



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 12th, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Rowlett Community Centre, Room D
5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT: •Mike DeLatte, Fredrick Bradshaw, Brownie Sherrill, •Rick Helfers, •Lonnie Cornwell, •Ken Romaine, Wayne Baxter, Rhetta Bowers, John Macatee, •Bill Gilbreath

ABSENT: • Matt Grubisich

VISTORS:

STAFF: Angie Smith, Recreation Division Manager; Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Quorum: Chairman select voting alternative if necessary
3. Brownie S. motioned to accept the May 8th minutes and Rich H. seconded the motion. All in favor.
4. Youth Baseball Association: Percell Milton, President
 - a. Successes: implemented a sponsorship program and have various vendors at their events; They hosted their 2nd USSSA State Tournament in which 40 teams were represented; all portable mounds have been installed; maintaining a multicity youth select baseball league; and Rowlett has the largest recreational league of the surrounding cities.
 - b. In progress: implementing a summer league, investigating the possibility of a girls softball division, implementing 10-12 tournaments a year, hosting a portion of Youth Baseball World Series, working towards having the entire league play at Community Park, and installing warm up areas for the Green, Blue, and Red fields at Community Park.
 - c. Provided hand outs with budget summary.
 - d. Board members thanked Mr. Milton for his hard work and efforts for the youth baseball in this area. Fred B. made a request for teams to not practice on the tennis courts when it rains because it causes wear and tear on the courts which are needed for those who play tennis.
5. Kids Kingdom~ Jermel Stevenson
 - a. Jermel S. reminded that Kids Kingdom along with Shorewood, Herfurth Park were brought up at City Council meeting last week regarding their failure of meeting the playground safety inspection and the playgrounds needed to be taken down due to the cost of replacement. A large focus has been on Kids Kingdom. Since last week the structure has been removed. Arrangements for the wood to be disposed are in process. Soil testing was done and now awaiting the results. Granted he did not like the results of the report from the auditors but to take action was the right thing to do for the safety of the children.
 - b. Jermel S. mentioned that the city wants to develop a playground committee. Lonnie C. stated on facebook he saw an invite from City Council members about rebuilding Kids Kingdom. Mike D. shared that the invite was about the council allocating \$100,000 towards the cost of rebuilding



- and the remaining \$100,000 will need to come from fundraising efforts. There is a fundraiser at Firewheel Brewery on July 13th for rebuilding the park.
- c. Wayne B. told members that the playground committee needs to be structured for accountability. He had conversation with Mayor Gottel about the committee. Mayor mentioned going through PARDNERS. If anyone knows of an accountant and/or attorney that may be interested in participating on the PARDners Foundation let him know. Wayne B. expressed apologies for the timing of this happening and it is unfortunate but there is liability in making decisions and taking steps for the safety of the children.
 - d. Rick H. asked if the park was built with poor materials or if it was built in a bad location. Jermel S. responded that the materials were okay by way of standards for the time it was built in 1998 but as of 2003 it no longer met standards. Basically the plans for the park were to fix items when an issue arose rather than having a preventative maintenance plan along the way. Wayne B. provided a further explanation there wasn't a director for four years and the parks superintendent was playing a dual role therefore was overloaded with work but he was working hard to keep things progressing for parks and recreation so not putting any blame on anyone. Wayne B. also voiced for a positive approach we need to develop a timeline for area of funds to be set for the rebuilding of this park and to find out what the kids want. As of right now the Dog Park is permanently on hold until Kids Kingdom is built.
 - e. Lonnie C. asked if there is presently another good location in the event there are issues with the soil. Jermel S. answered that this is not predetermined and this will need to come through the playground committee and have design aides. He further said if the soil is unacceptable with high levels of arsenic then there will have to be a plan for the soil and this would be another project.
 - f. Wayne B. commented that he, Lonnie C., Ken R. and Brownie S. attended the City Council meeting and thought Jermel S.'s presentation for council members regarding the facts of the park playground issues was exquisite. The city has offered \$100,000 towards the building of a new park but need \$100,000 in matching funds.
 - g. Wayne B. would like this board to recommend to the city council that safety inspections should be completed on a two year program for the safety of our children. Lonnie C. asked if every two years is adequate and Jermel S. replied yes according to his resources. Jermel S. is happy to hear this board wants to make this recommendation. Rick H. asked how the safety inspection derived. Jermel S. informed that there should be at least monthly but he expects daily inspections by maintenance staff. At one time there was a safety person on staff but this person retired. Jermel S. continued that for future inspections it should be conducted in the off season so that if repairs are required this can be completed before the active months of use of the parks. Wayne B. asked if having an in-house inspector is beneficial to the department. Jermel S. offered that although there are pros and cons of both for right now he believes having external audits is what is needed.
 - h. Mike D. related that there appears to be a misunderstanding with the residents because of it happening suddenly. They understand about the safety issue but it is confusing as to what happened in between it being built and it being taken care of. Bill G. clarified that this safety inspection was completed by an external company. Brownie S. expressed that sustainability is a huge issue here and nothing should be built that cannot be maintained properly.
 - i. Jermel S. agreed that a two year program for inspections will assist the department in maintaining the parks.
 - j. John M. remarked that he feels there will be a strong public output of support for building a new Kids Kingdom as long as individuals have an avenue to show their support.



