

Park Board
September 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Chad Hicks, Chairman
Andrew Henderson, Vice Chairman
Jenny Bridges
Julissa Martinez
Justin Burns

Member Absent: Charles Beatty, Jr.

Others Present: Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks & Recreation
Brad Barnes, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Yadira Campos, Administrative Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chad Hicks called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consider approval of minutes of the Park Board meeting of May 2, 2024 and July 11, 2024

Action:

Jenny Bridges moved to approve the minutes of the Park Board meeting of May 2, 2024 and July 11, 2024. Motion was seconded by Julissa Martinez and carried unanimously (4-0).

4. Hear update on parks activities and events

Senior Director of Parks & Recreation Kyle Cooper presented the following update.

- 27 Railyard Park events have been supported by Parks staff and have put in 500 hours of overtime, as of right now.
- C10s in the Park will be held September 21st.
- Parks Department will be hosting TRAPS Annual Maintenance Rodeo at the Sports Complex on September 26th.

{Justin Burns arrived}

5. Hear update on park projects

Mr. Cooper provided the following update.

- Boat Dock Park: There are a few punch list items needing to be completed.

- Oak Lawn Lighting: The project is delayed again due to the contractor not having the correct equipment.
- Mustang Creek Park: Kimley Horn will present the project to Council. Pending approval, the project will go out to bid.
- Recreation Center: There will be a Town Hall meeting soon to receive input from residents.

Andrew Henderson asked if staff can share any information on what is going on with the Optimist Club. Mr. Cooper stated The Optimist Club has not contacted the City. Mr. Anderson asked why the Lake closing for Labor Day was not brought to the board for consideration. Mr. Cooper noted the closing was not a Park Board decision. He further shared that Jetty Park is now fully closed off to public access.

Parks staff shared the new Park Maintenance Facility is in the design phase. Jenny Bridges asked what will happen with the current shop and Mr. Cooper noted they are keeping it.

Mr. Henderson asked if there is a plan to implement fees for entrance/use at the Lake Park. Mr. Cooper explained that would be at the discretion of City Council.

Chris Wright recommended staff add an agenda item to an upcoming meeting to discuss the Waxahachie Lake and invite a member of the Police Department to provide insight.

6. Discuss proposed FY25 budget

The Item was presented by Mr. Cooper and he explained the following items are proposed FY25 enhancement requests, which have not been approved by City Council.

Equipment and Facility Enhancement:

- 3 new mowers –Replacing older mowers
- 4 seat gator – The park gator is used for Railyard Park events and other events.
- New utility trailer
- Upgraded park entry signage

Projects FY25:

- North Grove Park
- Mustang Creek improvements

Additional Projects:

- Parks Conference Room improvements
- Lee Penn Park field rehab project

Playgrounds and Park Safety:

- Getzendaner playground resurfacing
- M&M playground replacement

Ms. Bridges asked if the M&M rededication plaque will be kept and Mr. Cooper noted the plaque and entrance sign will remain. The maze will also stay in the same footprint but will be new and more durable.

- Parks Open Space Master Plan: The 10-year master plan may be extended to a 15-year master plan to open up opportunities to apply for grants.

Mr. Henderson asked what is the start date for North Grove Park. Mr. Cooper responded and stated Kimley Horn will go before council then bidding will begin.

7. Discuss and consider use of Lee Penn Park football field rentals

The Item was presented by Mr. Cooper and he explained the field is only used for games and used 20 times a year for rental games. He requested that the Board provide a recommendation to present to City Council. This recommendation would propose amending the field rental ordinances to permit the field's use for practice sessions. Chad Hicks inquired about the possibility of dividing the field to accommodate multiple groups practicing simultaneously.

Action:

Jenny Bridges moved to approve Lee Penn Park football field rentals. Motion was seconded by Andrew Henderson and carried unanimously (5-0).

8. Adjourn

Patrick Souter informed the board about the Stanton family, whose connection to Getzendaner Park spans several decades. The Stantons formerly served as caretakers of the Park. Mr. Souter inquired about the possibility of dedicating the wading pool area to honor their legacy. He mentioned that the family holds a large annual reunion at Getzendaner Park, during which they collect funds to support the Park's upkeep. The Park holds significant sentimental value for the Stanton family. Mr. Souter also noted that he and Ronald Kevin Finch had been exploring ways to commemorate the family's contributions, particularly in the area where the wading pool once stood. To this end, they had approached staff about the potential installation of a commemorative 13x13 plaque with the following language:

“In 1920, the City of Waxahachie built a "wading pool" for its residents. E.F. Workman was the first caretaker, and the first lifeguard was Florence Chapman. After 30 years, Walter Lee "Bud" Stanton became the caretaker, and his wife Dorothy took on the role of lifeguard. The Optimist Pool was completed in 1952, which led to a decline in the use of the old pool. In 1956, a polio outbreak led to its closure, and the pool was filled in and turned into an Azalea grove in 1975. The Stanton family has been associated with the caretaking of Getzendaner Park for many years, and as a tribute to them, this memorial has been created.”

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yadira Campos
Administrative Coordinator