

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 25, 2025
Public Hearing/Regular Meeting

Members Present

Emigdio Villanueva, Jr.-Vice-Chairman
Roxanne Méndez
Zoreida Lopez
Marsha Terry
Monika Rosales-Flores
Ruben Davila Lozano

Members Absent

Lorenzo Garza-Chairman
Francisco Cadena

Staff Present

Michael J. Elizalde
Esther G. Rivera
Monica Gonzalez

Guests Present

Rolando Flores – LRGVDC-Area Agency on Aging
Abigail Cruz – LRGVDC-Aging & Disability Resource Center
Karla Montemayor – Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.
Pam Voss – C.A.M.P. University
Yenni Espinoza – Speer Memorial Library
Keyla Lopez – Speer Memorial Library
Teodoro Rodriguez – Mission Police Department
Rick Venecia – Boys & Girls Club
Veronica V. Whitacre – C.A.S.A. of Hidalgo County, Inc.
David Perez – Comfort House
Monica Villarreal – Amigos Del Valle, Inc.
Ayssa DeAlejandro – Amigos Del Valle, Inc.
Douglas Williams – Mission Fire Department
Frank Cavazos – Mission Fire Department
Edgar Gonzalez – Mission Public Works
Xavier Cervantes – Mission
Brad Bentsen – Parks & Recreation Department
Virginia Passamentt – Mission Police Department
Bobbie Krynicki – Capable Kids Foundation
Janie Vela – Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.
Dee Ochoa – Silver Ribbon Community Partners
Moises Luna – Silver Ribbon Community Partners
Valerie Solis – Silver Ribbon Community Partners
Jeannie Lopez – Silver Ribbon Community Partners
Daniela Elizondo – Silver Ribbon Community Partners

Call Public Hearing/Regular Meeting to Order and Establish Quorum.

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called the Public Hearing/Regular Meeting to order at 5:39 pm. Esther G. Rivera conducted roll call. She stated that six (6) members were present, therefore there was a quorum.

Citizens Participation

Vice-Chairman Villanueva asked if any citizens were present to discuss any items on the agenda or express their concerns. No citizens were present and no comments were received. Vice-Chairman Villanueva continued to the next agenda item.

Presentation on the Needs of City for Annual Action Plan FY 2025/2026

Vice-Chairman Villanueva stated that each presenter has approximately three (3) minutes to present their request and to state their name and the agency/department they are representing. He then informed that he would be calling each agency as listed in the agenda.

Public Service Agencies:

Capable Kids Foundation

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on Capable Kids Foundation. Mr. Bobbie Krynicki introduced himself and presented a brief description on Capable Kids Foundation. He stated that their program provides adaptive sports, life skills training, and social inclusion for participants with disabilities from low-income backgrounds and promoting empowerment and community integration. The program aims to reduce barriers to inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities in Mission, especially those from Low- and Moderate-income households. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Mr. Krynicki and proceeded with the next presentation.

C.A.M.P. University

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on C.A.M.P. University. Ms. Pam Voss, Executive Director introduced herself and described C.A.M.P. University. She stated that C.A.M.P. stands for Can Achieve Maximum Potential and is a day habilitation program that provides opportunities for young adults with special needs to continue developing life and social skills after high school. She explained the program promotes staying active socially, mentally, and physically in order to reach their own maximum potential. Ms. Voss then mentioned that the requested amount of \$9,000.00 would cover the salaries for the teachers and help minimize the cost per beneficiary attending for twelve (12) special needs individuals. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman thanked Ms. Voss and proceeded with the next presentation.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Hidalgo County, Inc.

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on Court Appointed Special Advocates of Hidalgo County, Inc. Ms. Veronica Whitacre, Executive Director introduced herself and thanked the committee for their support in prior years. She provided a brief summary of the request for \$5,000.00 to provide services to eleven (11) abused and neglected children by representing them during court proceedings. She explained that funds are utilized for salaries for Case Managers. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Whitacre and proceeded with the presentation.

Comfort House Services, Inc.

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on Comfort House Services, Inc. Mr. David Perez, Administrator introduced himself and thanked the members for their support. He explained the agency is requesting \$5,000.00 to pay for small salary portion for caregivers that will provide terminally ill individuals with the best support and care before the patient passes. The agency provides twenty-four-hour palliative care and will assist five (5) terminally ill individuals who have a prognosis of four months or less to live. He stated there is a ten-bedroom home in McAllen where they house individuals from the Rio Grande Valley and surrounding counties. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Mr. Perez and proceeded with the next presentation.

