

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

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 12:00pm in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 2000 S Loop 256, Palestine, TX.

The following members were present:

John Ballard McDonald	Mike Kelly	Carla Cubstead
Thelma Holland	Anne Coleman	

Others present:

Roy Crouch	Heather Hrebec
Rob Thames	Danielle Shultz

A quorum of the Parks Advisory Board was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

John Ballard McDonald called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion was made by Anne, seconded by Carla, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2014 meeting.*  
Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Discuss TDCJ Park Landscape Improvements Project**

PowerPoint Presentation printouts were distributed to give everyone in attendance a visual assessment of the TDCJ Park in May 2014, compared to June 2014. Roy explained many differences between the appearances of the park in those two months. He said that there were many red and pink Azaleas added, as well as Knock-Out Roses closest to the monument. He clarified that mulch has been applied to the park, but more will still be needed. Ben-da-board has been placed around the landscaped beds, but more will be needed along several places to keep the mulch in place. The two lampposts inside TDCJ Park will need to be painted as well. John mentioned that the park looks good – “300% better than it used to”. He pointed out that the Crepe Myrtles that have been thinned out really opened it up. It was also stated that “Texas Department of Criminal Justice” is the official name of the park. Mike asked if signage was placed inside the park, and Roy answered, “No. The name is on the statue, but you can’t see that from the road.” It was revealed that this park was created in 1994. Mike mentioned that he believed additional greenage is still needed along the Crepe Myrtles. Roy said, “When the TDCJ Park is complete, it will really look awesome!”

Discuss Status of the Willie Myers Parking Lot Improvement Project

A map of the Willie Myers Parking Lot was distributed to everyone in attendance. Rob explained that there is a “larger part” and a “smaller part” of the parking lot. He clarified that the larger part is Phase One, and will hopefully be done by the end of July. \$30,000 has been budgeted for Phase One. He added that Tim Perry has taken the lead on this project. Rob also explained that the smaller part is being budgeted for next year. He said that modifications to the fence will be made. Asphalt will be used for the parking lot. This project will be bid out.

Discuss Up-Coming July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Show

Everyone in attendance received a flyer advertising the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Show hosted by the City of Palestine. It was clarified that Lone Star Fireworks will be responsible for the shooting of the fireworks. The Fire and Police Departments will be handling the traffic. Heather is currently managing the vendors. She mentioned that the Hot Pepper Festival committee will be at the Fireworks Show selling hamburgers, hotdogs, Pennington watermelons and glow in the dark merchandise. Cotton Candy and snow cones will also be sold. She mentioned that she has several volunteers planned to help sell for the HPF. Heather also added that face painters are scheduled to be there. She pointed out that all vendors need to fill out an application. Roy wants everyone to be at “ground zero” to see the fireworks. He explained that the experience is better at ground zero compared to further away because of the amazing view and remarkable sound.

Discuss the Success and Participation in the 2014 Free Summer Pool Pass Program

Roy explained that 502 pool passes have been given out to represent 1,934 people. He mentioned that this is a fantastic number because July 7<sup>th</sup> will mark the first full month that the pool has been open. The Parks and Recreation Department has created and distributed an informational form of the pool pass explaining how to obtain a FREE pass in English and Spanish. An application for that pass has also been distributed along with it as well as an informative flyer for the Splash Park. Roy said, “We are getting the information out!” Last year’s applications were destroyed before the Parks and Recreation Department was able to obtain them, so we can’t compare the numbers, however, we do know that this year there have already been a lot more applications filled out. City Hall has commented on the fact that a large amount of pool passes have been passed out. John exclaimed, “The best kept secret in Palestine is the fact that you can get a free pool pass!” He mentioned that next year the hours will change. The YMCA knows that the city has done a fantastic job of advertising because this year the swimming pool has been saturated with swimmers. He pointed out that even \$5 for a pool pass no matter where you live is a fantastic deal. John said excitedly, “The public wants to swim!”

Discuss Steven Bennett Park Signage

John said that when you give money to the city and say what it is for, the donation is tax deductible. Other than that he doesn’t have anything to report.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

\*Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Parks and Recreation staff will present its budget to the City Council and Mayor at 4pm.

\*Roy will deliver a presentation to the Kiwanis's Club July 29<sup>th</sup>. During this appearance, he will be sure to explain the Legacy in the Park and its great benefit to this community.

\*The Veteran's Park is looking good. Anne presented pictures of a statue created by a Frenchman called the "Angel of Grief". It would make an excellent tourist attraction for Veteran's Park. She mentioned that there are only 10 in Texas, but she has one that her family would like to donate to this park. She added that if it is vandalized with graffiti, she will take care of it. She asked for the "Angel of Grief" to be placed on the agenda for next month's Parks Advisory Board meeting.

The next meeting will be August 5<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

**ADJOURN**

*Motion Made by Carla and seconded by John to adjourn at 12:58pm.*

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Danielle Shultz