



**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING**

The City of Grand Prairie Park Board Committee convened at 6:30 PM on June 24, 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
VanDella Meniffee	Mal Earl	Malcom Chakery	Greg Mullen
John Stewart			

PARK BOARD MEMERS ABSENT

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Duane Strawn	Erin Hart	Krista Marrs
Gary Yakesch	Chris Ginapp	Susan Henson

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments

Item #1: APPROVAL OF February 19, 2020 MINUTES-B.J. Nichols
Greg Mullen made a motion for approval of the February 19, 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 a video presentation about each winner was shown. The same video will be presented at a senior staff zoom conference call and both winners are invited to that call.

- a. Michael Levy with The Summit received the February Exemplary Employee award for taking major leadership role within the department with paperwork, ActiveNet Conversion, and joining Toastmasters.
- b. William Ford with Dalworth received the April Exemplary Employee award because he goes above and beyond with youth and teen programming.

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

BJ Nichols, Park Board Chair, opened the floor to Mike Del Bosque as he proposed renaming Mountain Creek Park to Mi Familia Park. He grew up in the area and so did many other families, he proposed Mi Familia as it means my family.

John Stewart followed up by asking about the scholarship him and his family have. Mr. Del Bosque explained the scholarship is for young adults who need financial support in going to college, trade school, or aiming for certification in their field of interest.

B.J. Nichols, Park Board Chairman, nominated three board members to serve on the Naming committee to review the naming of the former Mountain Creek Park to Mi Familia Park. Bryan Parra, Emita Garcia, and Greg Mullen were nominated to serve as the Naming Committee for the naming of Mountain Creek Park to Mi Familia Park. The committee will review the submission to name Mountain Creek Park to Mi Familia Park. Their recommendation will be presented at a future Park Board Meeting.

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 months of March, April and May.

Parks Maintenance

- **1,699 Man hours** – Spring pruning, staking, removal, stump grinding , hauling brush, general maintenance and storm clean up

Lake Parks

Lynn Creek Park

242 Man hours – Pruning, maintenance, removal, stump grinding and storm clean up

Loyd Park

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

Golf Courses

Prairie Lakes

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

Tangle Ridge

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

Cemetery

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

Totals for Tree Related Activities

❖ **2,825 - Man hours**

Item#5 **PARK BOARD REPORTS** – B.J. Nichols requested each Park Board Member give an update on what they have been doing during COVID-19 pandemic
a. Special Events

- Recreation - (VanDella Meniffee)
 - Mrs. Meniffee has been staying at home and attended Unity Rally. Son graduated from high school at Rangers Stadium. Volunteering with calling seniors
- The Summit – (Emita Garcia, John Stewart & Greg Mullen)
 - Mr. Mullen has been working in his home office
 - Ms. Garcia has been spending time at home

- The Summit has been closed, but garden stayed open for a limited number of individuals
 - Harvesting every Thursday and food is given to the nutrition program. Ms. Garcia is grateful for Susan Henson's help with the garden
 - Ms. Garcia brought a request to the Director to open The Summit for Personal Training only by reservation
 - Mr. Stewart has been having great dialogue with individuals and been on several zoom meetings and encourages positive dialogue
 - Uptown/Market Square (Jerry Partain)
 - Mr. Partain hasn't been up to much. He spends time with his oldest son working on projects and walking to and around parks/trails
 - Uptown – Diamonds scheduled for August 15 more info coming.
 - Farmer's Market is open Saturdays between 8:00 am-12:00 pm with 10 vendors
 - Mr. Partain asked if bike riders were supposed to warn when they drove past someone walking. Director Strawn answered saying its good etiquette.
- b. Boy's Baseball (Greg Mullen and John Stewart)
- Baseball was supposed to start up on Monday 6/22, but due to rain it was postponed until a time it is less muddy.
 - Teams will play when weather permits. Season will wrap up mid-July. Kids who chose not to come back will be given a credit in the fall or next spring. Stay healthy and Safe!
- c. Playgrounds-(Mal Earl)
- Ms. Earl has been cleaning closets, cooking, and watching historical series on Netflix, and rode her bike
 - Ms. Earl is grateful for the trails that helped people get out of their houses and happy the city is safe so people could walk their neighborhoods when trails were too busy
 - Took grand kids to Lynn Creek Park – people were good at social distancing and everyone was thoughtful, even in the water
- d. Ruthe Jackson Center- (Bryan Parra)
- Mr. Parra had to cancel his trip to Spain & France and has been missing his students. He's been watching a lot of Netflix
 - Mr. Parra was congratulated by board on his recent election to the school board. He shared that the School Board unanimously passed a resolution to look for cultural bias and implement training and form a committee
- e. Golf/Golf Academy (Greg Mullen)
- Golf is now open. Guests can use single carts and staggering of start times was done.
 - Epic and Aquatics staff helped fill in roles at The Golf Courses while facilities were closed
- f. Epic Central/Epic Recreation Center (B.J. Nichols & Malcom Chakery)

