

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

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 5, 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	Eric Musil

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 12:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Carla, seconded by Anne, to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2014 meeting.
Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Discuss Up-Coming Hot Pepper Festival Event

Heather started this meeting by announcing that the theme for this year's Hot Pepper Festival is "Peppers & Patriots". This festival will be dedicated to all Veterans for the United States of America. As of August 5th, only 49 vendors have applied to attend. Heather stated that the goal for this year is 150 arts and crafts vendors, and 26 food vendors. Roy voiced that he felt the goal should be 200 in all.

As of this meeting, only 2 sponsors have been received totaling \$1,000. It is projected that an IFEA Grant, as well as the Texas Music Grant will be awarded to the festival, totaling \$3,000. The City of Palestine has granted \$9,000 in the budget. A Walmart donation is expected to be \$1,000, and a Brookshire's donation is anticipated as \$1,000. Heather announced, "We need everyone's help to get sponsors for this event!" John suggested asking Walgreens and CVS to be sponsors.

The Hot Pepper Festival currently has 50 volunteer positions filled, but 30 are still needed.

To sign up as an Arts & Crafts vendor it is \$80, and food booths are \$200. Kid Zone booths are \$80.

Bands expected to play at this event are: Cody Johnson, Green River Ordinance, and the Bigsby's.

Roy announced that even though we only have 80 days until the Hot Pepper Festival, he is encouraged that it will all come together.

Discuss Status of the Willie Myers Phase I Parking Lot Improvement

Rob spoke with Tim Perry August 4th and was told that the contracts have been held up because of the rain. The new goal is to have the Willie Myers Phase I Parking Lot completed by the end of August.

Discuss “Angel of Grief Statue Significance, Acceptance of Donor Donation, and Identify Possible Locations With-In the City of Palestine for Placement

Pictures of the “Angel of Grief” statue were presented to everyone present. Anne Coleman announced that she would like to donate the presented statue to the City of Palestine to be placed in the Veteran’s Park located on Spring Street. A map of the park was given to everyone in the room. Anne stated that she would like for it to be placed at an angle facing the park and Spring Street, and showed the exact location on the map. She liked the fact that the area was big enough for the statue, and people to walk around it. The City of Palestine has quite a few guests that do visit this location, and Anne said that many veterans recommended that this statue be put in the Veteran’s Park. John exclaimed, “It is quite a piece!” He asked if there is any writing on this statue, and Anne answered that there is not. Roy asked if Anne would keep up with any vandalism that may occur on this piece, and she responded that she would. She added that she will take care of the delivery. John mentioned that this would be a great opportunity to advertise the selling of bricks in honor of loved ones or organizations. Roy asked if Anne was expecting recessed or up-lighting, and she replied that she was not. Carla motioned to accept the generous donation made by Anne Coleman, and John seconded that motion, followed by a unanimous decision to receive it. The offer of the “Angel of Grief” statue will be presented to City Council.

Discuss Status of the Steven Bennett Park Signage

There is nothing to report this month.

Discuss Status of the Athletic Complex, Field #8, Lighting Replacement Park Improvement Project

Roy informed everyone that the next field at the Athletic Complex to have the lighting replaced will either be field #5, #6, or #7. The Parks & Recreation Department has asked for money to pay for this project in the 2014-2015 budget. The request must still go through City Council to be approved on the budget. Rob said that for the current project on field #8 the poles have already been delivered. The project should start next week, and is projected to be completed in three (3) weeks. This project totals \$49,999. Roy exclaimed, “The kids will be excited, and we are too! Field #8 will blow the other fields right out of the water!”

Discuss Participation in the 2014 Summer Pool Pass Program

Danielle has gone through all of the applications to determine the exact numbers for this year. May totaled 125 applications with 487 participants. June had 384 applications with 1486 participants. July had 160 applications with 639 participants. The total amount of completed pool pass applications for 2014 are 669, with a total of 2612 participants. John said that the YMCA is keeping up with how many people show up at the pool, and their records will be requested by the end of this year. It is obvious, according to the lifeguards that the number of people taking advantage of the City pool at Steven Bennett Park has increased from last year. Because a lot of people were previously unaware that the City provides free pool passes, John said that he is very proud to have been involved in revealing “the best kept secret in Palestine”.

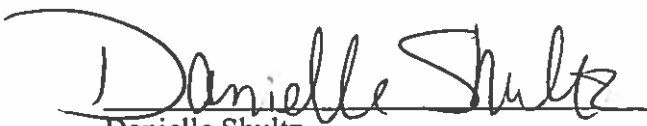
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- * 8 lounge chairs, and several umbrellas have been ordered and delivered to the Steven Bennett Pool.
- * Altrusa International will be painting a mural on the wall next to the VA Clinic in the Palestine Mall starting Friday, August 8th. It should take between 2-3 days for them to complete.
- * United Way Learning Festival will take place in the Palestine Mall August 16th from 10am – 12pm.
- * A Summer Food Program will be serving lunch at Steven Bennett Park Monday through Friday from 11am – 1pm until August 21st.
- * Roy spoke for the Kiwanis Club Tuesday, July 29th. He gave an overview of the Parks & Recreation Department and the Legacy in the Park Program. Most of them didn't realize how large the department is, and how much it is involved in throughout the year.
- * The Parks & Recreation Department is planning on putting the largest railroad spike in the world right here in Palestine, Texas. It will be 16 – 18 feet, and will be located on Spring Street close to the Farmer's Market. A railroad spike was previously placed in Greens Park, but is currently the second largest in the world. Bringing the largest railroad spike in the world to Palestine will definitely be a great tourist attraction for our town.
- * The next meeting was scheduled for September 2nd, but because the Parks & Recreation Department will have a lot going on, it was motioned by John, and seconded by Carla to reschedule the meeting to September 16th. This motion was unanimously agreed.

The next meeting will be September 16th at noon in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

ADJOURN

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


Danielle Shultz