

SHARY GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
JULY 2ND, 2025

- **Call to Order**
 - Mr. Isaac Martinez called the meeting to order.
- **Roll Call**
 - The following board members were present: Isaac Martinez, Ben Lau, Toby Garza, Joe Salinas. Introduction of new board member Nacho Pecina who replaces Martin Flores.
 - The following board members were absent: Thomas Lee, Javi Barrera
 - The following staff members and others were present: Michael Fernuik Golf Director, Carl Davis MEDC Board Member.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - The minutes from the June 4th, 2025 were approved as written. Motion made to accept Joe Salinas, seconded Ben Lau, approved unanimously.
- **Golf Director's Report**
 - Progress Report on Holes 19 to 27 Renovation. The July report from VM Golf Services was supplied to the board for their review. The progress report was broken down into four parts; Work Completed, Work in Progress, Work Planned, and finally Pending Items. The project is progressing as planned. The next site visit is scheduled during the greens finish phase to get final grades approved by the golf architect for grassing. The grass selection has been completed, along with cart path replacement, tree removal approx. 39 total. Gravel for greens construction is being stockpiled on abandoned holes in preparation for the greens mix material. The layout of the course was provided that outlined the areas going to be sprigged with paspalum. Architect Jerry Lemons laid out the plan what will be our responsibility to spray herbicide on holes 19 to 27 in preparation of VM Golf Services sprigging the fairways. Mr. Martinez brought up possible uses for the excess dirt including driving range target greens. Mr. Garza asked about MUSCO lighting and their plans of when they will begin as well as location of poles. GPS each of the 55 pole locations will be first, then trenching of the electric. There is some concern of location of our irrigation wires vs where they will be trenching. They are working on an overlay between the irrigation plans and pole placement plans with a CAD file. VM Golf Services and MUSCO are familiar with each other as they worked together on the FIREFLY course in Corpus Christi.
 - Holes 19 to 27 Naming. There was little to no discussion on this item. It was decided to leave to a later date.
 - Report on Holes 1 to 18 Sod Project. Greens 1-18 were sodded on areas that had bare spots. It took 32 pallets of Tif Eagle sod at \$1200 a pallet. This also included the big putting green and part of the small putting green. The greens are going to

take some time to blend into other parts of the greens. They will need to adapt to a new height of cut. Sodding of #1 fairway and in front of the #1 bunker as was #16 tee with the Tif Tuf Sod. There was not enough sod to do the nursery, but going to move most of #25 green to the nursery area. It was decided, that grass should only be used for fairway patchwork and not for the greens. Once, that sod is used up then we can bring Tif-Eagle sod to the nursery area.

- Revenue Rate Assessment. The new rate structure to go into effect October 1st, 2025 was presented along with the new night golf rates. Night rates to be \$29.83 per person with ½ cart, 9 hole private cart trail fee \$7.00, junior 9 hole green fee \$11.50. Discussion points arose concerning when the night rates go into effect during the day, winter Texan play, the need to specify what times the night rates will go into effect, no memberships. Our current rates are way to low compared to other public courses. These new rates will bring us closer to being in line with McAllen Champion Lakes, Pharr Tierra Del Sol and Edinburg Los Lagos. The importance of the 9 hole renovation for day play will have a huge impact on the bottom line just like the night portion. Along with everything else comes a new set of challenges regarding course maintenance for the night. Golf course superintendent Gutierrez is aware of these challenges and working on solutions. The proposed new rates to go into effect October 1st, 2025 as presented was approved by Mr. Ben Lau, seconded by Toby Garza and passed unanimously.

- **Public Participation**

- None

- **Unfinished Business**

- Fernuik stated that the following three areas will stay on the agenda until complete. They are on course restrooms, pro shop relocation and perimeter fencing. A quote for a 2-station restroom trailer was presented as an option for a on course restroom with a total cost of \$41,580.00. Different points were brought up like leasing, utility location, septic tanks, chances of vandalism, existing water lines from years ago along with the location of restroom facility around holes 22 and 23 from years ago. Mr. Martinez brought up the perimeter fencing being owed back to the golf course from when it was taken down. After a discussion majority of the board felt a chain link fence would be the best choice for a perimeter fence.

