom cleaning contracts that are currently up for renewal were explained by Tim Hightshoe, Parks Manager. These functions would cost the City \$83,000 annually if performed by city staff, but can be contracted out for \$41,000. This is a "per unit contract" and can be broken down if certain areas are not being serviced satisfactorily. This explanation answer questions members of the Board had raised.
7. Announcements.
 - Egg Hunt this weekend at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers should be at Pecan Grove Park by 8:00 a.m.
8. 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.
 - a. Discuss single loading streets adjacent to parks as called for in the Parks Master Plan. (Norman Scown)
9. A motion was made by Lonnie Cornwell and seconded by Robert Kittrell to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.



 Dianne Zachary
 Sr. Administrative Assistant



 Wayne Baxter
 Chairman