



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Parks and Recreation Board
108 W. Broadway St., Prosper, Texas
Town of Prosper Municipal Chambers
Thursday, September 9, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Barbara Cottone.

Board members present: Chair, Barbara Cottone; Vice Chair, Mandy Goddard; Jennifer Severance, Secretary; Amy Bartley; Jeffrey Hodges; and Rebekah Land.

Staff present included: Paul Naughton, Landscape Architect; Julie Shivers, Recreation Coordinator; and Patty Kendzie, Senior Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation.

2. Consider and act upon approval of the minutes from the July 14, 2016, Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Motioned to approve by Goddard, second by Land. Approved 6-0.

3. Comments by the Public.

There were no comments by the public.

4. Discuss Naming the Community Park on the Sexton property.

Naughton presented the park naming policy and showed the location described as the Sexton property. He explained that the name the Board discussed today will be placed in the notes so that, when the park is developed, the Park and Recreation Board's preference for the name would be noted. In December 2015, Dunaway and Associates worked to design the final layout of the conceptual park design. After Phase 2 of the park is complete, we'll be able to better assess the timeframe for moving forward with the park.

At the July 14, 2016, Parks and Recreation Board meeting, the Board discussed Shawnee Trail as a potential name for the park at the Sexton property. Naughton said this would be an appropriate name, given the historical significance.

Cottone asked if the Board could suggest a name for Fire Station Park, also, as part of the notes at this time. Naughton answered that would be appropriate. Cottone said it is the Parks and Recreation Board's intention that Fire Station Park become Tucker Park upon Ronnie Tucker's retirement.

By a unanimous show of hands, the Parks and Recreation Board recommends at this time that the currently named Sexton property park become Shawnee Trail Park.

By a unanimous show of hands, the Parks and Recreation Board recommends at this time that the property currently known as Fire Station Park be named Tucker Park upon Fire Chief Ronnie Tucker's retirement.

5. Consider and Act on Acceptance of Donated Bicycle Repair Stand.

Last year, the Shawnee Trail Cycling Club, a non-profit bike advocate group, donated two bicycle racks to the Town. They are now located in Frontier Park (one near the soccer pavilion and one near the Splash Pad). The club would like to donate a Bike Repair System to the Town at this time. These type systems are currently installed and in use in Little Elm, Frisco, McKinney, and also Windsong Ranch in Prosper. The Bike Repair System contains all the tools needed for a cyclist to repair a bike, such as screw drivers, wrenches and air pump.

Cottone asked about liability and whether the design was approved. Naughton answered that the manufacturer is a reputable company that distributes biking equipment all over the state. Severance asked how the system is secured and how it will be maintained. Naughton responded that Parks staff will be responsible for maintenance, working with the manufacturer, and the racks will be under a standard warranty.

Hodges asked if the cities currently using the system had experienced any vandalism. Naughton said the only issue he is aware of is the need to replace a bike pump that wasn't secure. The design has now been modified to present a much lower chance of vandalism. Hodges asked if the system is sturdy and also voiced a concern about damage from vehicles in the area. He asked if there may be a need for a cement pole as protection. Naughton said that could be looked into, yet also noted that the system will be placed in an area where traffic is not normally allowed.

Naughton said that, once given approval, the Bike Repair System will be ordered and shipped to the Town. Staff will install it; most likely, near the bike rack near the soccer pavilion and hike and bike trail, watching out for utilities.

Cottone asked if there was a sign designating the donor of the bike racks. Naughton said the club logo is displayed on the equipment. The Board suggested an article be submitted to the Prosper Press thanking the Shawnee Trail Cycling Club for their donations to the Town.

Motion by Severance, second by Land. Approved 6-0.

6. Informational items

a. Recreation Update

Shivers said summer programming wrapped up in August: there were 19 recreational activities, with 168 youth registered. Participation numbers were higher than in 2015. She described the Prosper Community Picnic coming up on Saturday, September 10, 2016: Bethlehem Place will collect food; Cornerstone will collect socks; Collin County Animal Shelter Bus will be onsite for adoptions; churches will donate hot dogs and lemonade; PLA will donate pie slices; and the Town Council will serve the hot dogs. With rain expected, most likely the attractions will be moved from the grass to the cement area in front of pavilion. Space will be tight, but it will work. If it doesn't rain, things will be moved back into the grass.

Shivers said Adult Softball began tonight with 7 teams. Tennis started yesterday. Archery starts next week. DDP YOGA has a few participants and we currently are looking to start a Rookies Sports class. We can grow the recreation program if we can find the locations. Shivers said she spoke with a representative from Texas A&M AgriLife Research about partnering with the Town. They offer programs that are able to track the effect on the economy, and how recreation benefits the entire area. Shivers said it would be wonderful to take advantage of their research.

