



Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

5:30 PM

City Hall, Basement Training Room

A. Call To Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lindsey and a quorum was established.

Present: 8 - Linda Lindsey, Shawn Flanagan, Adam Rios, Joan Adams-Wolfe, Joe De La Paz, Jay N. Gardner, Mark Borgeson, and Christopher Hegg

Absent: 3 - James Lehnert, Thomas Cronnon, and George Woods

B. Public Comment

Jesse Soliz with Padre Sports (Little League) at 6830 King David Street addressed the Committee and spoke to item "2" on the agenda.

C. Approval to Excuse Absences: Joe De La Paz, Mark Borgeson & Mike Lehnert

A motion was made by Shawn Flanagan to approve the absence of Joe De La Paz and it was seconded by Mark Borgeson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Jay Gardner to approve the absence of Mark Borgeson and it was seconded by Joe De La Paz. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Shawn Flanagan to approve the absence of Mike Lehnert and it was seconded by Joe De La Paz. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. [25-0339](#) PRAC Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2025

A motion was made by Shawn Flanagan to approve the minutes listed above and it was seconded by Joe De La Paz. The motion passed.

E. New Business for Discussion or Possible Action

2. [25-0489](#) Presentation Regarding Sports Field Use Agreements, Sergio Gonzalez, Assistant Director

Sergio Gonzalez, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, presented item "2" as shown above. He began the presentation with stating the Department's "Vision"; the purpose & guiding principles of Athletic Field Operations. He described the organizational chart of

Athletic Field Operations with the number of full/partime employees. He explained that Athletic Operations encompasses League Play, Field Use Agreement Permits and Sports Recreation Programming. The Athletics Maintenance division covers turf maintenance, small repairs, league/tournament play and project planning. Project Planning assists in setting fields to Tier I, II & III categories, repairs and/or replacing fences and concession stand upgrades/repairs.

Mr. Gonzalez explained the phased plan for the City's athletic fields and the league associated with each field. Phase 1 includes Salinas Park, Greenwood Sports Complex and Bill Witt Park; Phase 2 includes Southside Sports Complex; Phase 3 includes McArdle Sports Complex, Evelyn Price Park and Kiwanas Park. He gave information on the total acreage of the athletic sites included in Phase I & II and that there are 54 total sites; budget information (expenses/revenue).

Mr. Gonzalez stated the City has historically leased or rented out most of its athletic fields to community organizations to operate and maintain. In exchange for assuming maintenance responsibilities, lessees have typically paid no fees. Most of the lease agreements have expired and are currently operating on a month-to-month basis. Parks & Recreation benchmarked other cities in the State to research best practices. Operating and maintenance practices vary widely across benchmark cities, and even across different areas within the same city. Benchmark cities trend towards a rental-only model. Mr. Gonzalez also compared the rental rates of the benchmark cities. He noted that the Parks and Recreation 10-year Master Plan recommends a cost recovery of 25% -75% for Youth Sports.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded the presentation with the areas of improvement and the challenges in maintaining the Sports Turf. Areas of improvement include aeration, top dressing, minor repairs/upgrades, red dirt replacement and irrigation repairs. The challenges include consistent field usage, years of neglect, organizations determination letter and organizations resisting change. After the presentation concluded, the floor was opened for discussion/questions.

PRAC brought up questions regarding the utilization of effluent water for the fields. A question was asked regarding how the Bill Witt Master Plan will coincide with maintenance/project planning (Tiers 1, 2 & 3). It was asked what are considered "minor repairs" as the Field Use Agreements do not specify what kind of repairs the City would be responsible for; what would elevate safety concerns as a priority. It was also mentioned that the City should consider using native turf grasses for the fields. Mr. Gonzalez mentioned that the Department is planning to install an effluent water line at the Greenwood Sports Complex; looking into an effluent line for Bill Witt. No action was taken on this item.

F. Unfinished Business for Discussion or Possible Action

3. [25-0159](#) Discussion Regarding Proposed Parks & Recreation Budget Initiatives/Priorities for FY26

Chair Lindsey began the discussion with giving a few of her recommendations. To add revenue opportunities, she suggested to charge fees for swimming lessons; suggested reducing lifeguard attendance on Tuesdays (except holidays). Mr. Gonzalez stated Staff are looking at potential possibilities to assist in raising revenues and updating/increasing fees (user/registration). Staff is also looking at current programs that are offered to research recovery costs/defecits. All programs are being looked at to determine reductions, potential revenue or initiatives/minor improvements.

G. Director's Report

4. [25-0340](#) Parks & Recreation Updates for May 2025

Sergio Gonzalez, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, updated the Committee on the following:

- PARD Seasonal Recruitment
- CC Bay Shoreline Breakwater Project
- Sherrill Veterans Memorial Helicopter Project
- Upcoming Events
- Art Conservation for High Priority Statues

H. Committee Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

ISAC - Jay Gardner:

- Commodore Park Updates (Phases for Construction)
- Riley P. Dog Park (Water)
- Effluent Water Lines for Billish, Aquarius & Commodore Park
- Adopt-A-Median

Adopt-a-Park - Chair Lindsey

- From March to April, four new parks have been adopted and 220 volunteers contributed time to their respective parks.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Connectivity - Shawn Flanagan

Mr. Gonzalez gave information on preliminary discussion regarding connectivity (pedestrian bridge) along Ennis Joslin/Holly Road near the Oso Bay. This proposed project could be executed in a phased approach with the possibility of grant/Park Development Fund (matching funds) opportunities for the design.

I. Future Agenda Items

- Oso Bay Preserve Update
- Opening of Bill Witt Aquatic Center
- Billish Park

J. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.