

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ANDERSON  
CITY OF PALESTINE

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 4, 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	Carla Cubstead	Anne Coleman
Thelma Holland	Eric Musil	Diane Davis	

Others present:

Roy Crouch	Laura Westgate
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 Anne , seconded by John , to approve the minutes of February 4, 2014 meeting.* Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Discuss Sculpture Garden Project:

Laura Westgate attended to represent the Palestine Tomorrow Group. She stated that the newest illustration of the Sculpture Garden Project has scaled back the amount of pink Crepe Myrtle trees on the back edge, and will try to keep Holly trees as a barrier. John suggested that the Crepe Myrtles on Spring Street need to be thinned out and moved to this location because they are so thick that you can't see the park through them. Roy stated that Laura needs to get a cost on that, and agrees with John that there are too many Crepe Myrtles in the current location. Roy pointed out that there is a main water line that may cause damage in the future. Roy asked who is changing out the color of the two seasonal perennial beds, and Laura replied that the assumption is that the Parks Department can choose the colors, and it is also expected that the Parks

Department take it on. Laura also stated that irrigation will be put in once the project is approved. She also mentioned that the whole project is railroad themed. Parking will be allowed on Debard Street, and full parking will be available at the Visitor's Center. There is no lighting for the temporary sculptures, but there is for the main triangle piece. Roy stated that the main concern at this point is irrigation. Laura affirmed that the irrigation and electrical issues will be addressed once the project is approved. John motioned that the Sculpture Garden Project be approved as long as the transfer of the Crepe Myrtles is financially possible. Anne seconded the motion. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Steven Bennett Park Signage:

Roy mentioned the historical fact that Steven Bennett was a U.S. Air Force pilot, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, as well as several other awards. He is a "hero of every stretch of the imagination". John mentioned that even though Steven Bennett moved away, he always felt that Palestine was his home. Roy stated that he has received designs from three separate companies with a budget of \$40,000. Roy needs some direction as to a style and size for this sign. He mentioned that any stone, color, or details can be changed to fit what we are looking for. John stated that the designs are awesome and thanked Roy for his hard work to put it all together. All of the companies captured a little bit of what we are looking for. John and Roy both agreed that the board should look over the signs more closely, and we can discuss it more in next month's meeting. Anne suggested that John contact Steven Bennett's family to see what they prefer and what their wishes are.

Discuss PYAA Upcoming 2014 Baseball / Softball Season

PYAA secured two T-Ball tournaments with Dixie League at \$13,081. The City of Palestine did cover \$9,500, and that leaves a balance of \$3,581. PYAA needs to cover that amount by June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be 16 teams in all – Large division will have 10 teams, and the Junior division will have 6. July 5<sup>th</sup>, both tournaments will begin. Rob mentioned he spoke with Eric Evans, and there will also be a 10 & under district tournament for the boys beginning April 7<sup>th</sup>. Roy mentioned that there has been a light study done, and found that none of our lights are at industry standards. We need to address the lighting issues. Roy suggested that the \$50,000 we get for PYAA this year should go towards lighting for the first field. The entire Athletic Complex would cost \$750,000. Carla agrees that the lights need to be updated. Diane stated, "The more money we spend, the more money we're going to make out there!" Mike mentioned that poles are a major expense, but if you do two or three at a time and cluster the lights, you can save money. Eric stated that we need a long term plan. Rob pointed out that we need to focus on safety issues, and lighting is one of them. Diane mentioned that something needs to be done about the parking at the Athletic Complex.

**DIRECTOR'S REVIEW:**

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dogwood Trails Festival

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Evans United Carnival

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Carson & Barnes Circus ~ 4:30 & 7:30 shows

Park pavilion rentals are all taken care of by Danielle at the mall now. We are working on updating the permanent signage and marketing to reflect that change.

Anderson County Master Gardeners are donating \$500 and we are working with them to paint the planters and plant the plants at the Palestine Mall.

Anderson County Historical Commission donating \$3,000 to do a front entry signage to the City Cemetery.

We just finished Section A – 89 plots = \$66,000 revenue. Section C will be 128 new plots = \$96,000 revenue. That equals \$162,000 total revenue

We are currently working on improving Upper Lake East Park.

**ADJOURN**

*Motion Made by Eric and seconded by Mike to adjourn at 1:04 P.M.*

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Teresa Herrera