



**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING**

The City of Grand Prairie Park Board Committee convened at 6:30 PM on January 22, 2020 the Parks, Arts and Recreation Department, 400 College Street, Grand Prairie, Texas.

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Cheryl De Leon	Erin Hart	Mae Smith	Susan Henson
Steve Plumer	Gary Yakesch	Chip Nami	

CITIZEN COMMENTS

City of Grand Prairie Councilman Mike De Bosque made a recommendation to rename Mountain Creek Park after his family. He is recommending Mountain Creek Park to be named after his family. The park would be changed to De Bosque Family Park.

Item #1: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 4, 2019 MINUTES-B.J. Nichols
John Stewart made a motion for approval of the January 22, 2020 minutes and Malcom Chakery seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item #2: AWARDS – Cheryl De Leon and B.J. Nichols

Robert Caraway Park Maintenance received the Exemplary Employee award for his outstanding job performance. Robert's work is great and he's a very hard worker. Since his transition from litter crew to municipal grounds he's done amazing.

Destiny Glover, Aquatics, received the award for Seasonal Worker. Destiny is and has always done more than expected when at work; over the last month she's done that and amazingly more. From teaching swim lessons while managing, picking up shifts for coworkers and even volunteering to stay after her shift to help with our "Pumpkin Swim" special event. Without hesitation Destiny puts the needs of the facility and our patrons first on a regular basis, she truly understands the mission for creating "Raving Fans."

The Aquatics Management staff; Andy Wolters, Cody Young, Emily Merlau, Gisselle Ruvalcaba and Isaac Ruvalcaba received the Teamwork award for forming a perfect team with their chemistry the communication, willingness to mentor, their customer service and professionalism. These attributes are all in line with our "Raving Fans" mission. Elise and I can't express how much this team contributes to not just the function, but the overall success of the natatorium. Each manager cashiers, guards and teaches in the addition to their managerial duties, of customer service, checking chemicals, managing their shifts.

Items#3: BUSINESS ITEMS:

a. Butterfly Habitat-Robbie Rinker

Mr. Rinker stated he would like to see us to keep our commitment to The Mayor's Monarch Pledge from 2015 that would keep creating Monarch habitats throughout the city.

Mr. Rinker would like to add a No-Mow/Wildflower area next to the trail for at the Fish Creek Linear Park that would help the Monarch Butterfly

b. PlayGrand Ribbon Cutting Update-thank you for supporting the PlayGrand Adventures Ribbon Cutting. A video montage was shown showing the Ribbon cutting and festivities.

c. Significant Achievements:

VanDella Menifee received an appreciation certificate for her help in getting three boys and their families a holiday shopping spree at the Dick's Sporting Good and the Dallas Cowboys event.

Prairie Lights:

This is our 13th year creating Prairie Lights. Thank you to everyone who help make the 2019 Prairie Lights season. There were many people who helped get everything ready for our citizens.

EPIC:

We celebrated our one year anniversary. The staff has taken on an incredible task to create raving fans each and every day.

d. Property Tax/Fund Status Update

Gary Yakesch presented a report on the Parks Department Property Tax and Fund Status

A Fund is an accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts to carry out a specific activity.

- Contain statutory and/or fiduciary restrictions.
- Focuses on accountability rather than profitability.
- Sources and Uses
 - Revenues & Expenditures (Profit Accounting)
 - Resources & Appropriations (Fund Accounting)

Fund Types:

- General – Prop Tax; PD, Fire, PW, Administration, Parks, - Services to citizens (our bosses)
- Special – dedicated purpose – ¼ Parks, ¼ Streets – can't use streets for parks – can't use Parks for PD etc.
- Capital – typically funded from other fund reserves and/or bonded debt
- Debt Service – Bonded Debt – Ties to Property Tax Rate – two components I&S and M&O
- Enterprise – these funds pay their own way
- Internal Service – take all expenditures and allocate proportionately to departments/funds
- Trust – dedicated/specific
- Grants – Statutory and/or private regulations – transparency and routine reporting

7 Primary Funds – Totaling \$52M Appropriations

- PVEN - \$21M (Special Revenue Fund)
- LAKE – \$3.6M (Enterprise Fund)
- GOLF - \$3.3M (Enterprise Fund by definition only)
- CEMETERY - \$1M (Enterprise Fund)
- PRAIRIE LIGHTS - \$1.5M (Enterprise Fund)
- EPIC /EPIC WATERS - \$21.1M (Special Revenue Fund)

- EPIC CENTRAL - \$400K (Special Revenue Fund)
- 7 Secondary/Support Funds – Totaling \$6M Appropriations
 - PVEN CIP (Capital Fund)
 - Lake CIP (Capital Fund)
 - Epic Central CIP (Capital Fund)
 - Cemetery Replacement (Enterprise Fund)
 - Cemetery Perpetual Care (Enterprise Fund)
 - Grand Fun Trust (Trust Fund)
 - Hall Of Fame Trust (Trust Fund)

