

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2022

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Tony Guerrero	Brad Bentsen
Chris Voss	Pete Lopez
Jesus Mendiola	Jorge R. Chapa
Maggie Guajardo Pena	Rick Contreras
Melissa Reyna	Juanita Alvarez
	Everardo Paz
	Pete Charles, Taylor Cavazos

**Call to Order**

Tony Guerrero called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and quorum was met.

**Prayer**

Brad Bentsen led us in prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board Members approved the minutes for the October 11, 2022 Board meeting. Motion to approve was made by Maggie Guajardo Pena and seconded by Chris Voss. The motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

N/A

**UPDATE OF PARKS**

Pete Lopez introduced Ever Paz as the newest foreman with the Parks Department. Ever is in charge of Special Events along with the preparation of fields for games or tournaments. Eloy Garcia, other Foreman, is in charge of the irrigation systems. Eloy is currently working on installing a system at Hollis Rutledge Park thus couldn't attend our meeting. The irrigation at Hollis Rutledge will eventually spread throughout the park.

With October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month the Parks Department assisted in setting up a PA system, tables, chairs, posters, ribbons, etc.. for the unveiling of a Pink trimmed Police vehicle. The event was well accepted by those in attendance. Tear down was done by Parks.

Parks Department also helped the Museum with Dia de los Muertos. PA system, tables, chairs, tents and other items were set up to help make this event successful. Tear down after the event was provided by Parks staff.

The Food Pantry had 2 different distributions that the parks Department helps with. They help with a Bobcat to get pallets off of trucks when needed and provide plenty of "Back" muscle in moving whatever needs to be moved.

12 bleachers were requested, by City of Palmhurst, and received for their annual National Night Out.

Parks Department helped with the Sanitation Round Up. Sanitation Round Up is a cleanup that happens 4 times a year. This event is designed to have local citizens can go by and drop off larger home items such as refrigerators, stoves, beds, mattresses and other items including tires. These Sanitation Round Ups are designed to try and get rid of loitering. These will continue as these events are a major success.

The Department continue to be a major partner for Recreation at the Music at the Parks events. Barricades, cones, tables, chairs. A PA system and any other possible item needed this Department is there for us.

The Parks department will start getting ready for our Annual Christmas Lighting. Lights will be put up around the City and all props will be put up at Leo Pena Plazita and Rotary Park. This years Lighting will be plenty of fun and entertaining with plenty of entertainment and many food and craft vendors.

The City's Halloween event was hosted at Mission Event Center. All City Departments had a booth out there. The Parks and Recreation Department borrowed a structure from Pioneer High School to use as the form of a haunted house. The Aquatics Department staffed the house and was by far the most popular destination of any booth/house at the event.

### UPDATE OF RECREATION

We had to cancel our Monday Night Basketball league due to lack of officials. We are hoping to try and find other officials and change to Wednesday Night. We will play next Monday and Wednesday to try and make up lost nights.

Softball continues the same with difficulty finding Umpires. We are paying \$10.00, minimum, less than any other City in the Rio Grande Valley. I have had to umpire 2 of the 3 nights we have hosted the league.

Pickleball numbers continue to increase with the return of the Winter Texans. We are averaging between 15-19 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. We changed playtimes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to see if we could increase the low numbers we were getting. We are still getting very low participation on those days. We have implemented Wednesday Night Ladies Night and we were averaging about 15 people. We will continue and maybe open another night.

The October edition of Music at the Park was by far the best we have hosted. Over 15 local businesses set up tables and handed out candy and other promotional items. The entertainment was really good and all the food and craft vendors were very happy for a very successful night.

Preparation continues for our Annual Christmas Lighting that will be hosted Friday November 18 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday November 19, 2022. The New Variety band will close out the second day of performances. Santa will be arriving around 6:35 on Friday evening right after Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza hits the switch turning all the lights on. As is our custom Mr. Frank Vela's Mission Veterans Memorial Mariachi will start the show off but this year will also bring in a Conjunto group to add a more pizzazz to the show.

### Aquatics Update

USA Swim team is in perfect position to adding to the 55 members currently joined. The Club at Cimarron has closed their swimming pool leaving the swim team members without a place to practice. Members of McAllen Swim Club are also looking to leave that organization.

Sharyland School district is using Bannworth Pool for their practices. Mission High school has informed Rick that they would like to come over once the weather turns colder. That should be no problem with everyone sharing times and diving boards.

The Aquatics staff worked the Halloween haunted house at Mission Event Center and had a great time. Everyone wore a costume and really enjoyed themselves.

Aquatics helped Team Turbo with the Chic Fil A Sprint Tri Athlon. 65 of the 90 registered showed up and did the event.

### Other Business

Officials pay came up and we are the lowest paying in the Valley. San Juan started by paying umpires 25.00 a game and they worked by themselves it was 37.50. McAllen heard about that and posted on Facebook they were paying 35.00 and 50.00 if you work by yourself. We pay 15.00 for softball and 18.00 for Basketball. We are having trouble getting officials for our games. Need to present to City Council.

The Department was given a \$45,000.00 for our Christmas Lighting this year. The monies are a little late but we will get purchase orders and put it up when we receive it. We are going to have a great set up this year.

