



**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING**

The City of Grand Prairie Park Board Committee convened at 6:30 PM on August 26, 2020 at City Hall's Council Briefing Room, 300 College Street, Grand Prairie, Texas.

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BJ Nichols	Emita Garcia	Bryan Parra	Jerry Partain
John Stewart	Mal Earl	Malcom Chakery	Greg Mullen

PARK BOARD MEMERS ABSENT

VanDella Meniffee

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Duane Strawn	Chris Ginapp	Susan Henson
Gary Yakesch	Krista Marrs	Andrew Snyder

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments

Item #1: APPROVAL OF JUNE 24, 2020 MINUTES-B.J. Nichols

John Stewart made a motion for approval of the June 24, 2020 minutes and Malcom Chakery seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item #2: AWARDS – Duane Strawn and B.J. Nichols

Due to COVID-19 recipients weren't invited to attend the meeting, but Chris Ginapp was able to speak on behalf of both individuals.

- a. Danny Crow with The Summit received the May Exemplary Employee award for having a wonderful attitude and being helpful in every interaction.
- b. Rod Hayes with Tony Shotwell received the July Exemplary Employee award showing leadership with young individuals and making the right call when needed.

Item#3: BUSINESS ITEMS: Park Naming Committee Recommendation for Mountain Creek Park

Emita Garcia made a motion to rename Mountain Creek Park to Mi Familia. Greg Mullen seconded the motion. Mal Earl made a motion to amend the naming of Mi Familia to present it with an English translation: Mi Familia (My Family) and Jerry Partain seconds the motion.

Park Board voted on the amendment adding the English translation: Mi Familia (My Family). The vote failed 5 No (John Stewart, Emita Garcia, Greg Mullen, Bryan Parra, Malcolm Chakery), 2 Yes (Jerry Partain and Mal Earl) and 1 Absent (VanDella Menifee)

B.J. Nichols called for a vote to rename Mountain Creek Park to Mi Familia. The vote passed 5 Yes (John Stewart, Emita Garcia, Greg Mullen, Bryan Parra, Malcolm Chakery), 1 No (Mal Earl), 1 Abstain (Jerry Partain), and 1 Absent (VanDella Menifee). The motion carries.

Item#4 **BUSINESS OF THE TREE BOARD**

Susan Henson informed the board that this is her last meeting since she will be retiring at the end of the month. Moving forward Andrew Snyder will be preparing the Tree Board Reports. Director Duane Strawn presented a retirement gift to Susan Henson for 31 years of service to the City of Grand Prairie in the Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department. Mr. Strawn presented a certificate allowing her to choose a location and tree species to be planted in her name during the Fall of 2020.

The following is a list of tree related activities for Parks Arts and Recreation Divisions for the month of July 2020:

Lake Parks

Lynn Creek

- 76.5 Man hours – Tree trimming, removal and stump grinding, brush removal

Loyd Park

- 85 Man hours – Tree trimming, removal and stump grinding, brush removal

Golf Courses

Prairie Lakes

- 68 Man hours – Storm damage clean up, pruning and maintenance

Tangle Ridge

- 42 Man hours – Storm damage clean up

Parks Maintenance

- 305.25 Man hours – Pruning, removal, chipping, storm clean up, watering etc..

Cemetery

- 30 Man hours – Pruning and maintenance

Planning

- 35 Man hours - Development, design, mitigation, inspection

Totals for Tree Related Activities

✳ **641.75 Hours**

Item#5 **PARK BOARD REPORTS –**

a. Special Events

- Recreation - (VanDella Menifee) VanDella Menifee was absent for her report and Chris Ginapp gave summary in her place
- Charley Taylor is averaging 180 users a week (includes pickleball) | Dalworth is averaging 15 users a week | Tony Shotwell is averaging 325 users a week