Amigos Del Valle, Inc.

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on Amigos Del Valle, Inc. Ms. Monica Villarreal, Finance Director and Ms. Ayssa DeAlejandro, Nutrition Clerk introduced themselves to the committee

members. Ms. Villarreal explained that they are requesting \$65,000.00 to serve 10,062 daily hot meals to forty (40) homebound seniors. Funding will cover 250 serving days at a reimbursement rate \$6.46 per meal. Ms. Villarreal provided a brief summary of services they offer for senior housing assistance, congregate meals, meals on wheels, transportation, and free meals for veterans. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Villarreal and Ms. DeAlejandro and proceeded with the next presentation.

Silver Ribbon Community Partners

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on Silver Ribbon Community Partners. Ms. Dee Ochoa, Executive Director introduced herself and thanked the committee for their support. She provided a brief summary of their request for \$6,000.00 to provide services to fifteen (15) disabled and elderly individuals with financial assistance for rent, rent deposits, utilities, utility deposits, which prevents them from eviction and becoming homeless and provide medical equipment. The program is designed to support the elderly adults (62+) and adults with disabilities (18+) who are facing a crisis, including financial hardship, medical emergencies, or experiences of abuse. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Ochoa and proceeded with the next presentation.

LRGVDC-Area Agency on Aging

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging. Mr. Rolando Flores, Contract Specialist IV introduced himself, thanked everyone for their support and explained that they are requesting \$30,000.00 to assist forty (40) elderly senior citizens for health maintenance services such as prescribed medication, nutritional supplements, diabetic footwear, and medical supply equipment; and residential repairs/modifications like ADA-compliant commodes, grab bars, door widening as well as medical supplies, equipment, housekeeping, home management and other devices necessary to maintain the health and safety of the residents. Direct Services provided to elderly individuals over the age of 60. Mr. Flores mentioned the areas covered by the agency include Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Mr. Flores and proceeded with the next presentation.

LRGVDC-Aging and Disability Resource Center

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the LRGVDC Aging and Disability Resource Center. Ms. Abigail Cruz, Accounting Tech I and Mr. Rolando Flores, Contract Specialist IV presented the Aging and Disability Resource Center with a request of \$30,000.00 to assist forty (40) individuals. They would provide services to residents with severe disabilities of all ages. The assistance will include handicapped services, including medications, nutritional supplements, diabetic footwear, ADA-commodes, grab bars, and other devices; including homemaker services that help with housekeeping and meal preparation for clients who need support in this area, helping them sustain independent living in a safe and healthy home environment. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Cruz and Mr. Flores and proceeded with the next presentation.

Departments:

City of Mission-Fire Department: Inflatable Fire Safety House

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Fire Department for the Inflatable Fire Safety House. Mr. Frank Cavazos, Fire Marshal introduced himself and explained that they are requesting \$12,000.00 for the purchase of an Inflatable Fire Safety House to use as an educational tool for fire prevention and emergency preparedness in an engaging and accessible way. He further explained that it can

be taken to neighborhoods, schools, and community centers, eliminating transportation barriers for families who might not otherwise attend fire safety workshops. Moreover, by bringing this resource to underserved communities, the Fire Department can help reduce fire-related injuries and fatalities while empowering families with life-saving knowledge. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Mr. Cavazos and proceeded with the next presentation.

City of Mission-Fire Department: Portable Radios

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Fire Department for the Portable Radios. Mr. Mike Silva, Fire Chief, introduced himself and explained the request of \$400,000.00 to purchase forty (40) portable radios that are essential in the department to enable clear communication and coordination among firefighters, commanders, and other emergency responders. The new portable communication devices are equipped with GPS that provide real-time updates on the situation, improving situational awareness and track firefighters' locations. The devices reduce miscommunication, allow remote support from specialists, and are crucial for efficient and safe firefighting operations. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Fire Chief Silva and proceeded with the next presentation.

City of Mission-Speer Memorial Library

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on Speer Memorial Library. Ms. Yenni Espinosa, Library Director introduced herself and explained that the library currently has thirty (30) laptops for public use but have become outdated and no longer support the latest software and technology systems. Ms. Espinosa responded that the last time the library received new computers was in 2009. Ms. Espinosa is requesting \$42,062.10 to purchase new computers for the study rooms and install up to date software to provide City of Mission residents with efficient resources within the community. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Espinosa and proceeded with the next presentation.

