

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the  
Prosper Parks and Recreation Board  
Prosper Town Hall, Council Chambers  
250 W. First Street, Prosper, Texas  
October 14, 2021

### 1. Call to Order / Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by John Metcalf, Vice Chair, at 6:00 pm.

Board members present: John Metcalf, Vice Chair; Gina Kern, Secretary; Ty Bledsoe; Matt Cely; Matt Furay; Valerie Little; and Cameron Reeves.

Staff members present: Paul Naughton, Parks Planning Manager; Trevor Helton, Recreation Supervisor; Matt Furr, Parks Superintendent; and Patty Kendzie, Marketing Coordinator.

### 2. Consider and act upon approval of the Draft Minutes from the September 9, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Motion to approve by Furay. Second by Kern. Approved 7-0.

### 3. Comments by the Public

Prosper resident Barbara Cottone, previous Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, addressed members to encourage participation in the 2021 Prosper Christmas Festival on December 4. She asked for Board support of the event through volunteering and described the various shifts and options available. As background checks are required for all volunteers, she encouraged members to complete and return the forms as soon as possible, if they have not yet done so.

Metcalf thanked Cottone for her ongoing support and help with community activities.

### 4. Introduction of New Board Member.

Naughton introduced Valerie Little, newly appointed to the Board in September 2021. Little's experience with recreation and athletics will be an asset. In turn, Board members introduced themselves.

### 5. Consider and act upon the appointments of the Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Motion by Kern to nominate Metcalf for Board Chair. Second by Reeves. Approved 7-0.

Motion by Metcalf to nominate Kern for Vice Chair. Second by Little. Approved 7-0.

Motion by Furay to nominate Cely for Secretary Second by Reeves. Approved 7-0.

### 6. Informational items

#### a. Recreation Update

Helton described the event, Celebrate Prosper in the Park, held September 25. This event marked a first for the department, in that live entertainment was featured. Helton thanked the nonprofit groups which donated food and volunteers: Town Council, Prosper United Methodist Church, Lighthouse Church and Prosper Ladies Association. Kroger Preston Road, Prosper donated the bottled water. CoServ served as Title Sponsor and Stacey Zimmerman, Realtor, was the Stage Sponsor. Thank you to Board Chair John Metcalf for his stellar efforts as event emcee and thank you to all the Board members who volunteered.

Helton said the Town's largest, most popular event, the Prosper Christmas Festival, will return to Town Hall this year on December 4. Sponsors and Exhibitors are lining up to participate and attractions have been booked, including Kid Fun Zone activities, Community Stage, Santa Claus and fireworks. The Kids Christmas Shoppe will again operate within Town Hall as an opportunity for children to purchase gifts for friends and family in a secure environment. Proceeds from the Shoppe will benefit the Recreational Scholarship Fund. The Event Committee, comprised of staff and residents, meets regularly to discuss event planning. Cely suggested creating a festival t-shirt and Helton said printing t-shirts will be considered for the 2022 budget.

**b. Park Development Update**

The Prosper Tree Tour is scheduled for Whitley Place Park on November 4 at 5:30pm. The Tree Tour is an informal walk in the park which brings attention to urban forestry in Prosper. Staff will provide a guided informational tour of the park's Fall foliage and colors and Board members are welcome. Lengthy hike and bike trail segments have been constructed at Star Trail Park and from Shawnee Trail to Teal Parkway. Windsong Park #2, Hackberry Park, is open and being enjoyed by children at Bryant Elementary School. Kern suggested, as new parks are named, that the Board consider a park with heavy traffic be named after Dudley Raymond as a memorial.

**c. Park Operations Update**

Furr described his tenure with the Town of Prosper and said Parks Operations has grown from 2 to 21 employees, with 3 new positions currently open. Staff continues to make progress on improving the look of the medians that were harmed in the February freeze. Tree planting will begin soon. The Prosper Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for November 6 at 9:00am at Town Hall. Staff will lead Prosper scouts in planting trees as an additional community forestry initiative. The Board is invited to participate. The annual Champion Tree Contest is currently underway, where Prosper residents are encouraged to search for the largest tree in Prosper. This year, the Cottonwood is designated as the tree to find. Youth sports will continue through November.

**7. Discussion regarding any miscellaneous business or items to be placed on future Agendas.**

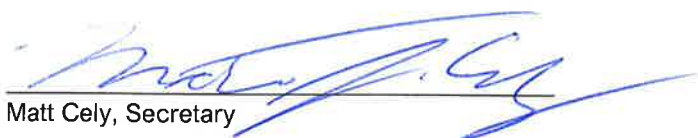
During this time, a moment of silence was held in remembrance of Dudley Raymond, as requested by Cely.

Naughton has been appointed Acting Director of the department. The position of Director of Parks and Recreation is expected to be posted soon.

Naughton said internal and external support is strong for creating a lasting memorial in Prosper to Dudley Raymond. The November 2021 Parks and Recreation Board Agenda will include an item to discuss the topic and to offer a recommendation sometime in the future to the Town Council. Several ideas have been presented, including naming an annual Prosper Volunteer/Citizen of the Year Award, naming a park, and planting a tree.

**8. Adjourn.**

Motion to adjourn by Kern. Second by Furay. Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm. Approved 7-0.

  
Matt Cely, Secretary