

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

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 12:00pm in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 2000 S Loop 256, Palestine, Texas.

The following members were present:

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| John Ballard McDonald | Eric Musil | Diane Davis |
| Thelma Holland | Anne Coleman | |

Others present:

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| Roy Crouch | Danielle Shultz |
| Rob Thames | James Roberson (Palestine Herald Press Journalist) |

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 John, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Discuss Status / Update of the Lighting Replacement Project on Field #8 at the Athletic Complex:

Rob stated that he has pictures on his phone that he is trying to get onto his computer to print. He announced that this project is complete. Field #8 is the best lit field in complex! He continued to explain that there are 50 lumens in the infield, and 30 in the outfield.

Discuss Status / Update of the Phase I Willie Myers Park Parking Lot Improvement Project:

Rob passed out a picture of the portion of the parking lot that is complete. Tim Perry has taken the lead on this project, and will try to have it completed by the end of this year.

*At this time, James Roberson, a journalist from the Palestine Herald Press, joined the Parks Advisory Board meeting and was filled in with what had been previously discussed.

Discuss and Give Report on the 2014 Hot Pepper Festival Event Held October 24th – 25th:

Roy began by stating that he was not able to give a full report on the Hot Pepper Festival yet because he is still getting numbers in. He has arranged for a film of the festival to be made. There were three (3) stages, and thirteen (13) performing artists. It has been estimated that 4,000 people attended Cody Johnson's concert. A 20 minute window was set aside in tribute to honor the veterans. It was a moving acknowledgement that would make anyone proud to be an American. Fifteen (15) participants were in the BBQ & Chili Cook-off October 24th. 142 vendors took part in the HPF this year. The parade was the largest parade the City of Palestine has seen by attendance and number of entries. 12 – 15,000 people attended the festival, with many people exclaiming that this was "the best festival ever!" Monday, December 8th, the City Council meeting will be at 5:30pm, and Roy will show the promotional video created by Tex Studios, and give detailed information about this year's festival. Roy wants as many Parks Advisory Board members as possible to be present. Roy continued to invite everyone to come to the meeting. Anne asked if a re-cap meeting has been scheduled yet, and Roy answered, "Not yet. We have a lot that are going to critique the Hot Pepper Festival. No matter how well you put on an event, there is always something we can do better." He went on to say that the elevated police stands worked well, and the police enjoyed them. John asked about the number of attendance at the hotels. Roy replied that as far as he knows the hotels were happy. The hotel he stayed at that weekend was full. Anne explained that this year the total donations to the Hot Pepper Festival were down. She said that only 1/3 of the amount received in previous years was offered this year. She added, "We will hit them harder next year!" Roy said that overall, he is anxious to see the bottom line when all the numbers are in. John ended by saying, "At the mercy of the weather, it was beautiful!"

Discuss and Give Report on the 2014 Mall-O-Ween Event Held October 31st:

Somewhere between 15-1,800 people were in attendance at Mall-O-Ween this year. Ten (10) vendors took place in the entertainment and distribution of Halloween goodies. The vendor attendance is thought to be low on the count that Halloween fell on a Friday this year, and many families and business owners attend the Friday night football games. Roy said that we will not attempt to have Mall-O-Ween on a Friday night again. Many games were there, and many prizes were won. An abundance of little ones participated in the costume contest. Roy said, "It was a good event. We enjoyed it!"

Discuss Status / Update on the "Angel of Grief" Statue Installation / Timeline:

Roy attended the City Council meeting Monday, November 10th at 5:30pm to make a motion for the council members to approve the "Angel of Grief" statue donation by Anne Coleman. The Parks Advisory Board had approved the donation in a previous meeting. Anne will be responsible for the cleanup of any vandalism that may occur to the statue. Joseph Thompson, a City Council member, offered to move it to the Veteran's Park. Joseph Thompson and Rob Thames need to get together to set a date to move and place the statue. Anne said that we can discuss it again after the holidays. Thank you, Anne, for enhancing the beautification in Veteran's Park!

Discuss Parks Advisory Board Meeting Time Changes to 5:30pm:

Roy stated that City Hall asked for the time change from 12:00pm to 5:30pm to be placed on the agenda for today to help improve overall attendance of the Parks Advisory Board meetings. It is up to the board to decide whether it is kept at noon, or moved to 5:30pm. John motioned to keep it at 12:00pm, and Anne seconded the motion. All agreed. None opposed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- * Breakfast with Santa is a fun event with kids that is scheduled for December 6th from 8:30am – 10:30am. Presale tickets for this event are at four (4) locations: City Hall, Civic Center, Parks & Recreation Department, and the Visitor's Center. Seating is limited! Only 250 tickets will be sold! The earlier the tickets are purchased, the better off buyers will be. If Breakfast with Santa is sold out, we will let people in line know that morning. Anne asked what kind of volunteers will be needed. Roy answered that they will be needed for games and serving. Roy added that Camp Cookie will be on site to sing Christmas Songs with the little ones.
- * The Christmas Parade will be December 6th also. It will begin at the Courthouse at 7:00pm. Applicants will need to be there by 6:00pm. The parade is always fun to be a part of with all of the decorations and lighting. After the parade, music and prizes will be at the Court House. This is a fun time with the community. December 6th will be a good day to be in Palestine!
- * The next meeting is scheduled in two weeks, but we don't have a lot going on. If we meet the first Tuesday in January, we will just be coming off the Holiday break. Anne suggested February 3rd be our next meeting. John motioned, and Eric seconded. All were in favor of the next Park Advisory Board meeting to be held February 3rd. None opposed.

The next meeting will be February 3, 2015 at noon in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Motion Made by Thelma and seconded by Eric to adjourn at 12:30pm.


Danielle Shultz