



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**

*Wet Zone*  
5304 Main Street, \* Rowlett, Texas 75088

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**PRESENT:** Wayne Baxter, Lonnie Cornwell, Debby Bobbitt, Karen Scholz, Ronnie Miller, Matt Grubisich, Sonja Sackor, Erica Moss, Norman Tsao, Ken Romaine, Gabriel Palma

**ABSENT:** Norman Scown

**VISITORS:** Mayor Harper, Mayor Pro Tem Gottel, Maurice Overstreet

**STAFF:** Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Sebrena Smith, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Blake Holder, Athletics Coordinator.

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1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A quorum was present.
3. Karen Scholz motioned to approve minutes from June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, second by Lonnie Cornwell.
4. Wayne Baxter opened the meeting by introducing The Honorable Mayor John Harper and The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel.
  - a. The Mayor discussed funding for Katy Park and for Scenic Point Park. \$500,000 is set aside for Katy Park and Scenic Point Park has \$750,000 set aside.
  - b. Mayor Harper discussed Katy Park is a valuable asset to the 60,000 residents of Rowlett and we are confident this is going to be used not just by the neighbors surrounding this park; it is for the community as a whole. Mayor Harper recommended this park be looked at for the utilization of all our citizens.
  - c. Mayor Harper recognized Scenic Point Park is very attractive because it is on the water and it is in Rockwall County and the citizens in Rowlett that live in this area have asked for this park. Rowlett has very few parks in Rockwall County and we would like to see this area developed with the \$750,000 available. We would like to see the walking path extended under the bridge over by Kyoto with work out stations and resting areas.
  - d. Wayne Baxter shared with the Mayor about having a matching canopy like the one that Rockwall has on the east side of the bridge.
  - e. Mayor Harper presented to the Parks Advisory Board how important it is to review each item that is presented to them before being sent to the City Council. Mayor Harper stressed that this Board is very important and we appreciate your position and the great job you are doing. We want to support Jermel in giving him what he needs for Recreation. The money Jermel has requested in the future for Recreation programs is around \$300,000.
  - f. Mayor Pro Tem Gottel stated that Council really supports Parks and Recreation and it was clearly noted when we won the award this week for being ranked #24 by Money Magazine as being the



best places to live. This is because of the sense of community and Parks is very important in developing that sense of community.

- g. Mayor Pro Tem Gottel discussed with the Board the hike and bike trails going in at Merritt Road as the roads are being developed.
5. Karen Scholz discussed with the Board item # 7 concerning the teen area at the Recreation Centre.
- a. Karen gave a history of the teen centre at the Recreation Centre.
  - b. Karen shared that Judge Loveland really had an impact on the community's children and that naming the teen area in the Recreation Centre after her would help bring a sense of awareness to our community.
  - c. Wayne asked about the size of the area that would be named after Judge Loveland. Karen responded by maybe naming the whole bottom part of the Centre after Judge Loveland.
  - d. Jermel commented that he felt that one of the gyms may be good place to use Judge Loveland's name at this point. Our teen area at the Centre has not evolved yet to be able to properly honor her to the fullest extent that she deserves.
  - e. Karen suggested that this would be starting point that would bring awareness and some healing.
  - f. Wayne discussed parts of Resolution No. 04-15-03D, under item D, The Parks and Recreation Board may form a subcommittee to make recommendations to the full Parks and Recreation Board if desired. Wayne suggested that a sub-committee be formed concerning putting Judge Loveland's name on an area at the Recreation Centre.
  - g. Wayne suggested one person from police, one from court, Gabriel from the Parks Board, and GISD (high school or Coyle School). Karen suggested one from Leadership Rowlett. Wayne suggests having seven people on the sub-committee.
  - h. Wayne suggested a motion be brought forth for Karen to be over this sub-committee to investigate the option of naming parts of the Centre after Judge Loveland. Motion brought forth by Lonnie Cornwell and second by Ron Miller, with all members in agreement, to form a sub-committee.
6. Jermel shared the Director's Report with the Board.
- a. Jermel shared information concerning the Master Plan. UNT came out two weeks ago to help us determine our inventory. UNT is not charging the City for the Master Plan.
  - b. UNT has a diverse group of professionals that have jobs at other municipalities handling our Master Plan. Dr. Collins leading the team has over 30 years of experience in trail and park development.
  - c. Jermel shared about the Two Days of Service Church group projects. Painting benches, playgrounds, and repairing areas at Herfurth Park. We had 35 people with 105 hours of service.
  - d. Jermel discussed that this month is Parks and Recreation Month. We have one 100 activities going on this month. We are really making a great push to have people come and enjoy our parks.
  - e. Wet Zone is making a profit this year and we congratulate Kyle with all of his hard work.



- f. The Recreation Division helped the Seniors celebrate Father's Day with great success. There were 48 people in attendance.
  - g. We have put out quotes for Katy Park. A lot of work has already been done per Dart. Dart stated they are way ahead of schedule. Jermel stated that he is looking to the Parks Board for their input on Katy Park in the near future.
7. Blake Holder, Recreation and Parks Specialist discussed the Paddle Trails Project.
- a. Blake brought forth presentation explaining a possible partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife. This partnership would be for a Paddling Trails System. This presentation described how this relationship would start and what TPW would contribute to this agreement as well as the responsibilities of Parks and Recreation.
  - b. Lonnie agreed that this would be a great partnership and we should act on this immediately. Maybe also in the future, Parks could rent the equipment needed for kayaking.
  - c. Blake explained that the Texas Parks and Wildlife stated to Jermel and himself that there are more kayakers and those that canoe than there are so soccer participants in the U.S.
  - d. Jermel commented that this is a great economic advantage to Rowlett. Those coming to enjoy the Paddle Trails will use our convenience stores, Bass Pro shop, and other retail stores in the areas.
  - e. Blake stated that this partnership will create a great deal of advertising from TPWD. This can open doors to future grants that TPW has to offer.
  - f. Matt Grubisich made a motion to move forward with the Paddle Trails System as presented by Blake Holder and to pursue a relationship with Texas Parks and Wildlife, seconded by Karen Scholz, 10-0, vote in favor.
8. Wayne opened discussion concerning proposed hike and bike trail at Lakehill Addition.
- a. Jermel stated that he has spoken with Jay Volk the developer of Lakehill Addition previously and discussion were brought forth concerning this piece of open land for a future park.
  - b. Jermel stated that Planning and Zoning at this time has denied the approval of the development.
  - c. Ron Miller voiced his opinions that this proposal has some red flags and some these need to be dealt with. Ron voiced his concerns concerning the US Army Corps of Engineers and the lack of the inclusion of responsibilities of litigation fees.
  - d. Board recommended better presentation with more detail concerning pro-rata fees, HOA maintenance, and other concerns to be addressed in the future.
  - e. Motion brought forth by Matt Grubisich to deny presentation for Lakehill Addition, including hike and bike trail, and the way it is written and the desire for Mr. Volk to present to the board a better concept plan with more detailed information. Motion amended by Matt to send letter to City Council explaining our position and reasoning for denial. Second by Ron Miller, 10-0, vote in favor.
9. Public Announcement. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.



- a. PARDners foundation update given by Wayne. Norm, Debby, and Wayne went to Community Park to look at concession trailers. Considering two of them to help raise funds for PARDners.
10. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matters have been properly placed on a posted agenda.
11. Debby Bobbitt made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Karen Scholz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.

  
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Wayne Baxter, Chairman

  
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Jermel Stevenson, Parks Director