City of Mission-Planning and Code Enforcement Department

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Planning and Code Enforcement Department. Mr. Xavier Cervantes introduced himself and informed the Committee members that his department is requesting \$100,000.00 to assist with the cost to demolish approximately 13 dilapidated/unsafe structures. He informed that its estimated cost to demolish the structures is from \$4,000.00 to \$8,000.00 to pay for city crew to conduct this work. For commercial properties the cost estimate is \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 due to the asbestos survey on possible removal. He further stated that by demolishing these sites, it would reduce the risk of fires, trespassers, and reduce slum and blight area of the neighborhoods. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Mr. Cervantes and proceeded with the next presentation.

City of Mission-Police Department

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Mission Police Department. Officer Teodoro Rodriguez introduced himself and presented the request of \$50,000.00 to provide mental health training to officers and canine who respond to mental health crisis in the community. The idea is to equip officers with enough training tools to "fight how they train" during mental health calls for service, without using force. These funds will also fund Milo, Mental Health Canine Officer, to attend obedience and group therapy canine training. The officers would attend the Crisis Intervention Conference, Mental health Response Team Site Visits, Other Agency Mental Health Training course, and training courses that would help improve our mental health response in the community. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Officer Rodriguez and proceeded with the next presentation.

City of Mission-Boys and Girls Club

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Mission Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Rick Venecia, Chief Executive Officer introduced himself and presents the FutureReady Teen Program. Mr. Venecia stated the program would provide after school and during seasonal vacation breaks with activities that challenge members academically, provide outside of the box thinking, and provide a safe place where they are allowed to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible individuals. Funds requests in the amount of \$125,000.00 to pay for salaries and administrative cost and would assist 750 individuals. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Officer Rodriguez and proceeded with the next presentation.

City of Mission-Parks and Recreation Department: Astroland Park-Rocket Ship Playscape

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Mission Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Brad Bentsen, Parks and Recreation Director introduced himself and presented the Astroland Park-Rocket Ship Playscape. Mr. Bentsen stated that they are requesting \$250,000.00 to purchase and install a new rocket ship and associated playground equipment with padded synthetic safe-fall material. Mr. Bentsen informed they have been doing fund raising and received \$50,000.00 from the Park Land Development Funding to conduct various improvements. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza thanked Mr. Bentsen and proceeded to the next presentation.

City of Mission-Parks and Recreation Department: CWV Park Trail-Trail Lighting

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Mission Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Brad Bentsen, Parks and Recreation Director introduced himself and presented the CWV Park-Trail Lighting Project. Mr. Bentsen stated that they are requesting \$53,000.00 to purchase and install twenty-one (21) solar lights for the park trail located around the perimeter of ball fields, picnic structures and garden. The installation of lights will increase visibility, trail access, sense of security and prevent accidents. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza thanked Mr. Bentsen and proceeded to the next presentation.

City of Mission-Public Works Department

Vice-Chairman Villanueva called on the Public Works Department. Mr. Edgar Gonzalez, Engineer introduced himself and thanked the Committee for giving them the opportunity to present their request. He informed that the City needs funds to continue with improving sanitary sewer/manholes throughout the city. He explained that many of the sewer manholes are old and in need of replacement to improve the sewer system. The Public Works Department is requesting \$250,000.00 to replace approximately eleven (11) manholes at various locations within the city. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza thanked Mr. Gonzalez and proceeded to the next presentation.

Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc.

Vice-Chairman Villanueva then called on Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. Ms. Karla Montemayor, Grants Specialist introduced herself and explained their request for \$200,000.00 will assist eligible low to moderate income families to become first-time homeowners by subsidizing the mortgage principal amounts to make loan payments affordable. The program is geared towards ensuring long-term stability and continued access to vital community resources that would make first-time homebuyers successful at becoming homeowners. She mentioned the funds would benefit twelve (12) families with a projected subsidy of \$15,000.00. She stated that \$180,000.00

would be used for the homeownership assistance and \$20,000.00 would be for administrative costs. Furthermore, the families to be assisted would be for the Speedy Trails Subdivision, in Mission, Texas. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Montemayor and proceeded with the presentation.