She said the IT'S TIME TEXAS Community Challenge will be coming up in January 2017. We have plans to engage the PTOs early at the schools this year. The ball is rolling. We are also talking about the possibility of partnering with the school district for a Health Fair in early 2017.

Planning for the Prosper Christmas Festival is going well and we will be able to make decisions on the details after the budget is finalized at the end of this month.

Bartley asked about programming in the new developments (such as Windsong and Mustang) and how the Town adjusts to compete for people's time. She added that the Community Picnic and events like that are good, in that it's a time when all neighborhoods can mix together. Shivers said she works closely with Lauren at Windsong and they actually market the Town programs. Windsong has a large facility for programming. We work hard to get the Town name out there and we have good instructors who are loyal to Prosper. We also look to see what others are doing so we don't offer overlapping programs. Bartley commented that summer programs were advertised really well, that the information was visible in several places. Good job with publicity. Shivers responded that she and Kendzie work together on the marketing.

Also, Robyn Battle, the Town's Public Information Officer, holds regular communications meetings where the various Town departments get together and coordinate their efforts. Good news is that we were offered a Parks and Recreation Facebook page, so we look forward to marketing there, as well.

Regarding programming in the new developments, Cottone said there is room for everyone and the private/public thing is good; you never want to compete. Shivers said she feels the biggest hurdle is a lack of indoor space for programming, yet she acknowledged how fortunate we are to have so much programming that can take place outside.

Shivers said the Town is lucky to have Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Church and other options for locations for indoor programming. The Mayor's Luncheon in October will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Eventually, after Town Hall is built, Recreation will have the opportunity to share a room with the Community Library.

Hodges asked if there was a clear-cut favorite class or activity during the summer session. Shivers said attendance was pretty well evenly spread out across the board. Golf and the Engineering programs were very popular.

b. Park Development Update

Naughton said it has been an exciting month with lots of projects in the works. Naughton announced that Prosper was selected to gain matching fund grants for a playground as part of a new quality of life initiative by Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS), in partnership with PlayCore and its GameTime division. The "Parks Promote Quality of Life" initiative and grant process began in May, as park, education and healthcare professionals attended PlayCore certified development sessions on "*Building Inclusive Communities through Play*" and "*Motivation to Move: Increasing Physical Activity for Intergenerational Users*" Agencies submitted proposals for the GameTime grant by August 1. The applications were reviewed by a committee of leaders and experts from TRAPS, PlayCore, and GameTime. The eight Texas agencies and cities receiving the shared grant funding include: Amelia Elementary School/Beaumont; and Parks and Recreation Departments in Brownsville, El Paso, Hutto, Lancaster, Palestine, Prosper, and Southlake.

Upon completion of each playground structure, each site will serve as a National Demonstration Site (NDS) for data collection of best practices in play, community engagement, health, and physical activity. The outcomes will be compiled by TRAPS and PlayCore for development of a "White Paper" of best practices for playgrounds and recreation engagement in Texas communities. The research will receive statewide recognition at the 2017 TRAPS Institute and Expo in Irving, TX, in early March.

Lakewood Preserve is located east of Coit and north of Meadowbrook; the playground will be constructed on the east side of the park. We are finalizing the design, hoping to get started on construction this fall and open the playground by spring of 2017. The award we won is for "Nature Grounds," so nature aspects will be included within the playground equipment and the park will be integrated with nature. We are also looking to install an Expression Swing, a new product that enables kids and adults to be able to swing together.

Work is progressing on the Preston Lakes playground. Bids will get going and hopefully the playground will be under construction by spring of 2017. Designs are complete.

Windsong Park is under construction and estimated to be complete in late September 2016. The hike and bike trail connection has been finished in Adara, adding to the Town's growing list of hike and bike trails.

Land asked about the Lakewood Preserve playground, specifically, what surface will be under the equipment. Naughton said wood chips were planned; the drainage will make sure the rain drains quickly. Land described the process of changing out the wood chips at Folsom Elementary.

c. Park Operations

In Furr's absence, Naughton gave the Parks Operations update. It's a very busy time, as all sports started this week. Staff has been replacing plant materials in median beds. Morgan Paul passed the Chemical Applications test.

Goddard described a recent post in a local community Facebook page about skate boarding, stating that boarders were leaving skid marks in the Splash Pad. She asked if there was an ordinance or signal prohibiting skate boarding. Naughton responded he believes there is an ordinance and a sign. He will pass on the concern to Furr.

Bartley expressed concern about the ponds at Willow Ridge and Pecan Grove. They have algae, and can get murky and smelly. Residents are complaining on the HOA Facebook pages. Naughton said, last year, beavers were an issue, as well as run off from lawn fertilizer that created algae. Naughton said he will pass on the concern to Furr.

7. Adjourn

Motioned to adjourn by Goddard, second by Severance. Approved 6-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.


