

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 9, 2024

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Tony Guerrero	Brad Bentsen
Chris Voss	Pete Lopez
Julissa Martin	
Jesus Mendiola	Juan Carlos Calderon
Melissa Reyna	Taylor Cavazos
Diego Gutierrez	
Maggie Guajardo	
Karina Garza	

### Call to Order

Tony Guerrero called the meeting to order.

### Roll Call

Roll call was taken and quorum was met.

### Prayer

Julissa Martin led us in prayer.

### Approval of Minutes

The Board Members approved the minutes for the March 12, 2024 Board meeting. Motion to approve was made by Chris Voss and seconded by Jesus Mendiola. The motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

N/A

### UPDATE OF PARKS

As per City Manager, the Parks staff started cleaning the yard at the warehouse on Canal St, disposing of materials such as old pipes, metal, frames, fencing and other items to auction of.

Parks staff removed Palm Trees that were installed at Fire Station #6 and relocated them to the Bentsen Palm Park and the Museum.

Park employees are currently working on repairing and cleaning up the Restroom Facility at Lopez Park that suffered vandalization and arson. Vandalization has increased at some of the Parks as well as Graffiti, especially in the restrooms.

Members of the Board suggested creating signs that warned others that Park facilities are being “monitored” in order to prevent future vandalization.

Parks Department completed a request from Councilman Plata who had a town meeting with the residents of Meadow Creek, to repair over 200 feet of fencing.

Parks staff prepared La Lomita Chapel for Palm Sunday Events, and also pruned palm trees to donate our Lady of Guadalupe church.

Parks Department helped set up and tear down for many City events such as The Staycation, The Chambers of Commerce Spring Market, Keep Mission Beautiful Projects, and an upcoming tree planting at the library.

#### **UPDATE OF RECREATION**

A muddy third base on the East Field at Jaycee Park was brought to the attention of the Board, it was determined that it may be a sprinkler valve that has not shut off completely that is causing the area to stay muddy, however the Parks employees will be investigating to resolve the issue.

The Recreation Basketball league season came to an end, and Recreation staff is currently looking for teams to start a new one.

Currently preparing for the Sunday High School Volleyball league through the Recreation Department and looking for teams to participate in the Recreation Summer 7 on 7 league.

The Recreation team is working on preparing the summer programs, interviewing summer employees, and creating flyers for all summer programs.

Facility rentals this month consisted of the use of the Recreation Gym for a Sanrio Event that estimated around 2,000 people and Bentsen Palm Park hosted 3 tournaments, which the Parks Department marked the fields for.

Working on organizing our monthly Music at the Park Event for this upcoming Friday in collaboration with CBDG’s Spring Rally.

Discussion about renting out the Parks and Recreation Gym for Wrestling Tournaments was brought up. Currently the gym is available to rent for \$250 per day and \$500 for the weekend. The only dilemma is the gym being frequently used for voting and is very limited on days it is available for rental.

M. Reyna suggested needing another gym /more gyms for the Recreation Dept, especially when voting comes around and takes away from the gym being available for others. With limited gym access it is difficult to hold activities or programs. To prevent others from using the Gym for business purposes it was suggested to limit the amount of times an organization or coach could rent it, and also adjust the prices if they are going to be using a City facility to bring in profit.

Some of the baseball fields/parks have signs or information on how to go about renting them, however, it was suggested to make sure all parks have these signs visible to help bring revenue from field rentals.

Lack of parking at certain facilities was also brought up as a concern, with the increase in residents using facilities especially at Birdwell Tennis courts.

D. Gutierrez addressed a concern with the Recreation Basketball League stating that there have been a lot of no shows from other teams which prevents the league from running smoothly. The proposals that were made to help this issue were to charge the teams a deposit to make sure they show up for scheduled games, and also have the office call to confirm that all will be attending scheduled games.

#### **AQUATICS UPDATE**

Preparing lifeguards for summer program, but still looking for summer staffing/lifeguards.

Lap swimming hours continue.

Working on creating summer pool hours.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

B. Bentsen discussed the new Charter Amendments for the elections in the City of Mission and how it will affect the city and elections.

Discussion on field rentals, fees, and the limitations for the fields renting process. Non-profits, Mission residents, or coaches from the Boys and Girls Club should have different fees and availability to the fields in comparison to those who are using the fields for their business such as traveling teams. Rentals for business should come with a different fee and limited amount of times to be able to rent per week/month.

Another concern with rentals was the soccer field at Nogales Park, where different teams are competing for time on the field, space, and the soccer goals. Solutions discussed were to try to designate areas to different teams and also increase the rental fee to help maintain these areas that are being used frequently. B. Bentsen suggested readdressing this issue to Council.

To help monitor all field rentals, B. Bentsen brought up using one of the vacant Parks Laborer positions and convert it to a Park Ranger position. This will help stay in the recommended budget and not create a new position.

B. Bentsen is wanting to propose after school programs into the budget that can be ran at different parks throughout the City which can also help monitor others using the fields/parks.

This upcoming Saturday, the Parks Dept will be assisting the Library with their Citrus Tree Planting project.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The construction of new restrooms at the Parks finally went to bid with 12-15 vendors submitting bids, these bids were higher than anticipated. The lowest bid for all three restrooms for CWV, Astroland, and Oblate was \$208,000. As of now, new restrooms were approved for Astroland and CWV Park with the funds coming from park land development fees from the Northeast quadrant.

Still working on the plans with the Hidalgo County District for the Hike and Bike Trails, still applying for more grants for additional funding.

The weekly Farmers Market at Bannworth Park continues to grow, B. Bentsen has three locations for the Community Garden he would like to propose to Mayor.

Still working on the Keep Mission Beautiful Painting Project.

### **Adjournment**

**Melissa Reyna** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by **Karina Garza**. The Board voted unanimously to approve.