

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ANDERSON  
CITY OF PALESTINE

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall conference Room, 504 North Queen Street, Palestine, TX with the following members present:

John McDonald	Thelma Holland
Adam Harding	Anne Coleman

Others present:

Roy Crouch	Heather Hrebec
Rob Thames	Mike Holland
Carol Sigmon	Christie Ricker
April Gonzalez	D'Wayne Conrad

A quorum of the Parks Advisory Board was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

John McDonald called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Anne Coleman, seconded by John McDonald, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 meeting. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**PYAA Request of Contract Review**

Roy Crouch asked Mike Holland, Palestine Youth Athletic Association (PYAA) Representative to address the board. Holland gave a review of the history of PYAA to the board. He stated the organization has put over \$100,000.00 into the complex over the years and they are asking that the fees from the city be waived. McDonald asked how much the fees are and Crouch stated \$5/per child. Adam Harding asked if this was a permanent request or a one time request. Holland stated they would ask year to year. Anne Coleman asked how much the organization makes on the program. Holland stated they have between 600-635 children registered in the program. He stated the fees for registration stager as the number of children per family increases. Holland said a single child registration fee is \$75.00, two children is \$145.00, and

three children or more is \$175.00. He said they try to keep the fees low for the families and the association covers fees for those families that can't afford the program. Coleman asked after expenses, how much does the association profit. Holland said they have over \$100,000.00 after expenses but the money goes towards tournaments and activities. Harding asked if the program would continue if the request was denied. Holland said the PYAA might look for a new location. Harding said there are grants and other avenues to take without waiving fees. Coleman asked Holland for a breakdown of revenue. Holland said they have sponsors that assist with the program and they make approximately \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00 from concessions. Coleman asked if the rest came from fees. Holland said yes, but the fees go toward insurance, uniforms, umpires, and other expenses for complex improvements. Coleman asked Holland if he had a profit/loss statement. McDonald said he was not in favor of waiving fees because it will cause others to request that their fees be waived. Holland said if the Anderson County Football League (ACFL) was not at the complex in the fall the PYAA would host fall ball, which is a big money maker in other areas. McDonald asked if ACFL used all of the fields in the fall. Holland said he does not believe they use all of the fields. McDonald said that staff needs to work with ACFL to free up some fields for other activities in the fall. Coleman asked Holland if he had a report on the financial for the PYAA. Holland said he could give her a copy of the association's tax return. Coleman said he needs to provide the board with a profit/loss statement for their review. Harding said it would be difficult for him to vote to waive fee's for one program and not another, especially when there are grants available. Holland said the association has applied for grants and has always been turned down. Holland said it is important this year because PYAA has been awarded the District T-Ball tournament that they hosted last year and they purchased a Dixie League State T-Ball tournament. He said they paid the \$500.00 fee to sign for the tournament and the first half is due March 1<sup>st</sup> and the final is due 30 days before the tournament. McDonald asked how much the tournament costs and Holland said \$15,000.00. He said they are raising money for the tournament but wanted the fees waived this year to off set the cost of bringing the tournament to Palestine.

Holland asked Carol Sigmon, Manager of Holiday Inn Express, to provide information on the economic impact of the tournament coming to Palestine. Sigmon stated this tournament would be the beginning of Palestine being known for youth athletics. He stated based on his figures this tournament would bring \$1.24 million economic dollars to Palestine. Sigmon said his information is based on the 3 tier economic trickle down theory used in the hospitality industry. He said he is helping PYAA to help raise the money for the state tournament and hopes the Parks Board will help set the standard for youth athletics in Palestine.

McDonald asked Crouch what staff recommends. Crouch gave examples of programs from Tyler and Athens. He reviewed the fees for Tyler and stated the park department is much more involved in maintaining the parks. Crouch said in Tyler the city gets a percentage of the concession sales and there is a separate contract for concession use and field use. Crouch then reviewed Athens program where the associations use the fields for free. He said within the Athens program the association is responsible for all field maintenance. He advised the board that staff has always been able to work with the association to make the complex better for the community. Crouch said staff recommends the association continue to pay the fees, and the City and PYAA continue to work together to make the complex better. McDonald said he is not comfortable is waiving fees and *made a motion and seconded by Anne Coleman that PYAA to*

pay the fees for use and to continue to work with the City for the improvement of the Athletic Complex. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Discuss Greens Park Disc Golf Course

Roy Crouch asked Rob Thames, Parks Supervisor, to provide an update on the progress of the disc golf course. Thames gave a status report and said people are playing at the disc golf course. Crouch stated there is one hole on the disc golf course that is left to sponsor, and if they did not find a sponsor then the city would sponsor the hole.

#### Update on Challenger Rose Garden

Crouch said the Challenger Rose Garden is in place at the Museum for East Texas Culture. He said the garden has been landscaped and a new sign is being made to replace the damaged one. He said it will be mounted on a rock in the garden and should be ready in 3 – 4 weeks.

#### Review Options for Steven Bennett Signage

Roy Crouch brought in examples of signage that could be used at Steven Bennett Park. He said that it is important to choose signage that could be used at all the parks in the future for a cohesive look. Coleman asked if Veteran's Park could be included as well, and Crouch said it would. McDonald asked Crouch to get pricing on the signs for the board to review.

#### Review of Hot Pepper Festival

Hrebec played video of Hot Pepper Festival for the board. Harding thanked staff for the hard work. Crouch said the committee will begin meeting in February and if anyone would like to participate to contact Hrebec.

#### DIRECTORS REVIEW

Crouch gave a brief overview of activities in the department.

#### ADJOURN

Motion Made by John McDonald, seconded by Adam Harding, to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.