City of Mission-Community Development Department: Housing Assistance Program

Vice-Chairman Villanueva then called on CDBG Department. Ms. Esther G. Rivera stated for the Housing Assistance Program the request of \$180,000.00 is for four (4) rehabilitated homes to eligible low/moderate-income families. She further explained that there is still the need to assistance residents with home repairs due to mostly the applicants are elderly with low incomes and unable to obtain loans to make home repairs. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Rivera and proceeded with the presentation.

City of Mission-Community Development Department: Program Administration

Ms. Rivera stated the Program Administration funds request in the amount of \$196,111.00 is to cover staffs' cost for administration, operations, and maintenance expenses relative to the development and implementation of the overall CDBG programs. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked Ms. Rivera and proceeded with the presentation.

Close Public Hearing Open Regular Meeting

Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked the agencies and city departments for their presentations and for assisting Mission residents. He asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing and Open the Regular Meeting. Ms. Mendez motioned to close the Public Hearing and Open the Regular Meeting. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Vice-Chairman Villanueva closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular Meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Citizens Participation

Vice-Chairman Villanueva asked if any citizens were present to discuss any items on the agenda or express their concerns. No citizens were present and no comments were received. Vice-Chairman Villanueva continued to the next agenda item.

Discussion and Recommendation to Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2025.

Ms. Rivera asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2025. She inquired if there were any questions or comments. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Mendez motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Other Business

A. Progress Report: CDBG-February

Ms. Rivera presented February Unofficial Progress Report for CDBG expenditures received to date for the agencies, housing, and administration. Ms. Rivera discussed the agencies submitted request for reimbursement (Invoice) and administrative cost for the month. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva asked for a motion to approve the CDBG February progress report as presented. Mr. Rosales-Flores motioned to approve the reports as presented. Ms. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

B. Progress Report: CDBG-CV February

Ms. Rivera presented February Unofficial Progress Report for CDBG-CV expenditures received to date for the agency and department. Ms. Rivera discussed that the progress report one agency submitted a request for reimbursement (Invoice) and continue to reach out to the department on status of exhausting their funds. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Villanueva asked for a motion to approve the CDBG-CV February progress report as presented. Mr. Rosales-Flores motioned to approve the reports as presented. Ms. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Citizen's Advisory Committee Members/Director's Comments

A. Chairman's Comments

Vice-Chairman Villanueva thanked the members for attending and having a productive and successful meeting. Proceeded to inquire if any of the members had any comments or concerns.

B. Committee Member's Comments

All members had the same sentiment of thanking everyone for attending and have a great meeting and inquired on having a meeting to review the applicants and recommendations for the allocation of funds. After a brief discussion, members proceeded to the next agenda item.

C. Director's Comments

Mr. Elizalde thanked CAC members for their time and dedication to the city and committee. Mr. Elizalde informed members that the department is continuing to promote the Community Survey on services and requesting the members assistance to promote with family, friends, and co-workers to obtain good results on community needs to assist with the Annual Action Plan for FY 2025/2026. After a brief discussion, members proceeded to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

Vice-Chairman Villanueva asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lopez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Lorenzo Garza, Chairman

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2025

Workshop Meeting

Members Present

Lorenzo Garza-Chairman
Emigdio Villanueva, Jr.-Vice-Chairman
Roxanne Méndez
Zoreida Lopez
Francisco Cadena
Ruben Davila Lozano

Members Absent

Marsha Terry
Monika Rosales-Flores

Staff Present

Michael J. Elizalde
Esther G. Rivera

Call Workshop Meeting to Order and Establish Quorum.

Chairman Garza called the Workshop Meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Esther G. Rivera conducted roll call. She stated that six (6) members were present, therefore there was a quorum.

Citizens Participation

Chairman Garza asked if any citizens were present to discuss any items on the agenda or express their concerns. No citizens were present and no comments were received. Chairman Garza continued to the next agenda item.

Discussion and Recommendations for FY 2025/2026 Funding Allocation.

Chairman Garza stated the workshop was scheduled to review Fiscal Year 2025/2026 agencies and departments requests for funds and as Citizens Advisory Committee members, it was their responsibility to review and recommend the most suitable funding to agencies/departments that provide services to low-/mod-income Mission residents. Committee members discussed the estimated budget and recommended the amounts to those agencies/departments that could exhaust their funding with no issues and provide substantial services to the residents. Also, considering the agencies' history with the City as recipients of CDBG funding.