- **Chairman's Comments**

- Chairman Mr. Martinez commented on the poor sod job on #16 tee box. It looks like it was just "thrown down" with little preparation. More time was spent on preparation of the greens and #1 fairway. Mr. Martinez also mentioned about his concerns regarding the night staff. What is the status, how many, etc. Fernuik mentioned he will have the details regarding the "night shift" staffing at the next board meeting. Mr. Ben Lau mentioned pushing the pro shop relocation. The use of hanging walls like the Mission Event Center for separation was a possibility.

Mr. Martinez brought up the timing of the fairway aerification and when that will happen.

- **Adjournment**
 - Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

July 8, 2025

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Tony Guerrero	Brad Bentsen
Chris Voss	Pete Lopez
Maggie Guajardo Pena	Pete Charles
Julissa Martin	Taylor Cavazos
Diego Gutierrez	Rick Contreras
Jesus Mendiola	JC Calderon

Call to Order

Tony Guerrero called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and quorum was met.

Prayer

Diego Gutierrez led us in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The Board Members approved the minutes for the June 10, 2025 Board meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Voss and seconded by Jesus Mendiola. The motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

N/A

UPDATE OF PARKS

The Parks Department provided employees to assist with several community events this month: RGV Cemetery Event with the set up of tables, chairs, and the PA system, Mission PD's Memorial Day Event, Donuts with the Chief event. Other events included, a CTA Tennis Tournament at Birdwell Tennis Center, a Track Meet at Sharyland High School, and the unveiling event of the Communication Board at the Bannworth Park.

Current projects the Parks Crews have been working on are the new signs for the entrances of the Hike and Bike Trails and Bentsen Palm Community Park. Improvements to the Parks restrooms such as painting and roofs of the restrooms at La Lomita, Nell Tole, and CWV Parks have been changed to metal roofs.

Graffiti and vandalism of park restrooms continues. Staff has painted over graffiti and replaced hand towel dispensers that were damaged. Signs have been made and displayed at Park restrooms to encourage park goers to take care of restrooms.

At Bannworth Park, the process to start removing the pier has begun.

At Lions Park, a large BBQ pit was installed to be used for those that rent the and “No Dogs Allowed” signs were put up at Lions Park.

UPDATE OF AQUATICS

This past weekend, the Bannworth Pool hosted a swim meet with 9 teams competing. Currently preparing for the upcoming swim meet this weekend which will be the Region 2 T.A.A.F meet.

The Learn to Swim program has been successful this year, and will be ending soon with only a few weeks left of the program.

The Splash Pad at Lions Park has improved but is still having issues. The cartilage/filter that was initially installed at the Lions Park splash pad is mostly used for residential splash pads, not commercial splash pads, therefore it is not made to properly filter the water for the amount of people using the splash pad on a daily basis. For other cities splash pads, they use fresh water that comes in and out and does not have to be filtered or reused.

Rick Contreras, suggested that the best solution for the splash pad is changing the filter to a sand filter which is more expensive but more effective for the amount of people using the splash pad. The current problem at the splash pad, is the standing water that is not getting filtered properly and is left standing and forming algae. This algae has caused kids to slip and fall, even one fall having the ambulance come out to Lions Park. The pool tech has been having to clean and power wash more frequently to remove algae. The sand filter would be an estimate of \$20,000 more and is not in the current budget.

Still pending meeting with the Architect, City Manager, and JP Terrazas to do a walk through of Lions Park to address issues that are still pending such as the standing water/algae problem with the splash pad, and concrete issues of the sidewalks.

UPDATE OF RECREATION:

Our 8-team basketball league is coming to an end, and now starting the playoff league.

Rentals of our facilities this month have included the Bentsen Palm Park and the Hike and Bike Trials for three 5K's. The Recreation Center for an indoor market and a wrestling event. The Recreation Center also hosted a table tennis tournament of about 40 players.

Our summer program participants for tennis and track have increased this summer and have had successful practices and meets.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS:

Slowly converting all parks restrooms from the brown neutral colors to blue and white paint, and replacing the roofing of some restrooms along with other needed upgrades.

Locking Park restrooms every night to try to minimize vandalism, even during the day we are still having a problem with vandalism of these restrooms.