- k. Fred B. suggested looking into a contest by Subway online to give away a \$100,000 for a park.
 - l. Lonnie C. questioned what the status is in regards to families picking up the engraved posts that were at Kids Kingdom. Jermel S. instructed that persons can go to the city website and complete a form to arrange for pick up. The details are still being worked out.
 - m. Rhetta B. informed that she has been asked about the time capsule at Kids Kingdom and Jermel S. said there are no plans to dig this up. Jermel S. continued to say they would like to incorporate all the names from the posts on to some type of sign or whatever may be determined for the design of a new park. Rhetta B. suggested maybe names being put into a time capsule.
 - n. Lonnie C. extended positive comments towards Jermel S. in that his work and knowledge is appreciated and feels fortunate with his leadership. Members applauded to the positive acknowledgement.
 - o. Lonnie C. made a motion for an outside inspector come every two years and conducted inspection on playgrounds in the off season or winter with a report sent to this board. This board kindly asks the City Council to approve such recommendation. Brownie S. seconded the motion. Members approved unanimously.
6. Fireworks on Main
- a. Angie reviewed a handout provided to members that included a parking map that will be posted on the city website, a map with the location of the set up for the event, a program schedule, an 8x11 sample of the poster for the event, and a flyer with information to be able to answer citizen questions.
 - b. Angie S. shared that the poster will be placed around Rowlett as well as banners at DART. Angie S. briefly reviewed the parking map and when certain streets will be closed. There will be two 25 passenger shuttles helping transport persons from parking spots to downtown. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to assist with the event went around the room.
 - c. Jermel S. mentioned City Council will have on their July agenda a discussion about the VIP invites for Mary Wilson. Wayne B. stated this is expected to be the biggest event for Rowlett.
7. Director's Report: Jermel S.
- a. Scenic Point Park Update: The City is working on getting bids out for phase I development for Scenic Point Park. Phase I includes the entry into the park off of highway 66 and development of the trail. The City will receive sealed bids at the Purchasing Agent at 4004 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas 75088 until 2:00 p.m. on July 2nd, 2013.
 - b. The Memorial Day Celebration featuring Touch A Truck was held this past Saturday, May 25th from 10:00am-1:00pm in downtown Rowlett on Main St. The ceremony portion of the event took place at Veteran's Park. The "Posting of the Colors" was presented by the Rowlett Police Department and Fire Honor Guard. Nashville Recording Artist SaraBeth Swagrety sang the National Anthem. Mayor Pro Tem Doug Phillips led the "Pledge of Allegiance". Reverend Dretha Burris from First Rowlett UMC provided the Invocation. The Proclamation was said by Councilmember Carl Pankratz. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Michael Gallops provided the introduction for Dwight Davis who was the keynote speaker for the day! Dwight helped the crowd in attendance reflect on how thankful we as Americans should be for the sacrifices and hardships that the men and women in our military have experienced while fighting to keep our nation free! TAPS were performed by Rowlett High School Band Member, Alex Dumas. The ceremony also featured a performance by the Rowlett High School Silver Rhythm Dancers as well as a lovely singing performance by the City's very own Cristen Gray who sang "Amazing Grace". Mayor Todd



Gottel maintained order throughout the ceremony in addition to providing the “welcome” and “closing remarks”.

The Touch A Truck part of the event took place after the ceremony and went until 1:00pm. Main St was covered with well over 25 trucks and there were all sorts of children playing on them and learning about them. The attendance for the day was approximately 1,500 people. Local business vendors came out and had activities for children to take part in at their booths. For entertainment, there was a DJ on site playing music, face painting, a game truck and three bounce houses that were utilized the entire event!

- c. Upcoming Events: 1) Fireworks on Main: Thursday, July 4, 2013 6:00pm – 10:00pm downtown on Main Street 2) Movies on Main: Fridays September 6, 13, 20 Dust downtown on Main Street
- d. Rowlett Community Centre

May

Open 31 days

Average Sunday Visits 87

Pass Sales

Total New Memberships 203

Total Renewal Memberships 484

Total Membership Revenue \$14,570.00

Pass Visits 8849

- e. Rhetta B. asked how can the city protect itself from code changes to parks. Jermel S. responded that the EPA does provide some warnings to give the city an opportunity to address the issues.
 - f. Ken R. asked when the bids go out for Scenic Point Park if it can also include a bid for composite type of structures along with the wooden structure as well as the maintenance of the wooden structure so that comparisons can be made. Jermel S. followed that he will check with the architect.
 - g. Jermel S. voiced that strides have been made with the school and open tennis courts. Angie S. said tennis lessons begin this week. Wayne B. commended Fred B. for his spirit and dedication for tennis which was behind this activity getting started.
8. 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.

Wayne B. mentioned Camp Fair is coming back and suggests board members should participate in a camp out.

Wayne B. shared that is anyone is interested in being on the Playground Rebuild Committee to contact him. Fundraiser for the rebuild on July 13th at Firewheel Brewing Co.; \$25 per ticket.

9. 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.
- Ken R. requests that the wooden structure being considered for Scenic Point Park be an agenda item.

10. Brownie S. motioned to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Rick H. seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.



Ken Romaine
Wayne Baxter, Chairman-Vice



Jermel Stevenson, Parks and Recreation Director