



LIBERTY HILL

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F R E E D O M T O G R O W

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

TUESDAY – JANUARY 8, 2019 – 6:00 PM

2801 Ranch Road 1869 – Liberty Hill, Texas

CALL TO ORDER

Mary Lynn Jones - Chair of the Parks & Recreation Board called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM on Tuesday – January 8, 2019 at 2801 Ranch Road 1869 in Liberty Hill, Texas. The invocation was given by Mike Wilson followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge. **Board Members Present:** Mary Lynn Jones, Mike Wilson, Jamey Harrison, and Liz Branigan; quorum was established. **Staff & Guests Present:** Mosby (Jr.) Hamilton, David Bennett – Milestone Communities, Jordan Maddox and Tyler Richburg – Halff Associates, Cim Howell – Diverse Planning & Development, Greg Boatright, Sally McFeron, Becky Wilkins, and Nancy Sawyer.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and take action on minutes of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting held Tuesday – October 16, 2018. OUTCOME: On motion by Mike Wilson and second by Liz Branigan, the minutes of the Regular Parks and Recreation Board of Directors’ meeting held October 16, 2018 were approved. **Motion passed on vote of 4 AYES; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Introduction of the City’s new Finance Director – Becky Wilkins. Greg Boatright introduced new Finance Director Becky Wilkins. Ms. Wilkins comes to the City from Katy, Texas. She has been in the political world as well, having been an elected official in Hill County as County Treasurer. She is uniquely qualified for Liberty Hill and has a great sense of humor. Mr. Boatright stated the City is looking forward to a long-term working relationship with her.

Update and Discussion on park improvements and amenities for parkland in Larkspur Subdivision. David Bennet – Milestone Communities, developer of Larkspur, stated Milestone Communities is committed to build a dirt parkland trail but wants to explore options with the City. The City has the potential to participate in enhancing the trail. The packet included with the agenda includes some surfacing options as well as other elements including interpretive and historic signage, animal waste container stations, gravel or other trail coverage. The trail will tie

into the Leander regional trail. There will be a parking lot with around 30 stalls. Included in the packet is a Trail Cost Comparison from the basic dirt trail to one with all considered options.

Greg Boatright – City Administrator asked if there would be the potential for the trail to advance down to the river and back up on the east side. David Bennett stated there are some drainage concerns to consider, but this might be a possibility.

Mr. Boatright stated he would like Milestone to move forward with identifying and establishing the trail and parking. He feels having an existing trail would make it easier for the City to make improvements using available grants. Cim Howell – Diverse Planning & Development, stated an existing trail would certainly not impede grants. David Bennett responded he would like to see enhancements completed as Eagle Scout and community projects. Mike Wilson – Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Board of Directors agrees with Milestone Communities going ahead with establishment of the trail.

Discuss and Consider presentation of Phase III Regional Trails Plan, the San Gabriel Regional Trail; providing for approval and recommendation to City Council. Jordan Maddox and Tyler Richburg – Halff Associates presented Phase III of the Regionals Trails Plan. Phase III was an in-depth study of the city-wide trail, connecting City Park, Shared Use Path (SUP), and the San Gabriel Regional Trail, incorporating the City’s Master Trail Plan and thoroughfare plan, coordinating with developers, neighboring cities, and the County. The trail would run from Garey Park to River Ranch. Halff Associates is considering access points, easements, hike and bike as well as equestrian access, identifying easements and private residences that might be impacted.

The board’s packet included a Development Budget Breakdown. The west segment is approximately 5 miles, 26,093 linear feet, and would cost approximately \$9 million. The east segment runs from Hwy. 183 to Garey park, is around 4 miles, 21,000 linear feet, and would cost approximately \$6.5 million. City Park’s loop trail would be the first phase of the trails plan constructed.

Greg Boatright reminded the Board that much of the trail plan falls outside the City’s jurisdiction. The City would be partnering with Leander and developers. Tyler Richburg stated there are six sections of maps included in their presentation, each showing delineated parcels. The City would be relying on State grants, transportation grants, surrounding cities, and the development community to team up for the trails plan.

Greg Boatright asked about contingencies for low-water crossings. Tyler Richburg stated Ryan would be better able to address that but Mr. Richburg does not think there would be any insurmountable issues.