Roel Mendiola, Sanitation Director, along with Anais Chapa, his Administrative Assistant, came up with a plan to emulate McAllen's Keep McAllen Beautiful and the will be a great success. Mr. Bentsen named Pete Lopez on the committee from the Parks and Recreation Department. The quarterly roundups is a great start in initiating the program.

Ideas for the Awareness to Diabetes were being discussed. Board Member Jesus Mendiola has a sponsor for 1 of the Parks with a total of \$1,500.00 but is asking how much the cost for all 3 parks would be. Different sponsorship levels were discussed starting \$250.00, \$500.00 and \$1,000.00. After discussion the sponsor levels were agreed at \$500.00, \$750.00 and \$1,000.00. Mr. Mendiola is challenging the board to see if they can get sponsorship from people they deal with on a week to week basis. Melissa Reyna suggested the sponsor record the clip(s) he sponsor as a way of getting the best bang for his buck!

Mr. Bentsen is talking to Eddie Cantu, Precint 2 Commissioner for help with the walking trail. Mr Cantu along with Ever Villarreal, our Commissioner will be helping us get moving with the project. With their Valley Legacy will probably help monetarily. This project will go from Los Ebanos to Taylor Road with underground connection already in place at Conway Road, Bryan Road and Shary Road.

Lions Park project started as a 1.5 million dollar project went to 2 and a quarter million and is now at 5.2 million. He project went from a 4 acre project to an 8 acre project. We are soliciting bids now due to be open on December 19 and have a contractor by the second week in January. We will not be going with the lowest bid but with the contractor the best suites the project being done.

The playscape for Bannworth finally arrived to our storage yard. The Parks Department will have to finish up with the work they are doing preparing Lions Park before they can go and start taking down the present structure at Bannworth and getting it ready for the new playscape.

### **Adjournment**

Chris Voss made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Jesus Mendiola. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

**CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 8, 2022**  
**Teleconference/Hybrid**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Members Present**

Lorenzo Garza  
Alma Garcia  
Roxanne Mendez  
Zoreida Lopez  
Elizabeth Segovia  
Victor Anzaldua

**Members Absent**

Alex Guerra

**Staff Present**

Jo Anne Longoria  
Esther G. Rivera  
Helen Torres

**Call Regular Hearing to Order**

Chairman Lorenzo Garza called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Ms. Jo Anne Longoria conducted roll call. She stated six members were present, therefore there was a quorum.

**Citizens Participation**

Chairman Garza asked if there were any citizens present to discuss any items on the agenda or to express their concerns on this Regular Meeting. With no one present, online nor in person and no comments, he continued with the next item.

Ms. Roxanne Mendez joined the meeting at 5:33pm.

**Discussion and Recommendation to Approve Minutes for Special Meeting held on October 11, 2022**

Ms. Helen Torres asked the members present if they had reviewed the minutes for the Special Meeting held on October 11, 2022 and if there were any questions or comments. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Alma Garcia motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Vice-chairman Zoreida Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0)

**Discussion on Approval of Annual Action Plan 2022-2023**

Ms. Longoria informed the members the Annual Action Plan for FY 2022-23 had been and approved by Housing Urban Development (HUD). She provided a brief summary of the final awarded amount of \$1,002,485. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza continued with the next item. No Action was taken.

### **Presentation on Housing Assistance Program (HAP) Phase 21-I Construction Phase**

Ms. Esther Rivera presented a PowerPoint for HAP Phase 21-I Construction Phase. She showed the construction phase for the seven projects: 507 Sauz Ave. 99% complete; 1220 Perkins Ave. 99% complete; 829 Hidalgo St. 99% complete; 922 Hidalgo St. 99% complete; 901 Lee St. 96% complete; 1503 Anita St. 97% complete; 3541 Garza St. 99% complete. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza continued with the next item. No Action was taken.

### **Presentation on Emergency Assistance Program (EAP)**

Ms. Rivera presented a PowerPoint on the Emergency Assistance Program (EAP). She mentioned we partnered with Affordable Homes of South Texas (AHSTI). Thirty-one households attended the fifth "One Stop Shop" event held on October 19, 2022. Ms. Rivera provided a flyer with the next "One Stop Shop" event scheduled on November 30, 2022 at Center for Education and Economic Development (CEED) from 3pm-7pm. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza continued with the next item. No Action was taken.

### **Other Business**

#### **A. Progress Report- September 2022**

Ms. Torres presented the Unofficial Progress Report for September 2022. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza asked for a motion to approve the progress report. Mr. Victor Anzaldúa motioned to approve the progress report as presented. Ms. Elizabeth Segovia seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0).

#### **B. Chairman's Comments-** No comments. Chairman Garza asked Ms. Rivera to provide information on HAP Phase 21-II.

#### **C. Committee Member's Comments-** No comments were made by the other members present.

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Longoria mentioned that one of the members requested a list of the members phone numbers and email addresses. All members were fine releasing the information.

Chairman Garza asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Garcia motioned to adjourn meeting. Ms. Segovia seconded. Motion carried (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 P.M.

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Lorenzo Garza, Chair-person