



**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING**

The City of Grand Prairie Park Board Committee convened at 6:34 PM on February 19, 2020 at the Parks, Arts and Recreation Department Hall of Fame Conference Room, 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			

PARK BOARD MEMERS ABSENT

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

VanDella Meniffee lives at 5431 Childress Drive, Grand Prairie, TX. Mrs. Meniffee spoke on citizens doing extraordinary things for Play Grand. We are doing a Fashion show called "A Runway of Stars." It will be held on Thursday, May 14th at RJC, 6pm-9pm. We are asking people to donate \$5.14 or \$2.14 or sponsor a family of 5. Admission is \$40.00 and VIP \$100.00. We are creating a Facebook next week. We hope to have 400 guests.

Item #1: APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2020 MINUTES-B.J. Nichols
John Stewart made a motion for approval of the January 22, 2020 minutes and Mal Earl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

2020 Bimbo Project-Bimbo was not in attendance.

William Martin with Lake Parks received the December Exemplary Employee award for his hard work, willingness to go the extra mile and stay whenever needed.

Choi Boyette with the Charley Taylor Recreation Center received the December Volunteer award for consistently stepped up as one of the best coaches. This year she has coached five out of our seven seasons.

Phil Harris, with the Park Planning division received the January Exemplary Employee Award for consistently showing enthusiasm and commitment at whatever task he is assigned. Phil was brought in to perform the scanning duties, and has been asked to do much more than originally contract. He does this every day without complaint.

Laurinda Diaz was unable to attend.

Lieutenant Marc Taddonio with the Special Enforcement Division received the January Partnership award for being willing to get things done that are not his normal tasks. He is willing to chip in to help with whatever is needed. He coordinates his staff to help insure that the logistics of our events run smoothly.

The Lakes Parks, Prairie Lights team (David Rhea, Will Martin, Benji Rodriguez, Kevin Martin, and Phillip Neely received the January Teamwork award for making Prairie Lights a success every year. No matter the weather they are out picking up trash repairing lights and helping with parking. They deserve to be recognized and applauded for all of their hard work and hours put into Prairie Lights and out park, not just this year but many years before as well. We truly couldn't do it without them.

Steve Plumer received the "Above and Beyond" award for all of his hard work and dedication on PlayGrand Adventures.

Chris & Amy Ginapp; Mayra Martinez, Jonathan Demarest, Andrew Enriquez, Essence Phongvichith, and Cassandra Juarez received the "Making A Difference Award" for saving the life of a Summit member who had a heart attack.

Items#3: BUSINESS ITEMS:

The Park Board Naming Committee made a motion to rename the Great Southwest Golf Course to the Great Southwest Nature Park. Greg Mullen approved the motion renaming the Great Southwest Golf Course to the Great Southwest Nature Park. Malcom Chakery second the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Chip Nami, Business Operations Manager presented an update on the Ruthe Jackson Center and Farmers Market:

Ruthe Jackson Center had the Bridal Show last night went well. They had over 500 people attend. There were 2 wedding bookings out of the event.

Farmers Market had a Pop up at the Epic. They had 40 vendors who participated. The next Pop up will be at the Epic on March 7th.

Item#4 BUSINESS OF THE TREE BOARD

The following is a list of tree related activities for Parks, Lake Parks, Golf Courses, and Cemetery Divisions reported for the month of January.

Parks Maintenance

- **769 Man hours** – Spring Pruning, removal, stump grinding , hauling brush, maintenance and storm clean up

Lake Parks

Lynn Creek Park

- **83.5 Man hours** – Pruning, maintenance, removal, stump grinding and storm clean up

Loyd Park

- **72.5 Man hours** – Pruning, maintenance, removal and storm clean up

Golf Courses

Prairie Lakes

- **83 Man hours** – Pruning, maintenance and storm clean up

Tangle Ridge

- **55 Man hours** – Pruning, maintenance and storm clean up

Cemetery

- **37.5 Man Hours** – Pruning and maintenance

Totals for Tree Related Activities

❖ **1,100.5 - Man hours**

Item#5

PARK BOARD REPORTS

a. Special Events

- Recreation - (VanDella Meniffee)
 - All the Recreation seem to be happy and excited
 - The Epic Plunge
- The Summit – (Emita Garcia, John Stewart & Greg Mullen)
 - Big Event February 26th Retirement Celebration for Anna Doll
 - R&B night Rhythm and Blues March 6th
 - June 13th Open House
 - Membership increased from 5580 to 5649
 - Scans increased from 22568-27895
 - Valentines Dance was a great success. They had 165 people in attendance.
 - President Day closing at the Summit-several citizens called regarding the closer and were should they go. They can go to the Epic. The cleaning on this day was really good. The code of conduct is now being displayed.
 - Susan was honored by the Garden Club-she helps us be successful
- Uptown/Market Square (Jerry Partain)
 - Uptown-the musical “Clue” will open
 - Farmers Market – Pop Up March 7th

b. Boy’s Baseball (Greg Mullen and John Stewart)

- Coaches are meeting tomorrow night getting ready for the season. They have 350 signed up and hope to have 400.

c. Playgrounds-(Mal Earl)

- Lone Star Trail-was a little hard to find. There is a bicycle trail. The trails are very large. Beautiful trail and had no trash.

d. Ruthe Jackson Center- (Bryan Parra)

- The Unity Coalition
- State of City

e. Golf/Golf Academy (Greg Mullen)

- The courses looks great

f. Epic Central/Epic Recreation Center (B.J. Nichols & Malcom Chakery)

- So many events at the Epic:
 - Culinary for Kids
 - Guitar lessons
 - Song writing coursed
 - So many different programs
 - Knife lesson for Chef
 - The Dallas Heat having practices there

g. PlayGrand Adventures- (Emita Garcia, Malcom Chakery and VanDella Meniffee.)

- So many wonderful stories and lives being changed by PlayGrand Adventures.

PARK BOARD REPORTS:

Item #6 PARK BOARD CHAIR UPDATE, Presented by B.J. Nichols

Upcoming Events

- Need people for the Big Event-BJ will send out and email for t-shirt sizes
- The Big Event is looking for more projects

Park Board Report Assignments

Item #7 DIRECTOR UPDATES:

- TRAPS Conference next week-we had many received scholarships
- We will be receiving an award for the “Arts and Humanities” for the Recreation video “Game On”
- Epic Plunge, February 28th for \$25
- Amanda Alms is no longer with City and Chip Nami is the acting General Manager
- Received additional funding for parking for PlayGrand Adventures. Going to Council March 3rd for 96 spaces.
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Adjournment: There being no further business, the Park Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:08P.M.



Mae Smith, Recording Secretary