

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ANDERSON
CITY OF PALESTINE

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall conference Room, 504 North Queen Street, Palestine, TX.

The following members were present:

John Ballard McDonald	Mike Kelly
Thelma Holland	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 12.04 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by John, seconded by Eric, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2014 meeting. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Discuss John Phillips Park:

A PowerPoint presentation was printed to display various pictures of John Phillips Park to the Parks Advisory Board. Roy suggested that the box around a tree be removed, and replaced with either landscaping or a tree ring. It was also recommended that the monument have landscaping or something else to dress it up. Also noted was the need for a privacy fence or nicer backdrop for aesthetic purposes. A tree with a wire in the middle was pointed out and discussed to remove it. Recessed lighting was mentioned that it would look nice behind the plaque. Roy asked if anyone had any suggestions, and John said that we need to “fluff it up a little bit”, while Mike suggested more lighting. If anyone else has any suggestions, call Roy.

Discuss 2014 Easter Egg Hunt:

Heather passed out a handout with activities scheduled for the Easter Egg Hunt April 19th. Everything at this event will be free except the food vendors. She mentioned that there will be a DJ to play music, Korn Pop will do balloon art, and Deborah Barrett will bring someone with her to help her paint faces. 7,000 eggs will be hid over three (3) fields (fields 7, 8 & 9). They are all candy or toy filled plastic eggs. Field one (1) will be the main activity field. The time was decided to be from 11 A.M. – 1 P.M. so that we don't interfere with others in the community having their Easter events. We are still looking for someone (tall) to wear the Easter Bunny costume. Heather asked that we and everyone we know "Like" the Parks & Recreation page. Roy explained that there will be three (3) age groups with a total of 18 prizes to add to the excitement of the event. He also mentioned that the entertainment field will be called the "Rabbit Patch", and should be fun for everyone.

Discuss PYAA 2014 Baseball / Softball Season:

Roy told the group that approximately 600 kids have signed up to create an estimated 42 teams. A soft opening is scheduled for Monday, April 07, 2014, and the following Saturday will be the big opening day. Mike asked if April 19th was cleared on their schedule because of the Easter Egg Hunt planned for that day, and Roy confirmed that it has been.

Discuss Sculpture Garden Project:

Laura Westgate was in the Parks Advisory Board meeting March 4, 2014 to discuss the Sculpture Garden Project. The option was explored to remove some of the Crepe Myrtles from Spring Street and transfer them for this project, but it was decided that it would be cheaper to buy new ones instead. John still insisted that the Crepe Myrtles need to be thinned out because the park is not visible through them. Roy explained that a lot of people love them thick and full, but some don't. He suggested that they could be trimmed. Mike pointed out that he thinks there should be "no hiding spaces" for riff-raff.

Discuss Steven Bennett Park New Signage:

John proposed that we use the Concept C blueprint from Design Center, but also pointed out changes that would need to be made to it. He stated that we should eliminate the dates, and the Congressional Medal of Honor needs to be bigger and take the space where the dates currently are. He also suggested that the Palestine Parks logo should be smaller and moved down. He wants to duplicate the plaque from Veteran's Park and put it where the Palestine logo currently is. John wants to get a final sketch then raise money for it after we get it. Up-lighting or recessed lighting was also discussed. John recommended two sets of lights, but the tweeking would have to be worked out. He stated that the money raised for this project and not used will go to other Veteran's projects. Eric asked if the Steven Bennett sign will be one-sided, and John confirmed that it will be, and also facing Loop 256. John asked if all are in favor, and all confirmed.

DIRECTOR'S REVIEW

- *Roy informed everyone that the compost site is open all week because of the recent storm.
- *A form was distributed to the group to announce the process for making Park and Pavilion Reservations, and where citizens can go to pick up and turn in their forms into our office.
- *Carson & Barnes was in the Palestine Mall parking lot March 19, 2014 for two shows. The City of Palestine made \$3,561.95.
- *Evans United Carnival is setting up today and will be opening either Thursday or Friday night.
- *Movies in the Park will be this Saturday.
- *We recently hired 10 new seasonal workers. They started yesterday and are trying to get us caught up.
- *John brought up Greens Park Disc Golf Course asking Roy the status of the project. Roy stated that the baskets are in and everything is done except signage and some erosion control. We are currently in the process of getting the distances for each hole so signage can be completed on this project.
- *May 6th will be the next Parks Advisory Board meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion Made by John and seconded by Eric to adjourn at 12:40 P.M.

Teresa Herrera