The following were their recommended amounts for each agency/department: Capable Kids Foundation \$3,500.00; C.A.M.P. University \$7,000.00; C.A.S.A. of Hidalgo County \$2,000.00; Comfort House \$5,000.00; Amigos Del Valle, Inc. \$30,000.00; Silver Ribbon Community Partners \$3,000.00; LRGVDC-Area Agency on Aging \$5,000.00; LRGVDC-Aging & Disability Resource Center \$5,000.00; Boys & Girls Club \$71,881.90; Fire Department-Inflatable Fire Safety House \$12,000.00; Fire Department-Portable Radios \$100,000.00; Speer Memorial Library \$42,062.10; Planning & Code Enforcement Department \$25,000.00; Mission Police Department \$40,000.00; Parks & Recreation Department-Catholic War Veterans (CWV) Park \$53,000.00; Public Works Department-Sewer/Manholes Improvements \$150,000.00; Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) \$50,000.00; Housing Assistance program (Rehabilitation-4 Projects)

\$180,000.00; and CDBG Program Administration \$196,111.00 that would total \$980,555.00 allocated funds.

Mr. Elizalde advised that their recommendations would assist him in approaching the City Manager and provided explanation on their reasons for the funding amounts. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza asked for any further discussion, there being none proceeded to adjourn meeting.

Adjourn

Chairman Garza asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mendez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Villanueva seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Lorenzo Garza, Chairman

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 22, 2025
Public Hearing Meeting

Members Present

Lorenzo Garza-Chairman
Emigdio Villanueva, Jr.-Vice-Chairman
Roxanne Méndez
Zoreida Lopez
Francisco Cadena
Monika Rosales-Flores

Members Absent

Marsha Terry
Ruben Davila Lozano

Staff Present

Michael J. Elizalde
Esther G. Rivera

Call Public Hearing Meeting to Order and Establish Quorum.

Chairman Garza called the Public Hearing Meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Esther G. Rivera conducted roll call. She stated that six members were present, therefore there was a quorum.

Citizens Participation

Chairman Garza asked if any citizens were present to discuss any items on the agenda or express their concerns. Three (3) citizens were present to express their comments. Ms. Guadalupe Maldonado was the first resident to express concern on behalf of Mr. Mario Guerra whose home burned and applied for housing assistance to reconstruct his home. She stated that Mr. Guerra is requesting for this assistance and for the committee members to consider providing funds for this program. Next, Mrs. Maria Fuentes stated she is a Mission resident with three (3) children living in a two (2) bedroom home in need of home repairs. Ms. Fuentes is also pleading with the committee members for funding to assist with home repairs or possible reconstruction of their home due to the damaged state of the home. Mrs. Fuentes' son, Gerardo Fuentes, stated they also needed assistance to determine property lines due to having issues with a neighbor that claims their property line is further towards their home. Ms. Rosales-Flores inquired how soon staff could provide information to clear their concern on the matter. Mr. Elizalde informed that he could reach out to the city department that could assist and would provide the family's information. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza asked for any further discussion, there being none proceeded to closing the public hearing. Chairman Garza closed the public hearing at 5:43 p.m. and continued with the next agenda item.

Presentation on the Needs of City for Annual Action Plan FY 2025/2026.

Mr. Elizalde stated that staff would begin to work on the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and were presenting the Executive Summary and Synopsis of the agencies and departments that applied for funding. Committee members discussed the recommendations made at the previous workshop and inquired if staff knew the amount to be awards for next fiscal year. Mr. Elizalde advised that a meeting was held with City's HUD representative and were advised that in late May the City would receive the award letter. The Committee members inquire about

having another review on the recommendations for possible changes. Chairman Garza stated he would like to meet with the City Manager to discuss the allocations. Committee members thanked the residents for coming to the public hearing and voicing their concerns. Furthermore, informed the residents that their comments would be taken into consideration and relay their concerns to the City Manager and Council members. After a brief discussion, Chairman Garza asked for any further discussion, there being none proceeded to adjourn meeting.

Adjourn

Chairman Garza asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Villanueva motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Lorenzo Garza, Chairman

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2025

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>		<u>STAFF</u>
Tony Guerrero	Mark Minton	Brad Bentsen
Chris Voss		Pete Lopez
Gilberto Sotelo		Pete Charles
Maggie Guajardo Pena		Rick Contreras
Julissa Martin		
Melissa Reyna		
Jesus Mendiola		

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 11, 2025 Board meeting. Motion to approve was made by Mark Minton and seconded by Maggie Guajardo Pena. The motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

N/A

New Business

B. Bentsen gave an update on what was discussed at the last Advisory Board meeting, which will be presented to the City Council on the week of April 28th. One of the main concerns discussed was the soccer academies using the Shimotsu and Hinojosa City School Parks for their training academies. The constant use of these fields has destroyed the grass and has prevented any chance of regrowth. We currently do not have an active role as the Park is still not under the City's authority, but B. Bentsen suggested to present to the Council to limit these academies to using the area once or twice a week.

