

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

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 12:00pm in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 2000 S Loop 256, Palestine, Texas.

The Following Members Were Present:

John Ballard McDonald Carla Cubstead
Thelma Holland
Eric Musil

Others Present:

Roy Crouch Danielle Shultz
Heather Hrebec

Members Not Present:

Anne Coleman Mike Kelly
Diane Davis

A quorum of the Parks Advisory Board was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Thelma Holland called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Carla, seconded by Thelma, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting.

Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Discuss Final Installation of the “Angel of Grief” Statue

During a City Council meeting yesterday, April 13, 2015, a PowerPoint Presentation was publicized to express thanks to Joe and Anne Coleman for their donation of the Angel of Grief statue to the City of Palestine. Joseph Thompson and his brother Chris Thompson were also recognized and thanked for providing their services and heavy equipment during the installation of this beautiful statue in Veteran’s Park. Roy announced that the Angel of Grief is heavy – somewhere between 5,000 to 6,000 pounds. He also urged that if you haven’t seen it, you should go to Veteran’s Park to look at it. It truly is an amazing piece. There are only a handful of these in the world.

Discuss Landscape Beautification Project at Reagan Park

The Parks & Recreation Department is currently in the process of completing the Landscape Beautification Project in Reagan Park between Pavilion #1 that has the sidewalk in front of it, and Crockett Road. Danielle took pictures of this project during various stages and distributed them to the Parks Advisory Board for review. The project is currently 75% complete, and is still awaiting installment of four (4) park benches, several plants, as well as several large boulders that will hold plaques to honor donors for this project. At this time there are two (2) pad sites made of crushed granite that are intended to have the park benches placed on. Another great aspect of the Landscape Beautification Project is the river rock bed path that creates a border for part of the area. Inside that river rock bed, six (6) large boulders will lie. A path from the side walk in front of the pavilion facing Crockett Road is expected to be created to extend out to lead to each bench. Irrigation has been installed and extends to the center of Reagan Park towards the Reagan Statue. The irrigation can operate two (2) ways: either by using the Splash Park water, or City water. Roy announced that the anticipated completion of this project is expected to be within the next few weeks, and will be a great addition to Reagan Park to enjoy as you walk through it. John agreed that the project so far is already pleasing to the eyes and reflects positively on the community. Roy concluded this discussion by saying that he is excited about the Landscape Beautification Project inside Reagan Park, and hopes the community is as well.

Discuss and Give Report on the 2nd Annual Egg-Normous Eater Egg Hunt

Danielle took many great pictures during the Egg-Normous Easter Egg Hunt event, and made a packet of some of the best to pass out to the Parks Advisory Board members. This event was intentionally scheduled to take place the weekend before Easter to try to avoid any conflict there may have been with churches throughout the community or family gatherings. The crowd seemed to be down a little from last year, but was close to the same. This year we had double the eggs from last year – over 15,000! Each and every one of those eggs was graciously stuffed throughout two (2) weeks by six (6) What-a-Burger employees. This year the start times were staggered for the three (3) fields so families with more than one child could watch all of their children hunt rather than just one. This change from last year received much positive feedback. Heather announced that there were a few more activities this year to entertain the little ones. “Lots of door prizes” were distributed throughout the crowd. We were thankful to have fourteen (14) volunteers help make this event a great accomplishment. Nana Tatum was the Easter Bunny this year, and she was “awesome”! She truly was a fantastic asset to make this event the success that it was. Everyone had a great time!

Discuss and Give Report on the Up-Coming Community –Wide Garage Sale Event

The City-Wide Community Yard Sale was previously scheduled to take place April 25th, but has been moved to May 9th so we can have more time to get information and posters out to the public to help promote this event. Heather said that she is expecting a huge turnout. Last year the City-Wide Community Yard Sale had 20 vendors selling their items. The Parks and Recreation Department hosts this event as a fundraiser for the Hot Pepper Festival that takes place every October. Each booth space is \$25 dollars and consists of two (2) parking lot spaces. Individuals purchasing the booth spaces are urged to bring their own tables and chairs. The Hot Pepper Festival Committee will also be selling concessions again this year. All Park Advisory Board members are encouraged to donate items for the committee to sale in its HPF booth to benefit the Hot Pepper Festival. Last year this event brought in \$800 from food sales, booth sales, and “stuff” sold in their booth. Heather clarified that the sales take place at one end of the parking lot, and actual parking is on the other side.

Discuss and Give Status Report on Parks & Recreation Construction Projects

Roy said that the Parks & Recreation Department has completed several projects over the last several weeks. *The first project he spoke of was a project that took place in Calhoun Park. The Murchison side of the park was an area that people would drive on and rut up the park. Mr. Denmon (a City Councilmember) suggested putting up a camera or a sign. The idea also came about to install bollards. Roy decided to put up a four (4) feet black vinyl fence. It was installed 180 feet along Murchison Road. *The City Council Chambers now has new carpet and ceiling tile. General room repairs and upgrades have also been completed inside the Chambers. The old theater style gold chairs have been removed, and will be replaced with new chairs for more multi-purpose room options. *The Police Department area has a new awning to cover the handicap access ramp on the west end of the building. Three (3) new awning covers have been installed to replace the old ripped and leaky covers at City Hall. A new awning has been placed to cover the outside bulletin board where all of the City of Palestine's information is posted. They all look really nice. *Roy has ordered and delivered infield conditioner (turf) for the Athletic Complex for City Staff and PYAA staff to use as needed on the baseball and softball fields.

Discuss and Make Recommendation on the Possible Cancellation of the May 5, 2015 Parks Advisory Board Meeting

The Parks Advisory Board members discussed cancellation of the scheduled meeting for May 5th. Thelma motioned for cancellation, and Carla seconded her motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The next Parks Advisory Board meeting will take place June 2, 2015 at noon inside the Parks & Recreation Conference Room.

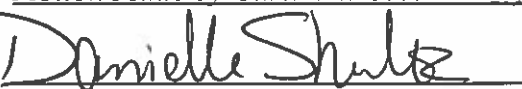
DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- *Evan's United Carnival was at the Palestine Mall last week from April 8th – April 12th. Roy announced that he is always glad to see them come to town.
- *Westwood School 2nd Graders had a field trip to City Hall on Friday, March 6th from 9:00am – 11:00am. The Parks & Recreation Department discussed mowing equipment safety, held contests, played fun music, and set up mini Easter Egg Hunts.
- *Roy had an opportunity on Tuesday, March 17th to meet with a reporter from the Palestine Herald Press to discuss the Legacy in the Park program.
- *PYAA's opening day of baseball / softball festivities will be held Saturday, April 18, 2015. They have already begun league play, but have chosen this Saturday to celebrate opening.
- *Seasonal applications for our Parks Maintenance Workers are still being accepted. The starting pay is \$8.06 per hour. If you know someone up for the challenge and adventure, send them our way!
- *Budget season will be starting soon, so we are going to be knee deep in budget numbers and trying to secure as much funding as we can to operate all of our programs and services.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2015 at noon in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Motion Made by Carla and seconded by Eric to adjourn at 12:35pm.


Danielle Shultz