

MINUTES OF CITY OF BASTROP PARKS AND PUBLIC TREE ADVISORY BOARD

January 4, 2024

The Bastrop Parks and Public Tree Advisory Board met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Members present were Kerry Fossler, Rick Rivera, Steven Forbert, Margaret Robinson, Deborah Jones, and Jamie Creacy. Gail Sheehan was absent. City staff and representatives present were Parks and Recreation Director Terry Moore, Park Superintendent Paul Gonzales, Council member Cynthia Meyer, City Manager Sylvia Carillo, and Council Liaison Jimmy Crouch. There were no City Staff absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:02 p.m. Chair Deborah Jones called the meeting to order.

2. REPORTS

2A. Parks Report

Report was given by Park Superintendent Paul Gonzales.

2B. Bastrop State Park Report

Report was given by Board Member Jamie Creacy.

2C. Bastrop Recreation Report

Report was given by Parks and Recreation Director Terry Moore.

2D. Bird City Coalition Report

Report was given by Board Member Kerry Fossler with guest Maria Montoya Stayton.

2E. Council Liaison Report

No Report.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

See Item 5G for Citizen Comments.

4. WORKSHOP

No workshop.

5. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

5A. Consider action to approve Parks and Public Tree Advisory Board minutes from the November 2, 2023 and December 7, 2023, regular meeting minutes.

Motion to approve by member Kerry Fossler with a Second by member Margaret Robinson. Vote passed unanimously.

5B. Update and discuss Parks Master Plan

- Paul reported on rodeo arena dirt consultant work. Samples will be brought to the arena for an end of February goal to complete dirt.

- Trail Connectivity - Space city owns behind Bucees that would be trail head between Bucees and Mayfest hill park, crossing at 95 for boring company, development will be hotel and multi-use.
- Pearl River drainage with large park with ponds and trail and exercise and children's play. Blakey has sidewalk planned – Blakey connects down old Austin hwy.
- Code rodeo on January 27th – convention center 9a-3pm to talk about connections.
- Seating in the park – 22 tables for table on main – artist call for kids to paint them and put them in parks.
- Skate Park – 5 solar lights – should be done by march.
- Fireman's Park – Used currently for little league, rented by Founders academy, rented Tues-Thursday for soccer with lights. Multi-use sports field and a trail and playscape.
- We need a workshop to look at master plan, consider assets, consider what developers are bringing forward.

5C. Review and discuss work action plan requirement.

- Goal setting discussion: Interest in working toward Rec Center with Pool, other items include rodeo arena, park land acquisition, trail connection to the State Park, connectivity/trails throughout city, sports fields. What did citizens say was the most important item during the Master Planning process? What can we do immediately? Work session with development and park overlay will be scheduled.

5D. Discuss changing the Parks Board meeting time

Interest in moving the meeting time later to accommodate schedules but not too late so staff doesn't have such a long day. Motion to move to 5:30pm made by Margaret Robinson, second by Rick Rivera. Passed unanimously.

5E. Discussion on Master Gardeners

Lee Pacatte presented to the board regarding plans and next steps for the garden and education space at Bob Bryant Park. Margaret moved to support efforts to obtain and place a shed. Jamie seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

5F. Discuss Eagle Scout Project in Bob Bryant Park

Eagle Scout candidate Harley Hudson would like to add bird houses at Bob Bryant Park in coordination and review of the city. Motion to support scout adding bird houses made by Kerry Fossler. Seconded by Margaret Robinson. Vote passed unanimously.

5G. Creation of Permanent Pickleball Courts in a City Park

Gary Moss - – proposing Fisherman's Park tennis court or Bob Bryant tennis court and turn into just tennis or just pickleball – no combo as the lines are confusing. Fisherman's would be best for pickleball due to the noise – 165yards to closest house with a tree line between. Bob Bryant is 44 yards away. Fisherman's has lights, Bob Bryant doesn't have light currently. Bastrop needs a free pickleball facility and a free tennis facility.

Jennifer Leisure – Tennis player who enjoys playing tennis in her hometown in Bastrop. Play every Friday morning at Fisherman's. They are both built as tennis courts. I feel that sharing the two courts would be a good compromise. If the city can provide the rolling nets like at Colovista, re-stripping so lines aren't in middle of courts, online registration (this would be normal

like courts in Austin), sign up 48 hours in advance. This would give us good data. Maybe Fireman's or others are opportunities to explore. Regarding infrastructure, they were built as tennis courts. What about our kids?

Sara Johnson – keep our tennis, add a backboard.

Sylvia – keep tennis.

Ken Kesselus – what has changed that we can't share?

Lyndsy Kana – keep tennis courts – no other tennis courts in town – we can share.

Another comment – keep tennis courts at Fisherman's.

Calvary Episcopal uses Fisherman's for PE class – they use the court as pickleball, they said lines are confusing but don't think it's fair to take away tennis, can continue to share.

Board recommends leave things as is until workshop to discuss future amenities.

6. ADJORNMENT

Member Jamie Creacy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Member Kerry Fossler seconded. The vote passed unanimously.