



Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

5:30 PM

City Hall, 6th Floor Conference Room

A. Call To Order/Roll Call

Chair Mejia called the meeting to order and a quorum was established with no absences.

B. Public Comment

Eliza Cushing, at 14017 North Cabana, spoke to the high demand of pickle ball courts on North Padre Island.(Commodore Park)

Bob Cushing, at 14017 North Cabana, spoke to the future Commodore Park Master Plan/Bond 2022.

Jim Sullivan at 4010 San Fernando Place, spoke to the plans for the installation of a submarine sail at Sherrill Park.

Kris O'Neal, Athletics Director at Tuloso-Midway ISD, spoke to West Guth Park and proposed a partnership with the City to grade a football field on a portion of open space at the Park. He said that the middle school and youth leagues currently use that space for practice.

C. Approval of Absences: Duke Canchola & Linda Lindsey

A motion was made by Vice Chair Stevens to approve the absences listed above and it was seconded by Robert McNabney.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. [23-0641](#) Special Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2023 & Regular Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2023

Howard Schauer requested that a correction be made to the March 8, 2023 minutes under Future Agenda Items referencing the Sea Turtles. He requested that the item be more specific in also stating a Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement. A motion was made by Howard Schauer to approve both minutes from March 1st and March 8th with the above listed correction. The motion was seconded by Linda Lindsey and the motion passed.

E. Director's Report

2. [23-0646](#) Parks & Recreation Department Updates - April 12, 2023

Robert Dodd, Director of Parks & Recreation Department, presented item "2" for the record. Mr. Dodd gave updates on the following items:

- Community Engagement Plan for Commodore Master Plan
- Community Engagement Plan for Marina Master Plan
- Cole Park Splash Pad
- Spring Break Statistics
- CC SSN-705 Submarine Sail
- Forecast on City Council Items
- Upcoming Events

For the Commodore Master Plan Community Engagement Group, PRAC assigned Flo East, Linda Lindsey, Thomas Cronnon, Twila Stevens and Duke Canchola as representatives.

For the Marina Master Plan Community Engagement Group, PRAC assigned Robert McNabney, Chris Ardueser and Kellie Summers as representatives.

F. New Business for Discussion & Possible Action

3. [23-0643](#) Updates on Downtown Parks: Presentation by Alyssa Mason, Executive Director, Downtown Management District

Alyssa Barrera Mason presented item "3" as shown above for the record. Included in the update were La Retama Park, Artesian Park and Norma Urban Park. The Downtown Management District (DMD) have adopted both La Retama and Artesian Parks. She presented "before & after" pictures of both parks to show the progression of improvements they have made. For Norma Urban Park, she discussed DMD's proposal plans for temporary activation for the summer season. She discussed some revitalization efforts to the Park such as repairing the concrete pad and tree planting. Ms. Barrera Mason stated that they will be requesting funding for this project from the Downtown Reinvestment Zone with City Council consideration/approval. After the presentation, the floor was opened for Committee comments/questions.

4. [23-0655](#) Briefing on the Bill Witt Aquatic Center

Mr. Dodd gave a briefing on item "4" for the record as listed above. He stated that the Aquatic Center was approved by City Council on April 11, 2023. The briefing included construction scope (amenities), renderings of the aquatic center and proposed budget for operation/maintenance and staffing.

The Center will have one (1) competition pool. It is a short-course (25 yards), lap pool with 10 lanes and can also be used for leisure swimming. The only long-course pool (Olympic regulation) in the City is the Greenwood Pool at 50 meters. The Center also has one (1) recreational pool with a body slide and other play features. Both pools will be surrounded by spacious concrete decks with seating and shade structures.

Other Amenities include an administration building to house pool mechanical systems (horizontal sand filter); the building includes a bathhouse. Guest parking will accommodate 137 vehicles and includes a food truck, service connection area.

This pool will have "year-round" hours of operation with designated schedules for lap swimming/open swim and events/programming before or after hours. It will be open 6 days a week with one day closed, specifically for maintenance. The only other pool in the City with year-round operations is Collier Pool.

Primary staff for the Aquatic Center includes lifeguards & instructors; a pool mechanic and a building/grounds custodian (both full-time). Lifeguard staffing will vary based on the time of year (seasonal) and are part-time employees. Summer staffing will run between Memorial Day & August (2 ½ months). For the remainder of the year, lifeguard staffing will run from August to Memorial Day (9 ½ months). The annual probable cost for personnel at the Aquatic Center is \$280,000.

The proposed operation/maintenance budget for the first year is much greater than the subsequent years because of the initial opening. Significant first-year, budget items include poolside furniture (picnic tables/chairs), office furniture & lifeguard stands. The first-year budget calculates start-up items, staffing, essential operation/maintenance items and summer program initiatives.

The total proposed budget for the first year is approximately \$881,000. The annual probable cost (subsequent years) for Staffing, Operation/Maintenance & Summer Program Initiatives is approximately \$473,000. After Staff's presentation concluded, the floor was opened for Committee comments/questions.

Discussion took place regarding the budget for the construction contract. Staff clarified that Bond funds cannot be used for services/programming. The mandated budget request ("brick & mortar") is in line with the Bond. The proposed budget for operation/maintenance will be part of budget forecasting proposals. Other discussion items included wages for lifeguards and a suggestion for an Aquatics Plan for all City pools.

G. Committee Reports

5. [23-0677](#) Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee Report: Off-Road Trail Examples

Chair Mejia gave a progress update for item "5" as shown above. Her presentation

included photographs of off-road, trail examples that have been accomplished within the City; photographs of other areas in which the same efforts could be done to further help pedestrian/bicycle connectivity. These efforts are part of the PRAC Strategic Action Plan which is also in line with the 10-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Subcommittee accomplished connecting MPO maps for ease of use to visualize a bigger picture. The Schanen Hike & Bike Trail could be extended another 5 or 6 miles by branching off into other high-traffic areas (beaten path) that are used informally along drainage easements. The goal is to provide safe and accessible trails with sensible amenities such as using decomposed granite for the trails and low-tech, directional signage. The Subcommittee will continue to work with Public Works and Parks & Recreation Departments to assist with these efforts.

It was noted that future agendas will list each committee/subcommittee for discussion.

H. Future Agenda Items

- Easter Holiday Statistics at Labonte Park
- Update on Park Master Plans/Public Input Process
- Status update on Bond 2022 Bond Projects
- Erosion Response Plan for Bayfront parks
- Report on any completed/ongoing maintenance/repairs of park related items

I. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.