

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes: 07/01/2021 – 8:48 AM – Town Hall, Palmer Lake

Member Attendance: Reid W, Mike P, Greg F

Staff: Dawn C, Jason D, Tish T

Public: Matt S, Holly H , Kurt E

1. Call to Order at 8:48 AM.
2. Roll Call – Reid, Mike, Greg. Kirk N and Ande F absent.
3. MOTION (Reid, Mike) to approve June 17, 2021 meeting minutes. MOTION passed.
4. Mike reported a previous balance of \$401.33 minus a purchase for a lock and chain (\$99.00). Also, add money brought in by Disc Golf (\$11.00), with a current total balance of \$313.
5. A request to donate a tree planting was discussed for a memorial at the Lake. The sapling tree would need to be drought resistant and a quick growing species. Members are in favor of the memorial. Dawn will be in contact with Kelly to provide memorial guidelines and her requested planting date of July 11th.
6. Jason D (Public Works Supervisor) reported the Kiosk training with PD is scheduled and they hope to have the credit card system in place by late August. Parks staff will be cutting in the Glen in the next couple weeks. Sand was added for the playground.
7. Dawn, Jason, Reid, Mike and El Paso County met to review considering expansion of the parking on the east side of the lake due to the Santa Fe Open Space bringing more visitors. Jason discussed adding more parking along the east bank area with a possible retaining wall. This would create a few more angle parking slots.
8. Matt S (PL Resident) discussed the safety of the unfinished slope on the east side of the bridge. Dawn will meet with Jason to discuss signage and a temporary barrier to safely direct pedestrians.
9. Dawn notified Parks that she will have a standing item on future agendas to address items as needed. This would allow her to leave the meeting if needed. Any questions can be emailed ahead of time to Dawn to address at the upcoming Parks meeting.
10. Greg and Dawn had a meeting with Dion to discuss the Little League baseball field. Dion will forward plans for maintenance and future use of this space to Dawn, and they plan to review a draft of an MOU on July 12th. They would like to expand on the use of the space adding T-ball up to 10-year-old baseball. Reid inquired about outside funding for a new field scoreboard and will follow up with his contact.
11. The application for the open Parks Commission position is posted on the town website. At this time, only one application has been received. The posting will be extended to the end of July followed by an invitation for applicants to attend the August 5th meeting. Reid clarified that the Parks Commission is a very hands-on committee and for applicants to understand the commitment.
12. Discussion of Trustee Stuth's four pillars DRAFT slides were reviewed. Holly H (Resident) stated her concern of potential overuse of town resources and diminishing the integrity of the lake. Reid mentioned that the east side of the lake parking area belongs to El Paso County and fees are not a real option.
13. Discussion took place about poison Hemlock and possible reforming a Noxious Weed Committee since Phyllis has retired. Public safety and educating the public is a concern. Booklets are available at the post office. Private property owners are responsible to remove the poisonous

weeds. Holly reviewed the status of Hemlock, noting that seeds will spread making it more difficult to manage. Service in the Park Day can be a day to train volunteers to help eliminate the weeds. Holly H has worked with Phyllis and has experience in this area. Reid invited Holly to lead the Noxious Weed Committee and she agreed.

14. Centennial Park

- a. Review of the RR fencing at the lake was discussed. It was clarified that the agreement with the RR and town is 500 ft of fencing and is the town's responsibility. RR will send the guidelines to Dawn. These guidelines may eliminate the access road and Disc Golf may need to be revamped per RR guidelines.
- b. Dawn will follow up with El Paso County regarding the installation of the 3x3 bathroom bulletin boards.
- c. Mike and Reid toured the south end of the lake. The cattails are populating well, and it was discussed to extend and preserve an additional wildlife area with 300 ft of fencing due to the muddy shallow area. Not sure who will be contacting Corey Adler for information about plantings for wildlife area?
- d. The lights on the fountain are white. No reports of people climbing on the fountain or known issues. Sand was spread and picnic tables secured in concrete.

15. Glen Park was reviewed, and grass will be cut by staff. It was suggested to begin planning another workday to help with mowing the loop trail later in the year. Staff is working on the balance beam insurance claim.

16. It was noted that volunteers are still needed for the Festival on the Fourth. Winter Festival sweatshirts will be sold for \$20. The safety of the power poles on the north end of the Art's Center was discussed. Jason D is aware of it and will address it. The pedestrian bridge will be closed for the fireworks per Fire Chief McCarthy's request.

17. Service Day for the Disc Golf Course is scheduled for the end of July and August 4th. Reid stated Service Day in the Park will be planned for September 25, from 9AM- 12 PM and Jason will schedule a roll-off.

18. Kurt Ehrhardt (PL Resident) asked the Commission to consider a new playground at the East end of Town, Meadow and Westward Lane on land that he plans to develop. Reid agreed to meet with him at the property for an initial discussion. This will provide residents who live on the south end of Palmer Lake a children's play area. He has artificial turf from D38 football fields available for use and will coordinate with Reid.

19. Other Meetings. Greg, Dawn & Dion anticipate meeting again regarding Little League. Reid, Dawn, Mike, Jason and El Paso County will plan to review drafted concepts for additional parking.

20. Next meeting is August 5, 2021 at 8:45 AM.

21. Adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Minutes by: Tish Torweihe, Admin Assistant