- Mr. Chakery has been watching Netflix and continues to work at home. They have been doing plenty of renovations
- Updates include:
 - The Epic opened up on Tuesday, May 26 as a fitness only facility. March 14, 2020 was the date they closed for the pandemic. The Epic closed for 73 days.
 - They will be adding on a 180 day extension to memberships. Auto drafts were cancelled and no charges made during closure. Members can reenroll as they see fit. On June 15, 2020 The Epic started accepting new members; resident only
 - Staff spaced equipment throughout the building such as the grand atrium, courts, and second floor common areas
 - They will be closed on July 4
 - Aquatics will open July 6 for fitness swim and open swim; their website will have times and details
 - There have been several positive comments appreciating staff wearing gloves and masks. The extra sanitation stations have been great
 - Brian Chapin has been named acting manager
- g. PlayGrand Adventures- (Emita Garcia, Malcom Chakery and VanDella Menifee.)
 - Ms. Garcia – PlayGrand Adventures is currently closed. She’s been looking at Ma’s Eatery and researching a similar location in McKinney.

Item #6

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

- a. Event Updates
 - B.J. Nichols Introduced Chris Ginapp as the new Senior Recreation Superintendent
 - B.J. Nichols Introduced Erin Hart as the new Assistant Director - Operations
 - B.J. Nichols introduced Krista Marrs as the new Administrative Supervisor
 - Mrs. Garcia said great job picking new staff and Parkboard clapped
 - No meeting in July
- b. Park Board Report Assignments / Survey

Item #7

DIRECTOR UPDATES, Presented by Duane Strawn

- a. COVID-19 Reopening Updates
 - Aquatics
 - Indoor Pools: Epic & Kirby Natatorium – Open July 6th to lap swim and limited open swim
 - Splash Factory – Remains closed for the 2020 season, due to construction

- Outdoor Pools (Kirby, Bowles, Tyre, and McFalls) – Open to reduced schedule and minimum capacity
- Skate Park - Open with modified operations and social distancing
- Dog Park - Open with signage
- Uptown Theater - Open for rentals, Presenting Series rescheduled to Fall 2020
- RJC – Open for rentals
- Farmers Market – Open with vendor limitations
- Lake Parks – Open
- Summit – Recommendation is to keep The Summit closed until October 1, 2020
- PlayGrand Adventures
 - Recommendation is to keep the PlayGrand Adventures Closed until October 1, 2020
 - Construction happened while closed to fix a slide
- Athletics – League Play starts today (June 24, 2020), organizations responsible for policing protocols
- Summer Camp – Rescheduled to Fall 2020
- Special Events
 - All have been canceled through August
 - Hall of Fame Golf Tournament – Canceled, but there are still funds to provide scholarships and recognize recipients. No event, only scholarship recipient lunch
 - Hatch Chile Fest has been canceled
 - Prairie Lights – Drive Thru only
- Recreation centers –
 - Open for fitness only with limited capacity
 - Charley Taylor is open for Pickleball
- Basketball/Volleyball (Outdoor & Indoor) –
 - Rims and nets have been removed and our recommendation is to keep Closed until further notice
- Playgrounds/Restrooms/Water Fountains – Open with signage
- Rentals/Pavilions – cancelled and not being accepted until further notice
- Golf
 - Both courses are open with protocols
 - Single Riders without charge will be available through July
- Danny Boykin Baseball Fields – Looking to do a dedication in 2-4 weeks with a live feed to honor Danny.

To wrap up the meeting Chariman B.J. Nichols read the Resolution for Community Diversity, Inclusion, Justice and Equality from City of Grand Prairie’s Council meeting on June 16, 2020:

WHEREAS, circumstances gripping our nation’s consciousness are demanding true racial justice reform and an end to racism, the Grand Prairie City Council calls upon city employees and Grand

Prairie residents to demonstrate human dignity toward one another; and look inside their hearts to reflect on how we can be a positive force in advocating for a world without the scourge of racism; and

WHEREAS, people all want the same thing from this life: safety, love, peace, hope, equality, unity, kindness, empathy, understanding and justice; and

WHEREAS, the city of Grand Prairie celebrates and welcomes diversity, inclusion, equality and equity as essential to a positive and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, the city of Grand Prairie is committed to fostering attitudes, behaviors, practices and knowledge that promote and habituate diversity and inclusion in our workplace, actions, and perspectives;

WHEREAS, the city of Grand Prairie embraces the shared values of justice, opportunity, community and equity, recognizing we are a better community when everyone has a chance to reach his or her full potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, that on this day of June 16, 2020, the city of Grand Prairie will continue to:

Encourage its elected officials, employees and residents to develop empathy for people whose life experiences are different than our own, and

Develop programs and services designed to explore, understand, celebrate and embrace our differences, and

Recognize and reaffirm its commitment to fostering an inclusive culture, respectful to all, that values the diversity of its residents, and

Strive to act with humility and openness as we evolve new and better insights and solutions to achieving a safer, more equitable community and acknowledge this is a journey that may have setbacks through which we will persevere, and will require a long-term and ongoing commitment from this and future City Councils; and

Stand together with its residents in respecting one another, and seek throughout the year to create connections in our community to embrace the humanity of all.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, JUNE 16, 2020.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Park Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 P.M.



Krista Marrs, Recording Secretary