PARK VENUE FUND

- \$20M – FY20
- Funded From 25 Year Debt Issue (2001) = \$30M
 - Retires 2026
- General Fund Tax Subsidy = \$7M
- Sales Tax Does Not Expire – Perpetual
 - *1/4 Sales Tax Generates \$8.5M annually*
- Three Tests
 - Imbalance/Reserve (Test 1)
 - 90 Day Reserve (Test 2)
 - Tax Cap (Test 3)
- Bond Covenants - Additional Reserve - \$1M
- Funding source for other funds subsidy (if needed)
- Primary Funding Source for Park CIP Projects
- 88 Full Time & 117 Part Time Positions

Property Tax Reform & Transparency Act 2019 ada SB2

Effects O&M portion Of Tax Rate = 3.5%

- Previously was 8% before roll back activated
- First Responder Exclusion
- New Construction not effected
- TIF's not effected

SB2-Managerial Response

Proactive Actions

- Review of current operating budgets
- Identify Efficiencies
- Review vacancies with attrition
- I&S Qualified Areas
- Capital Lease Considerations
- Minimize service delivery impacts

Beyond SB2-Sales tax rules

Under Review / Comment

State Comptroller

Change From Point Of Origin to Point Of Destination

Public Hearing

Impact not fully defined nor understood

GENERAL FUND & PROPERTY TAX

General Fund Revenues

Ad Valorem Tax-The General Fund's largest revenue source is the ad valorem tax. The operations and maintenance (O&M) portion of the tax rate is 0.457128 per \$100 of

valuation, and assuming a collection rate of 99.5% the City should receive \$73,253,578 in current taxes. When delinquent taxes and interest of \$210,270 is included, minus the revenue lost to the TIF of \$2,321,005, the resulting ad valorem related collections for 2019-20 is forecasted to be \$71,142,843.

Senate Bill 2

- Effects O&M portion of tax rate-3.5%
- Previously was 8% before roll back activated
- First Responder Exclusion
- New Construction not effected
- RIFs not effected

Proactive Actions

- Review of current operating budgets
- Identify Efficiencies
- Review vacancies with attrition
- Capital Lease Considerations
- Identify acceptable load sales tax can absorb (if any)

- e. BJ Nichols, Park Board Chair, nominated three board members to serve on the Naming Committee to review the naming of the former the Great Southwest Golf Club to the Great Southwest Nature Park.

Greg Mullen, Emita Garcia, and VanDella Meniffee were nominated to serve as the Naming Committee for the naming of the Great Southwest Golf Club. The committee will review the submission to name the Great Southwest Golf Club to the Great Southwest Nature Park. Their recommendation will be presented at future Park Board meeting.

Item#4 BUSINESS OF THE TREE BOARD

TREE CITY USA 2019 Recertification
Standard 3 Work Sheet

1. Number of trees planted	<u>1,975</u>
2. Tree Activity Man Hours	<u>9,025</u>
3. Relative Cost of Man Hours	<u>\$225,625.00</u>
4. Out of Pocket Cost	<u>\$219,483.42</u>
5. Miscellaneous Labor	<u>\$64,986.63</u>
6. Brush Program	<u>\$415,680.73</u>
	Total \$925,775.83

Item#5 PARK BOARD REPORTS

PARK BOARD REPORTS:

- a. Special Events

- Recreation - (VanDella Meniffee)
 - Met with the Supervisors at all the Recreation centers and they had a very busy holiday season
- The Summit – (Emita Garcia, John Stewart & Greg Mullen)
 - Summit-celebrating their 10 year anniversary
 - A lot of renovations and new paging system
 - Dec 2019 – total scans 22,568
 - Members 5580
- Uptown/Market Square (Jerry Partain)
 - Magician-this Saturday at the Uptown
 - Pop up Farmers Market
- b. Boy’s Baseball (Greg Mullen and John Stewart)
 - Winter Break
- c. Playgrounds-(Mal Earl)
 - Opening Ribbon Cutting was wonderful
 - Mrs. Earl took her Grandchildren to play at the PlayGrand Adventures. It was fabulous
 - The parents were off their phones playing with their kids
 - Parents were teaching their kids patience
 - Kids helping kids
 - The kids were socializing
 - Parking is an issue
 - Shuttle will be working every day. There are two that are ADA accessible.
 - There were so many people that the Bathrooms ran out of toilet paper
 - The fountain was over shooting water that was making a water puddle.
 - Ms. De Leon stated that all these items have been identified and funds will be added to correct.
- d. Ruthe Jackson Center- (Bryan Parra)
 - Two Events
 - February
 - Bridal Open House
 - State of the City
- e. Golf/Golf Academy (Greg Mullen)
 - Golf Courses are doing well
 - Looks to be a great year
- f. Epic Central/Epic Recreation Center (B.J. Nichols & Malcom Chakery)
 - Epic has been having music
 - Boards and Brews this Friday 9:30pm-12:00am
- g. PlayGrand Adventures- (Emita Garcia, Malcom Chakery and VanDella Meniffee.)
 - Emita Garcia stated that we might start using “Therapeutic Recreation” Site not just an all “Inclusive Playground.”

Special Thanks to Steve Plumer

Item #7 DIRECTOR UPDATES:
2020 Projects/Events Updates
Thanks to Gary and Linda for giving a Finance update

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Park Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.



Mae Smith, Recording Secretary