Mr. Boatright stated the City would like to show support for Phase 1, from Garey Park to Hwy. 183, which will include many developer-assisted opportunities. The board discussed this, along with working with Georgetown and Leander city councils to work toward getting Phase 1 on the ground. The Halff team stated Georgetown wants the trails built but is not eager to fund them, rather wanting developers to provide that funding. **OUTCOME:** On motion by Liz Branigan and

second by Jamey Harrison, the Board approves and recommends to Council Phase III Regional Trails Plan. Motion passed on vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Discuss and Consider a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Board; providing for approval of Mosby Hamilton to fill the position with recommendation to City Council; providing for consideration of one-year term beginning 12/2018 and ending 9/30/2019. OUTCOME: On motion by Liz Branigan and second by Mike Wilson, the Board approved Mosby (Jr.) Hamilton to fill the vacant position on the Parks & Recreation Board with recommendation to City Council; providing for one-year term beginning 12/2018 and ending 9/30/2019. Motion passed on vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Discuss and Consider update “Trails Update”; providing for update on Phase 1 Trail at City Park and the Shared Use Path / City’s proposed Regional Trail. Greg Boatright – City Administrator stated he is attending a TxDOT meeting tomorrow to discuss the TxDOT grant. This will be a huge impact on the Shared Use Path. The SUP will be the main topic of discussion along with the transfer of the Loop to the City. He is hopeful to start the SUP soon. Cim Howell – Diverse Planning and Development stated construction of the SUP will begin early summer, according to Bowman Consulting Group.

Update on Wetzel Park following approval of re-design of building for restrooms and mechanical. Mary Lyn Jones – Chair, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors stated the Wetzel Park redesign with restrooms and splash pad has been approved by City Council and construction will begin next week.

Discuss and Consider park improvements / amenities for use of “Stubblefield Park” located on Stubblefield Lane; providing for review of proposed plans and recommendations outlined in the City of Liberty Hill Parks Master Plan.

Discuss and Consider park improvements / amenities for a “Dog Park”; providing for discussion of possible locations with review of proposed plans and recommendations outlined in the City of Liberty Hill Parks Master Plan. Mary Lyn Jones – Chair, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors stated Stubblefield Park is located on Myrtle Lane. The Board needs to establish boundaries now for the dog park which should include a water station, and waste bag receptacles. Rules need to be developed for separation of small and larger dogs, individual registration, along with proof of immunizations. Greg Boatright – City Administrator stated he would like to see programmable access codes unique to each individual which he thinks will provide greater compliance. He suggested the Board consider hiring of a Parks Director sometime in the next year. Ms. Jones stated with the new pool, trails, and parks, a dedicated Parks Director would be very beneficial to the City. The Parks and Recreation Board will move forward on plans for Stubblefield Park and the dog park, which will be around one acre in size and include 3-4 parking spaces. The hope is that the City’s parks will be accessed mostly by foot and bike traffic.

Discuss and Consider park improvements / amenities for “Central Park” land; providing for discussion of possible locations with review of proposed plans and recommendations outlined in the City of Liberty Hill Parks Master Plan. Greg Boatright – City Administrator stated he would like to see ceramic-type dinosaur creatures for the park which would allow children to have a unique playground experience. Central Park will be between Monroe and Granger streets.

Central Park is a half-block from Stubblefield Park. Mr. Boatright said Granbury, Texas has done a good job with its parks, with more of a linear arrangement with great connectivity. Mike Wilson – Board Vice Chair stated he would like the Board to tour the areas that are planned for parks.

Mr. Boatright stated February 12th at 10 AM, there will be a tour of the Larkspur park area, starting at the Larkspur Amenity Center. There will be gators available to tour the 53 acres. Parks and Recreation Board members are invited to participate.

Update on timeline for change in status of the Parks & Recreation Board as provided by the City’s Legal Counsel. Sally McFeron – Director of Planning stated she will update the Board via email once she hears back from Legal Counsel.

Presentation regarding Wilco Regional Park. Chris Pezold – Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission was unable to attend the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Wilson made a motion to adjourn; second by Jamey Harrison. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. **OUTCOME: Motion passed on vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

/s/ Barbara Zwernemann

BARBARA ZWERNEMANN

City Secretary