Brad Bentsen discussed with the Board how during his presentation of City Park improvements to City Council, the removal of the playground at Lopez Park was questioned. The Council wanted to know what would replace the playground at that Park. The Parks Advisory Board gave several suggestions such as a swing set, skate park, basketball court, or possibly even a tennis court. Due to the park being named after a medal of honor recipient, it was also suggested to install a monument or memorial.

Currently working on an interlocal agreement with Mission CISD for the Northside Pool. Mission CISD has agreed to provide lifeguards and maintenance of the pool to host our swim program for those swimmers on the west side of Mission that can not attend the Bannworth Pool practices. Discussion if the Tom Landry Stadium will now have to be rented to Parks and Recreation for our programs, if this does happen the program will stay at the Sharyland High School stadium.

B. Bentsen gave recognition to Board member Jesus Mendiola for his effort of cleaning up the Hike and Bike Trails with his volunteers. Parks staff also took a weekend to clean up the perimeter of the Hike and Bike Trails.

Previously, the Board had discussed fee adjustments for our facility rentals. Approved rates were adjusted, but rental prices for nonprofit organizations and churches were still pending discussion from the Board. The Board agreed to charge ½ of the original rental rate for these organizations/churches.

Ongoing issues of soccer academies using the parks for their training and practices was discussed with the Board. The academies constant use of these fields/areas in the parks is destroying the grass. The Department is still struggling to get these coaches to go by the office and pay the rental fee, and with most of these academies practicing after hours, it is hard to manage or keep track of these rentals without a Park Ranger.

The Board agreed that since these academies are generating a profit, an increase in the rental fee is needed. From \$25 a day to \$50 per hour at a max of 2 hours per day and limited to only 5 days a week, that way it will give the fields time to rest and also give the general public time to use the fields. Hopefully with the price increase, additional income can be used to hire a part-time Park Ranger to monitor the rentals. On the contract signed by those renting, it will also let them know we have the right to refuse a rental if rules and regulations are not followed. Chris Voss made a motion for the increase in price, limitation of the use of fields, and a right to refuse a rental, this was seconded by Jesus Mendiola. The motion to approve was passed unanimously.

After many years as Chairman of the Board, Tony Guerrero announced he will be stepping down as Chairman. Chairman Tony Guerrero recommended consideration of Maggie and Julissa as chair and co-chair of the Parks Advisory Board. An official vote will take place at our next monthly meeting.

In October, Brad Bentsen got the approved budget to start the trail rehab from the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant. We were awarded \$250,000. Texas Parks and Wildlife gave us \$200,000 and we were responsible for the other \$50,000 in the meantime. Majority of the project will be in house and consists of trail overlay and to restructure the shoulders. Currently there are three areas on the east side of the trail that are collapsing and going into neighboring properties. For the areas that are eroding from the canal across the trail, either we will create more of a retaining wall at base of the canal bank or what was presented is hydroseeding with wild grass native grass mix. A young lady that is currently working on her Boy Scout Eagle Award, will be sandblasting the trailhead names and choosing the mile markings

The connectivity trail we partnered with Precinct 2 will cost about 1.8 million and will start on Los Ebanos Rd and end at Taylor Rd. On the east side of Bryan, they are digging the soil down for tunnels to transcend to a trail. They had to go back and redesign it because they are going to widen the mission lateral north of 495. They are hoping to have the groundbreaking once all designs have been approved in a month or so.

For the Adopt A Park Program, B. Bentsen would like to create some sort of profile to move forward with the program and is open to suggestions and recommendations for rules and regulations for the program from the Board to be discussed in the next meeting.

B. Bentsen was given the verbal okay to begin the covering up of the pond at the Bannworth Park. He did advise Council he would like something in writing or public Council approval for this action. There will be a workshop with Council Friday morning to discuss different parks, and is hoping to further discuss the pond and ducks at Bannworth. B. Bentsen informed the Board he did discuss the changes with Texas Parks and Wildlife, and was advised there were areas of the grant that had a little bit of a gray area and if we were to cover up the pond, it would need to be replaced with something amiable. The Board suggested replacing the pond with a garden area, but the final plans

of what will happen to Bannworth will have to come from Council and not the Department. Council is also looking for recommendations from the Board on what would be the replacement for the playground that was moved from Lopez Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Julissa Barrera and was seconded by Diego Gutierrez.

