

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

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 12:00pm in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 2000 S Loop 256, Palestine, TX.

The following members were present:

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| John Ballard McDonald | Diane Davis | Mike Kelly |
| Thelma Holland | Anne Coleman | |

Others present:

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| 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 12:02pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Anne, seconded by Thelma, to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2014 meeting.
Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Discuss Reagan Park Spray Park Operations

Roy explained the Splash Park flyer that was distributed to everyone in detail. The Splash Park will be open seven days a week from 10:00am – 8:00pm during this summer. September 6th – September 28th it will be open weekends only from 12:00pm – 5:00pm. He also explained that the water is on a timer that automatically turns the water on and off. He stated that there may be times when the timer gets offset, and doesn't turn the water on and off at the exact time we expect it to. Many things can cause this, including ants. Thelma asked if the "Palm Button", would work when the park isn't open. Roy answered, "No." The button will not turn the water on without the timer being on.

Discuss Free Swimming Pool Pass Procedures

Roy explained the Swimming Pool Pass Procedures flyer and application. You do have to obtain your pass at City Hall. He pointed out that City Residents are free, and County Residents pay only \$60 for a family of four to get a season pass for usage of the Steven Bennett Park Pool. John mentioned that \$60 is a very good deal. Roy said that we are trying to acquire more participation this year than the previous years at the pool. He also brought it to our attention that it was advertised in this month's water bills that free pool passes are available. John stated, "Get the word out!"

Discuss 2014 Steven Bennett Park Pool Swim Schedule

Roy explained that we must refer to the Modified Pool Schedule until June 7th, and then we use the main Summer Aquatics Swimming Pool Schedule throughout the summer. John asked if anyone had noticed more passes being obtained, and Heather responded that last Friday when she was at City Hall, she did notice several people receiving theirs.

Discuss / Update 2014 Splash Bash Special Event

A PowerPoint presentation was being displayed as Roy said that the second hour of the event had a much larger crowd than the first. He suggested a later time to start next year. It was mentioned that there was a smaller crowd overall compared to the previous year. Mike stated that the weather had been cooler up until that day, and maybe that had something to do with the low attendance. Heather suggested that maybe we should do it on a Friday, or perhaps a weekend other than Memorial Day next year. She commented that several parents did say "Thank you!" It was mentioned that many flyers were handed out by Danielle during the event to advertise the Splash Park, as well as other things available at the City. The Palestine Herald Press did run an advertisement for the Splash Bash, but hopefully next year, we can get it with the grocery ads next year to assure more participation. Diane suggested passing out flyers in the schools. Roy explained that we (Roy and Danielle) had discussed doing that this year, but decided that it would generate too large of a crowd for the Splash Pad space available. Roy said that the kids that did attend had a great time. We gave away about \$1,000 worth of door prizes.

Discuss HPF Update

Heather gave an update on the Hot Pepper Festival progress so far. She said that the committee has been meeting for four months now, and are about to begin bi-monthly meetings. She stated, "We have been working feverishly on this!" She said that the committee members have already been looking for sponsors for this event. She continued saying that 45 vendor applications have been completed and turned in to her within a week of them being available to the public. Heather said that our headliner band will be Cody Johnson, with Green River Ordinance playing just before them. The theme will be patriotic, but a tagline is still needed. July 4th hamburgers, hotdogs, and various glow in the dark items will be sold to make money for the festival. It was announced that the City of Palestine contributes \$9,000 towards the Hot Pepper Festival, but it cost \$75,000 last year. "We have a lot to earn for the Hot Pepper Festival!" Anne pointed out that this year there will be two full beer gardens. Heather said that the committee will be coming up with different fundraisers and activities this year to raise money for the event. "It takes everyone to make this happen! Help us get the word out and raise some money!" She finished by reminding everyone to "Like" the Facebook pages for the HPF and Parks & Recreation.

Discuss TDCJ Park Improvements

As a PowerPoint of the TDCJ Park was being presented, Rob updated everyone on the status of the TDCJ Park. He stated, "We gave it a haircut!" Improvements and new landscaping is being worked on at this time. It has been opened up, and has nice lighting now. Roy mentioned that he wants to place a lot of Azaleas in the park to help make it a "showcase place". He said that this is a fun project for us. John asked if ever other Crepe Myrtle was removed, and Roy answered that they weren't. Roy explained that they were planted too close together, but if they are thinned, they will be too far apart. John still thinks that the Crepe Myrtles block the monument. Roy mentioned that when we go to add grass to the TDCJ Park, Hydro Mulch may be used.

Discuss Anderson County Master Gardeners Mall Project

The Anderson County Master Gardeners planted the plants inside the Palestine Mall, and the Parks and Recreation Department painted the planters and added new top soil and mulch. This has improved the common areas of the mall quite a bit. The Bromeliads have received a lot of compliments. Most of these plants are considered low light interior plants.

Discuss / Update Alligator Removal at Upper Lake Area

Rob stated that the alligator has been removed with lethal force. Normal business has been resumed. John asked if it was believed to be a "lone wolf". Rob said that it is believed so, but monitoring will be continued to search for more.

Discuss Steven Bennett Park Signage

John mentioned that he needs more copies of the sign that was decided upon to assist him in finding sponsors for the Steven Bennett Park sign.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- *Adrian Peterson Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 21st in Reagan Park.
- *Movies in the Park has been scheduled for Saturday, June 7th.
- * A Juneteenth Celebration has been scheduled for June 20th and 21st at Calhoun Park.
- *Steven Bennett Park fence repairs have begun and will be completed by June 13th.
- *A meeting is schedule for this Thursday with PEDC to discuss the \$50,000 Parks Grant for the field lighting that is needed at the Athletic Complex.

"A lot of stuff is going on in Palestine these days! It's been fun!"

The next meeting will be July 1st at noon in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Motion Made by Anne and seconded by Diane to adjourn at 12:55pm.

Danielle Shultz