A lot of time and attention has been given to the Sharyland Plantation Parks such as transferring a playscape to the Hinojosa School Park, but community members are now wanting more attention to Sendero and Nogales Park. However, the Strike Team is currently a team of only 4 employees instead of 5 and are busy working on projects at the Jaycee and Nelltole Parks.

Suggested to hold a meeting with the Superintendent of Sharyland ISD and other members of the school district and the City to be able to come to an agreement on the upkeep and establish regulations of these city school parks. The Board suggested to table this discussion until the Council can accept the proposal to be able to move forward.

Lighting at some of the parks is still pending due to lack of funding, it was suggested to be able to use other avenues such as asking Businesses like Payne or Spikes Ford to be able to donate or sponsor.

B. Bentsen presented to the Board the issue with Parks staff working overtime due to special events that do not pertain to the Department. It was estimated that 2,170 hours are put in for Parks employees for these special events that go beyond just mowing.

Due to several complaints for cleanliness at Parks Restrooms, Council gave additional staff to be the janitorial team for the Parks restrooms. They are hoping this team can check and clean restrooms at least 2-3 times a day to maintain the cleanliness. A Park Ranger position was denied due to lack of funding but 3 custodial positions were given for the restrooms.

After having a walkthrough with the Contractor at Lions Park, he will install 3 flood lights and wall packs around the playscape and splash pad area due to insufficient lighting.

Vandalism continues at City Parks, around Parks and in the restrooms, to detour the vandalism it was suggested to put up a sign that reads "smile, you're on camera."

They currently put a skywatch tower at Lions Park to limit any type of vandalism or graffiti, also with the help of Public Works to create signs to be displayed at the Park.

B. Bentsen was part of a drive around workshop with the Mayor and City Council to see what improvements need to be made at the Parks, they are hoping to have another workshop within the next 2 months to see what changes have been made.

One of the main changes that need to be made at the Bannworth Park is the removal of the ducks, it is difficult because many of those ducks are protected and can not be relocated. Currently the Pier is closed for repairs and Council is hoping for the Pier to be cleaned, repaired, and most ducks relocated by the time they have their drive through again. However, the repair of the pier was removed from the Parks budget.

All improvements and suggestions that were made by the Council are expected to be completed but also reimbursed to the Parks Department.

For the next Phase of Lions Park, the Boys and Girls Club will be partnering with the Parks Department to help maintain the facility and provide better funding. The Director of the Boys and Girls Club is wanting to have two soccer fields and a "Miracle Field." However, the Parks Advisory Board was wondering why would we would only limit Lions Park to two baseball fields and other soccer fields, it was suggested to invest more money into more baseball fields since they are in demand. With the expansion of Lions Park, additional parking would be necessary.

The Advisory Board suggested separating sports to different parks such as Nelltole Park for Softball, Lions Park for Soccer, Bentsen Palm Park for Baseball. Bentsen Palm Park needs updating of the fields, possibly installing turf would also help increase rentals.

Other improvements that could be made at BPP would be updating the walking trails, lighting, adding a restroom in the front area, replacing toilets, toilet seats, and re-painting.

The City has now obtained the Pump House, the Council will be signing the papers officially to acquire the 8 acres. Hoping to use this area to make a park to be able to host events and concerts.

Astroland Park is no longer in discussion to be used as a water retention facility, instead they are thinking of using an Elementary school. The purchase of the rocket ship playscape is still pending, as B. Bentsen is hoping to apply for a grant for the safe fall material and playscape.

At the Bannworth Park an idea of using the open area to build pickleball courts, the only concern would be lack of parking. Also replacing towel dispensers with hand dryers for the restrooms.

M. Reyna suggested if we are not granted a Park Ranger maybe a Park Manager for each Park to make sure the restrooms and areas area clean and following regulations.

Council decided for Lions Park to have a no dogs allowed sign created and displayed at the Park but wait to see what the backlash is before making it into a City ordinance.

The Parks employees are scheduled to set up a date to work and clean up the Hike and Bike Trials.

Adjournment

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