- Virtual Camp - 25 total videos created by Recreation Staff posted daily to Facebook & Instagram | 31 Camp Craft Kits Sold
- The Summit – (Emita Garcia, John Stewart & Greg Mullen)
 - October 1 –Reevaluation of opening based on data
 - The Summit Garden still doing well with 5 people consistently attending
 - They plan to let beds go shallow to build nutrition for next season. Produced 326 lbs this month. 92 hours volunteers, sold \$156
- Uptown/Market Square (Jerry Partain)
 - Next show is on September 4, The Boys of D63 will be live streamed
 - Masks required, temperature checks, No concession | 50% capacity or 200 seats available
 - Victors Venue has been hosting rentals
 - Farmers Market is open Saturdays 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, maximum of 16 spots vendors, inside only, food or personal care items
 - Vote – American Trust Farmers Market
- b. Boy’s Baseball (Greg Mullen and John Stewart)
 - Hosted an abbreviated summer league from June 22-July 13
 - 3 total teams-5Under | 4 total teams-6Under | 0 total teams-8Under | 3 total teams-10Under | 4 total teams-12Under | 120 boys total participated
 - Registration for Fall League underway
- c. Playgrounds-(Mal Earl)
 - Went to Lynn on a Saturday and mask was required to get in, but wasn’t necessary once in the park
 - Grounds were perfect and there were groups of families, but no children on playground equipment
 - There were kids in water social distancing
- d. RJC (Bryan Para)
 - 40-50 garden weddings | 110-130 capacity weddings
 - They’ve been picking up with 2021 reservations
 - Corporate meetings are not returning yet due to ZOOM
- e. Golf (Greg Mullen)
 - Both Tangle Ridge and Prairie Lakes have aerated their greens
 - Tangle Ridge had a record number of rounds played for July
 - Tangle Ridge and Prairie Lakes are transitioning back to two players per cart at both courses and will begin charging for single rider carts
- f. Epic Central/Epic Recreation Center (B.J. Nichols & Malcom Chakery)
 - Modified operations self-directed fitness and limited pool hours | Some memberships 50% discount | Day passes unavailable
 - Lifeguard Addie Carr – aided a guest and potentially saved a life
 - The Epic will be Closed for Labor Day 9/7/2020 | The Epic closes daily for 2 hours in the afternoon to disinfect.

- g. PlayGrand Adventures- (Emita Garcia, Malcom Chakery and VanDella Meniffee)
 - Space Tower Slide Replacement – due to some complications the slide needed to be redesigned and replaced
 - Additional 99 parking spaces are being added and completion is estimated in October.
 - Taylor Bunn, Baylor Grad Student is doing a research project focusing on inclusive playgrounds

Item #6

STAFF REPORTS

a. Chris Ginapp Recreation Updates

- The Summit
 - Staff is assisting around the Department while facility is closed
 - Roof Repair completed, New Spa Filter, Handrails added to vortex pool, Men's sauna benches renovated, Men and Women's locker rooms renovated, Conference Room Lighting upgraded to LED, 11 handicap parking spaces added
 - Parking Lot Project (irrigation & landscaping)
 - Chemical room Complete early October
- Aquatics
 - Outdoor pools close Friday 9/4 and Kirby will remain open for lap swim/open swim
 - Attendance: Each Pool is averaging 30 people a day
 - Splash Factory is looking like Mid-September completion
- Athletics
 - Girls' Softball had abbreviated summer season played 4 weeks/8 team/88 girls
 - Men's Softball ended two weeks ago and will resume in September
 - Youth Soccer Registration Ends 8/28
- Dalworth CIP Projects
 - Playground Resurfacing - Scheduled for early September install.
 - Fencing Project –Project will be complete in September.
 - Mounting projector with HDMI wall access for meeting room. Late September
 - Computer lab adding 3 new desktops & workstations
 - Air Hockey Table
- Other
 - Working with Marketing, Events and Athletics on Virtual 5K and Trail Promotions
 - Pumpkin Run back on as Virtual 5K. We will partner to promote our Trails to use on social media.

Item #7

PARK BOARD CHAIR UPDATE, Presented by B.J. Nichols

- a. Elections for September Meeting – Mr. Nichols asked the board to be prepared
- b. Park Board Report Assignments – Mr. Nichols presented the new assignments to each Park Board member for the 2020-2021 year.

Item #8

DIRECTOR UPDATES, Presented by Duane Strawn

- a. COVID-19 Reopening Updates
 - Chicken and Pickle announced as official 1st restaurant on 161
- b. Department Retirees
 - 6 individuals with combined 180 Years of Experience
 - i. Susan Henson (Horticulturist), Preston Trout (Park Maintenance Superintendent), Jose Perez, Milton Rayfield, Alan Hill, Rodney Henderson (Park Maintenance)
 - Positions are frozen for a year – Chip Nami will take on Parks Maintenance for the next year
- c. Employee Recognition - Drive Thru
 - On September 24th in lieu of our Employee Recognition gathering there will be a Drive Thru for employees.
- d. Dalworth Defenders – Video presentation
- e. Danny Boykin – Video presentation

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Park Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.



Krista Marrs, Recording Secretary