

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

The Parks Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 12:00pm in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 2000 S Loop 256, Palestine, Texas.

The Following Members Were Present:

John Ballard McDonald	Carla Cubstead	Mike Kelly
Thelma Holland	Anne Coleman	

Others Present:

Roy Crouch	Danielle Shultz	Steve Sussdorf
Rob Thames	Heather Hrebec	

Members Not Present:

Diane Davis	Eric Musil
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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 November 18, 2014 meeting. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Discuss and Hear Presentation from Steve Sussdorf, Representing a Citizen Group on Installing a Commemorative Bell Tower on City-owned Property

Steve Sussdorf attended the Parks Advisory Board meeting to discuss installation of a bell tower on a piece of property owned by the City of Palestine located next to the historical jail. Steve announced that four (4) bells have already been donated for this project. Some of them received are off of trains and have a history. He said that the base around the bottom would be three (3) feet out on each side, the tower would be 18 inches wide, and 20 feet tall. The bells will vary in size, and a large one would act as a centerpiece. Plaques are expected to be built on the bottom to announce who the donors for the bell tower would be. He said that the bells accepted as a donation for this project will be on a selected basis.

This tower won't take a big footprint. This tower will be built by donations. He expects for the bell tower to be used for parades and special events inside the City of Palestine. He believes that this will be an asset to Palestine. He said that there are two (2) ways to ring the bells: 1) The balloon base may assist and design a program by pushing buttons to ring the bells. 2) Musical speakers could be placed inside of it to play different tunes. Once approvals are given, it will be made open to the public. Anne suggested the bell ringing for lunch. John asked how many bells it is expected to hold, and Steve replied that it is projected to display 8 or 9. John said that we will need to make sure the control of the bells is secure. It will have volume control. Steve said that he has done research, and has not seen any bell towers like the one he is hoping to make. John asked if Steve had a second location choice, and Steve answered that he does not. He said that it is still in the preliminary stage. Mike motioned to move forward, and Carla seconded. All Parks Advisory Board members were in favor.

Discuss Status and Update on the "Angel of Grief" Statue Installation and Time-line for Moving
Rob Thames will need to be called to set up and establish a date to get this project done and the statue in place. The City of Palestine appreciates Anne's donation. Anne will coordinate with Rob and let Roy know the scheduled date and time for the relocation of the Angel of Grief statue into Veteran's Park.

Discuss and Give Final Report on the 2014 Hot Pepper Festival Event Held October 24th & 25th
Roy began this conversation by showing a video of the "Good Life" of Palestine represented by the 2014 Hot Pepper Festival. The video's theme song was "Good Life" by One Republic. This video has also been shown in a City Council meeting along with the final report of the Hot Pepper Festival. Roy said that this event catered to approximately 200 volunteer hours. He announced that the hotel / motel stays were up a little in most categories compared to the previous years. He said that via different variations of social media, the word was out. He continued by saying that 12 teams were in the BBQ / Chili cook-off, and we are trying to grow it as well as the Farmer's Market. There were 150 parade entries which set a record for the largest parade in Palestine. There were 142 vendors, and a lot of positive feedback was received from them. We will need more food vendors next year. 12 bands took over three (3) stages throughout the festival. The Veteran's Tribute created a large crowd on Spring Street. This festival was the largest Roy has seen since he has been in the City of Palestine. 56 sponsors generated over \$50,000. The budget recap showed that \$72,000 was the total income. \$71,510 represented the total expenses. The Hot Pepper Festival concluded with a \$490 profit. Roy said that everyone had a heck of a good time. The entire community enjoyed it. It was a great time to honor the veterans. The Hot Pepper Festival will continue to grow. The next Hot Pepper Festival will be October 24th and 25th, 2015. He said that the staff did a bang-up job. This event takes a lot of people – volunteers and internal staff. Heather and Carla announced that we already have two (2) vendors for the 2015 HPF!

Discuss and Rescheduling April 7, 2015 Parks Advisory Board Meeting to another Date in April

The Parks Advisory Board all agreed that the meeting scheduled for April 7, 2015 would be rescheduled to the following Tuesday on April 14th.


DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- * Thursday, February 5th – 9:00am – 12:00pm is a Job Fair at the Palestine Mall.
- * Saturday, February 7th at dusk will be George Washington Slept Here (1942 comedy) in Movies in the Park.
- * Saturday, February 7th at 5:00pm is the Mardi Gras Parade by Mystics of Time
- * Wednesday, February 18th the City Manager will give a presentation to the Rotary Club at Ben E. Keith at 12:00pm.
- * Sunday, February 22nd will be a Bridal Show at the Civic Center.
- * Saturday, February 28th from 9:00am – 5:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am – 3:00pm will be a Gun Show at the Civic Center.
- * Saturday, March 28th from 10:00am – 2:00pm is the Library Book Festival
- * Saturday, March 28th is also the 2nd Annual Egg-Normous Easter Egg Hunt at the Athletic Complex. This event needs volunteers!
- * Roy announced that the Parks and Recreation Department has created a time-line for all of the departments within the City of Palestine to follow in order to move out storage in the Mall. The items currently in storage will have to be moved to Inet inside another area of the Mall. This includes between 450 – 550 boxes / files that belong to various departments that need to be moved.

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

ADJOURN

Motion Made by John and seconded by Mike to adjourn at 12:46pm.


Danielle Shultz