



RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 12:00 PM

City Council Chambers | 202 N. Virginia Street, Port Lavaca TX 77979

MINUTES

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CALHOUN §

CITY OF PORT LAVACA §

On this the 21st day of February, 2024, the Recreation and Parks Board of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in regular session at 12:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place in Council Chambers at City Hall, 202 North Virginia Street, Port Lavaca, Texas with the following members in attendance:

ROLL CALL

Mac Sistrunk

Olga Szela

Mary Lou Tharling

Dina Smith

Kevin Kuntschik

Chairman

Vice Chairwoman

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

And with the following absent:

William "Bill" Reagan

Tracy Hefley

Board Member

Board Member

Constituting a quorum for the transaction of business, at which time the following business was transacted:

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mac Sistrunk called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and presided.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - *(Limited to 3 minutes per individual unless permission to speak longer is received in advance. You may make public comments as you would at a meeting by logging on with your computer and using "Join Zoom Meeting" information on first page of this agenda).*

1. General discussion and hear statements from citizens.

Chairman, Mac Sistrunk announced that the next Recreation and Parks Board Meeting would be Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

2. Approve minutes from the regular meeting held December 20, 2023.

Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Szela,

THAT, the Recreation and Parks Board hereby approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 20, 2023.

Second by Board Member Kuntschik.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, and Board Member Kuntschik

3. Approve minutes from the regular meeting held January 17, 2024.

Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Szela,

THAT, the Recreation and Parks Board hereby approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 17, 2024.

Second by Chairman Sistrunk.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, and Board Member Kuntschik

4. Receive Parks & Recreation Operations and Maintenance report from Director of Public Works.

Public Works Director Wayne Shaffer reported that the park's crew has been continuing regular maintenance at all the parks. He advised that they are currently installing signs containing City rules at all the City Parks. He explained that once they are finished with those signs, they will also be placing signs on the piers. Shaffer also stated that this year the city pool would be getting a slide for the pool and should be ready and installed before opening day this summer.

5. Receive Monthly Inspections Report from Public Works Department.

The board reviewed and discussed the playground inspections report.

No additional comments were made.

6. Receive updates on park assignments from park board members.

Board Member Kevin Kuntschik's Park assignments are Claret Crossing. He reported that the park overall looks good.

Board Member Dina Smith's Park assignments are Lighthouse Beach and Butterfly Park. Howell's stated the park overall looks good. In reference to Lighthouse Beach, she stated that the barbecue pits were in need of attention. Jennifer Lance, Lighthouse Beach attendant, stated that the Calhoun High School welding shop was going to go out to the park and fix them. For Butterfly Park she stated that the rust on the exercise equipment was very bad. She added that the sign for Butterfly Park was in very bad shape and needed to be replaced.

Chairman Sistrunk Park assignment is Bayfront Park looks very good.

Vice Chairwoman Olga Szela's Park assignment is City Park. She stated that the park looks good overall. She stated it needed mowing and that there were some ant piles in the playground.

7. Receive financial status report on the Parks Recreation Department.

The financial status was reviewed and discussed.

Interim City Manager Jody Weaver stated that October 1st starts a new budget year for the City of Port Lavaca. Weaver gave a brief explanation on how the budget process for the city parks works.

8. Discuss establishment of a "We Love Port Lavaca Parks" campaign and proposed policies for use of funds donated to the campaign by the public.

Interim City Manager, Jody Weaver, presented information and policies regarding a campaign to support City Parks. She wants to name this campaign "We Love Port Lavaca Parks". This would provide a way for people (local citizens and visitors) to contribute financially to a fund specific to park improvements. The board discussed the information presented and they were all in agreement with the campaign with the speculation that the fund is not used for anything related to maintenance of the parks. Weaver also told the board that this is an ongoing topic and would be presented to the City Council at a Workshop session on March 25, 2024 and that the Board was welcome to attend.

Motion made by Board Member Kuntschik,

THAT, the Recreation and Parks Board hereby approves the initiative of the “We Love Port Lavaca Parks” campaign and proposed policies.

Second by Board Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, and Board Member Kuntschik

9. Receive status report on continued mural project at Lighthouse Beach at west end of restrooms.

Artist Michael Sanchez was present and reported that the two birds at the west end of the Lighthouse beach restrooms were complete. Sanchez presented a draft of the design he has planned for the wall in between the two restroom doors. The board approved the draft, they just wanted him to change the color of the logo drawing to blue and white.

10. Consider and discuss current Lighthouse Beach rental rates and make any amendments necessary.

Interim City Manager, Jody Weaver and Lighthouse Beach attendant, Jennifer Lance, presented current rates at the Lighthouse beach park. There was a brief discussion regarding raising current rates. Lance presented a survey she did with surrounding recreational vehicle (RV) parks and the amenities they offer. The board continued to discuss and agreed that the rates at Lighthouse Beach should not be competitive to the rates of local RV parks. Weaver told the board that this would also be an item that would be presented to City Council at the upcoming workshop session on March 25, 2024.

11. Receive information regarding GLO CEPR (Coastal Planning and Response Act) Grant for Lighthouse Beach.

Jody Weaver informed the board that the City of Port Lavaca was recently awarded a CEPR (Coastal Erosion Planning & Response Act) grant to perform a feasibility study to determine optimal solutions for the following at Lighthouse Beach and the adjacent wetlands to the southwest.

- Potential project types to evaluate during the feasibility study include shoreline nourishment to public beach to combat erosion, possibly revise groin structures to better retain sand on the beach/infilling of adjacent boat ramp, potentially dredge material from boat ramp to use and crate beach and/or marsh depending on the quality of material dredged.
- The main project goals are to nourish the recreational beach, protect and enhance the adjacent wetlands using living shoreline techniques and marsh creation, and modify the existing coastal structures around the beach to retain sand on the beach.

On Thursday, January 4, Weaver stated she met with Abigail Richardson and Kevin Frenzel with the General Land Office to kick-off the CEPR grant the city received for the feasibility study for the shoreline protection projects at Lighthouse Beach.

She explained that the first step was to receive and execute the contract between the City of Port Lavaca and the State of Texas for this grant. Ms. Richardson is the GLO project manager for this grant and she will begin working on the contract language. The next step following would be to execute an engineering agreement with Mott McDonald for these projects. She informed the board that the total cost of the study is \$125,000. She said \$75,000 is CEpra funds and \$50,000 from the General Fund.

12. Discuss partnership with Whenever Watersports Rental Kiosk operations for the rentals of kayaks and paddleboards at Lighthouse Beach.

Jody Weaver presented information regarding potential partnership with Whenever Watersports Rental Kios for rentals of kayaks and paddleboards at Lighthouse Beach. Weaver explained to the board that this would be a self-serve kayak and paddleboard rental kiosk. This would not require a City of Port Lavaca employee to man the kiosk. Everything is done electronically. The board reviewed and discussed the information presented.

Motion made by Board Member Smith,

THAT, the Recreation and Parks Board hereby approves pursuing partnership with Whenever Watersports Rental Kios Operations.

Second by Vice Chairwoman Szela.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, and Board Member Kuntschik

ADJOURN

Motion made by Board Member Smith

Second by Board Member Tharling

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, and Board Member Kuntschik

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 P.M.

These minutes were approved on March 20, 2024

Mac Sistrunk, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lorena Perez-Diaz, Assistant City Secretary