

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ANDERSON
CITY OF PALESTINE**

The Parks Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 12:00pm in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 2000 S Loop 256, Palestine, Texas.

The Following Members Were Present:

John Ballard McDonald	Diane Davis
Thelma Holland	Anne Coleman
Mike Kelly	Eric Musil

Others Present:

Roy Crouch
Heather Hrebec
Danielle Shultz
Mack McDonald

Members Not Present:

Carla Cubstead

A quorum of the Parks Advisory Board was present.

CALL TO ORDER

John Ballard McDonald called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Anne, to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2015 meeting. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION:

Discuss and Give Report on the July & August Swimming Pool Attendance at the Steven Bennett Park Municipal Swimming Pool

Forms containing all of the Pool Pass Application information for 2014 and 2015 were distributed to everyone in attendance. The forms show details of the applications filled out for the months of May, June, July and August concerning total applications filled out at City Hall, total participants within the applications, and the average number of participants per application. For 2015, May attained 67 applications and 260 participants that comes to an average of 3.88 participants per application. June attained 415 applications and 1753 participants that comes to an average of 4.22 participants per application. July attained 131 applications and 569 participants that comes to an average of 4.34 participants per application. August attained 25 applications and 114 participants that comes to an average of 4.56 participants per application. The total applications completed for 2015 equals 638, the total non-resident applications equal 25, the total participants are 2696. That comes to a total of 4.23 participants per application. Comparing 2014 with 2015, the total number of applications were down, but included more participants.

A pool usage chart was also distributed to everyone in attendance. It contained the details of the activities the participants engaged in each day. The totals for the year were: Lap Swim Y Members: 119
Lap Swim City Members: 87
Swim Team Y Members: 289
Swim Team City Members: 488
Water Aerobics Y Members: 1128
Water Aerobics City Members: 882
Swim Lessons Y Members: 240
Swim Lessons City Members: 639
Day Camp Y Members: 41
Day Camp City Members: 236
Public Swim Y Members: 2641
Public Swim City Members: 4148
Public Swim Paying Guests: 792
YMCA Family Swim: 478
The total participants at Steven Bennet Park Municipal Swimming Pool for the entire summer equals 12,208.

John stated that if the pool could include more adult lifeguards, the pool could stay open through the end of September into October, as well as open earlier in May. John also said that he heard that maybe next year the lunch hour that is currently taken off at noon should be taken away and added back for usage of the pool.

Discuss and Give Status Report on the City-Wide Community Garage Sale

Heather explained that the Citywide Community Yard Sale is a fundraiser for the Hot Pepper Festival. One was held at the beginning of the summer, and the next one will be October 3, 2015 at the Civic Center outside in the parking lot. It will be held rain or shine. If it does rain, it will be taken inside. To reserve a booth space, it is \$25. Tables, chairs, and clothing racks are also available to rent. Last year, the Hot Pepper Festival Executive Committee was lucky enough to receive a donation of a couple of pallets from Walmart. Heather asked the Parks Advisory Board for donations to be sold to benefit the Hot Pepper Festival. The Citywide Community Yard Sale is great because it contains multiple sales in one location. Last time it had a good crowd even though it was hot and humid.

Discuss and Give Status Report on the Landscape Beautification Project at Reagan Park

Roy explained that 90% of the Landscape Beautification Project is complete. Plaques still need to be ordered through Ark Ramos. He said that it will take several weeks for them to get ordered, created, and placed in Reagan Park. He also said that the stone pathway needs to be buried deeper. Once those two things are done, the project will be complete, and the Parks & Recreation Department will move on to another project.

Discuss and Give Status Report on the Up-Coming Hot Pepper Festival October 24, 2015

Heather explained to everyone that this festival will be a tribute to the Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters this year – “Guns & Hoses”, and will be held October 24th. The artwork for this festival has finally been completed, and even though a few modifications have had to be made throughout this process, she is very pleased with the results. This even has been posted on Facebook, and she has received over 100 requests for t-shirts because everyone wants to wear the t-shirts at the festival. She has

gotten many calls from vendors who want to participate this year – Just this morning she received 9! Last year the Hot Pepper Festival totaled 167 vendors. This year we will not be able to do anything in the Hollow, so that means no BBQ Cook-Off. We are looking to host a “Battle of the Bands” this year with no more than 12 bands to participate. She exclaimed, “We need sponsor money! It has been tight this year, and money is coming in slow.” She also explained that a Silent Auction will be held at the Hot Pepper Festival this year from 10am – 5pm to bring in funds. She ended by saying that she expects by the next meeting, the Hot Pepper Festival should have a huge increase in vendors and sponsors.

Director’s Report

1. Movies in the Park: Saturday, September 5, 2015 – at Dusk – Reagan Park
Skylark – 1941 film starring Claudette Colbert, Ray Milland, and Brian Aheime
2. Parks & Recreation Budget Process: Waiting on Tax Rate Hearing set for today, September 1st. *Tax Rate and Budget Hearing set on Monday, September 14th. *Budget adopted by Council Monday, September 28th. *FY 2015 / 2016 Budget starts Thursday, October 1st.
3. Carnegie Library Up-Coming Projects: Looking at around October 1st, 2015 for the HVAC total replacement of 6units (received a \$9,500 Community Development Grant from PEDC).
4. East Texas Museum of Culture: We are going to be installing a new French Drain hopefully in the next few weeks in the front of the museum building. 18” x 18” support drain box running approximately 110 feet toward the volleyball area. Approximately \$3,900
5. Parks Activity Report:
 - City of Palestine offices will be closed for Labor Day, September 7th
 - Job Fair scheduled for Thursday, October 1st from 9am – 12pm at the Palestine Mall
 - National Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th from 5pm – 8pm at the Palestine Mall
 - Mall-O-Ween scheduled for Saturday, October 31st – Time not yet decided
 - Camino 205 Bike Ride Saturday, October 3rd in Old Town – Start & finish line 6am, 7am, 8am
 - Friends of the Library Book Sale Saturday, October 10th
 - Citywide Clean-up (Transfer Station) Saturday, October 17th – Call Ami Ashworth for more information: 903.731.8423
 - Fright Night (Palestine Firefighters) set for October 23rd & 24th and 30th & 31st

The next Parks Advisory Board meeting will be October 6, 2015 at noon in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Motion Made by Mike and seconded by Eric to adjourn at 12:55pm.


Danielle Shultz, Administrative Assistant