



PARK BOARD MEETING
PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
400 COLLEGE STREET, GRAND PRAIRIE, TX 75052
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025, AT 6:00 PM

MINUTES

INVOCATION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mal Earl called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

PRESENT

Chair Mal Earl

Vice Chair Warren Landrum

Board Member Norris "Stretch" Rideaux

Board Member Greg Mullen

Board Member Mike Riley

Board Member Jerry Partain

Board Member Jeff Gibson

Board Member Euwye Chan

ABSENT

Board Member Susanna Ramirez

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizens may speak during Citizen Comments for up to five minutes on any item not on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.

On April 23, 2025, there were 3 citizen comments.

- 1. Nelson Obenita – 5120 Finnhorse Dr., Grand Prairie, TX 75052 – Mr. Obenita expressed concerns over current construction at Friendship Park regarding pickleball courts, court rules, seating space and garbage bins.*
- 2. Brandon Ali 0 1802 Avenue E., Grand Prairie, TX 75052 – Mr. Ali expressed concerns over current construction at Friendship Park regarding pickleball courts, divider screens, paddle stackers, water fountains and parking lot lighting.*
- 3. Donnie Gibson – 4603 Clay Court Ln., Arlington, TX 76017 - Mr. Gibson expressed concerns over current construction at Friendship Park regarding pickleball courts and tennis courts with the possibility of tennis being moved to a different location.*

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes of the March 26, 2025, Park Board Meeting

March 26, 2025 meeting minutes presented by Chair Mal Earl. A motion was called by Board Member Greg Mullen, with a second by and Vice Chair Warren Landrum. Minutes from the March 26, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Quarterly Employee Awards

Park Board Chair Mal Earl, Director Ray Cerda and Employee Recognition Committee Chair Meghan Wiggins presented quarterly awards in four categories to employees.

*Seasonal & Part Time Worker Award: Leo Alvarez, Tony Shotwell Life Center
Thinking Outside the Box Award: Jennifer Colon, Youth Programs @ The Epic
Teamwork Award: The Epic Fine Arts Team
Exemplary Employee Award: Joey Sanchez, Aquatics Supervisor*

3. Sports Association Financials Presentation

Sports Association Financials were presented to the Park Board for the calendar year 2024 revenue and expenses.

*Gary Elliott: Grand Prairie Boys Baseball Incorporated
Lisa Boyd: Grand Prairie Girls Softball Association
Ira Carter: Grand Prairie Youth Football Association
Jordan Walker: Grand Prairie Youth Soccer League*

Questions from the Park Board:

- *The 2023 Sports Association Reports Presentation posed concerns over the football fields. Two Park Board Members asked the question if any repairs made to the athletic fields were paid for with Sports Association Financials. Director Ray Cerda explained that any maintenance or improvements to the fields are funded by the City, not the Association.*
- *Question regarding field rental costs and how they correlate to city costs. Fees for registration, charged to the customer/player, cover the city costs for rental fees.*
- *Have any players in the Grand Prairie Youth Football League have made it to professional status; yes 4 are currently football players in the NFL.*
- *Has the increase in prices reflected as the decrease in participation for football? Yes, equipment is expensive which shows the decrease in participation as families may not be able to afford the sport and equipment.*
- *Do you pay your cheer coaches? No, the only payment for employment in Youth Football and Cheer is for cheer competition judges.*

- *Concessions revenue for the Youth Soccer League, where are those expenses? Kona Ice runs the concessions and pay the city a portion of their revenue.*

4. Tree Board Report to review tree-related activities for Park Services, Lake Parks and Golf Courses during the months of March 2025.

Assistant Director, Chris Michalski, presented the Tree Board Report for the month of March 2025 highlighting the man-hours for all tree-related activities for Park Services, Lake Parks and Golf Courses.

5. Chair Report: Mayor's Community 5K Walk, Run, Stroll 2025 at Farmer's Market rescheduled for June 7, 2025; Easter Eggstravaganza April 19, 2025 at Mike Lewis Park; Texas Country Reporter Festival, April 26, 2025 Downtown Plaza; Cinco de Mayo Parade & Celebration May 3, 2025 Downtown Plaza

Chair Mal Earl presented the new date for the Mayor's Community 5K Walk, Run & Stroll. The Easter Eggstravaganza was cancelled due to rain. Chair Mal Earl reviewed the information presented for the Texas Country Reporter, asking Jennifer Hilburn to read the list of Steering Committee Members who'd signed up to work. The question regarding weather was asked and Director Ray Cerda stated the event will go on as long as the weather is not life threatening. Chair Mal Earl ended her report with the upcoming details of the Cinco de Mayo Parade & Celebration.

6. Director Report: Family Camp-Out Review; Parks Open Space Master Plan Citizen Survey; Park Board Retreat Update

Director Ray Cerda presented a review of the first Family Camp-Out which was held at Lynn Creek Park. The event was a success with more events of its kind to take place in future months. discussed an update on the Parks Open Space Master Plan including the agenda, itinerary, meals and activities planned for the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.