Parks employees assisted with several events throughout the City. Our successful Annual Christmas Lighting took place at La Placita, which the Parks guys helped decorate, clean up, and tear down for.

Parks Department assisted Sharyland ISD with their events, the Sharyland High School's Softball team worked on a project for the butterfly garden at the Bannworth Park by replacing several native butterfly plants. Provided bleachers for Sharyland Academic Academy for a winter festival, and provided portable restrooms for Sharyland Pioneer High School for their first annual BBQ cook off.

Assisted Mission Chamber of Commerce with their annual market with set up and tear down of their market at La Placita.

Parks employees are currently installing playground from Lopez Park to Hinojosa Park.

The Strike Team continues their projects at Lions Park. They have completed and installed 10 picnic concrete tables, the aluminum tables under the Pavilion, 30 trash cans, 14 new BBQ pits, painted Bankshot goals, and completed the Lions Park sign all in preparation for the ribbon cutting next Thursday.

The homeless problem at the parks continues as the homeless have been staying in the restrooms. The Parks guys have been instructed by PD to pick up their items and keep them at the Recreation center for a week and then discard the items to help control the homeless population staying at the Parks.

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UPDATE OF RECREATION

A total of 4,000 people attended our Mayors Annual Christmas Lighting at La Placita Park with a total of 40 food and craft vendors and RGV Jurassic dinosaurs for entertainment.

Recreation Department is currently working on putting together everything for our Annual Texas Citrus 5k at the Hike and Bike Trails. So far 95 runners have registered.

La Placita and the Recreation Gyms were rented out for markets this month.

Still dealing with issues with field rentals, people using the fields without contracts, double booking, and renters not abiding to rules and times permitted on the field.

Another ongoing issue is the Soccer Academies using open land at parks to host their academies and making profit for free. No one there to regulate.

Pete Charles suggested increases fees on the parks, la placita, tennis court, and BPP tournament fees. For tennis tournaments he suggested to increase the rates from \$500 to \$800, Bentsen Palm Park Tournaments from \$1,100 to \$1,500, and La Placita from \$300 to \$800.
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He also suggested hiring a park ranger would help eliminate a lot of the problems with field and tennis court rentals.

Aquatics Update

Lap swimming continues at the Bannworth Pool.

The USA swim team still practicing as they get ready for upcoming swim meets.

No update on homeschool students using the pool facility.

New Business

Currently preparing for the ribbon cutting at Lions Park. In the future, Council suggested moving the Christmas Lighting to Lions Park instead of La Placita. One of the main concerns of having it at Lions Park is a lack of parking and electricity.

A current concern is the grass/field at Shimotsu City school park being destroyed by the soccer academy that practices there more than 3 times a week. The constant practicing in that area, has caused the school to no longer have a yard with grass and is just mud when it rains. This academy alone is making about \$7,000 a month on city/school owned property for free, so a new system or someone to monitor needs to be put into place.

Currently looking to install lights at Hinojosa School Park.

One of the main concerns of the Department is the fees and monitoring the tennis court rentals, soccer academies, markets, and baseball tournaments. For the soccer academies to prevent the grass from continuing to get ruined in those areas, try to fertilize and water the grass so the area is unplayable and hopefully allow it to regrow.

For the coaching problem at the Birdwell tennis courts, it was suggested to have a meeting with all three coaches to come to an agreement on the pricing and time slots available for coaching. A

new rental contract should be made with new restrictions and consequences/strikes if the coaches do not follow these rules.

In order to help monitor the tennis courts in the evenings it was suggested to reach out to UTRGV's Recreation Department or Work Study Program to see if there are some students who can come out to the tennis courts to monitor while receiving g hours/credits towards their program. Another option would be to hire a part-time four-hour employee to be able to monitor the courts in the evening while we do not have a Proshop at the courts.

As of today, the Board did not vote or agree on anything, but in the future, we will have to come back and address the increase in fees and conditions on the contracts for these rentals.

Old Business

Still working with Precinct 2 on the connectivity trails, the City is contributing a total of \$1 million to the project.

Adjournment

Recorder did not record the Adjournment.