



**City of San Marcos
Regular Meeting Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
March 20, 2025 5:30 pm**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Director Jamie Lee Case.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present

John Thomaides, Chair
Benjamin Peck, Vice-Chair
Derek Griblin
Dan Alden
Alejandra Roman
Peter Tschirhart
Jordan Lange

Board Members Absent

Amanda Fox
Lara Sears

Staff Present

Jamie Lee Case, Director
Jessica Ramos, Assistant Director
Bert Stratemann, Operations Manager
Valerie Valdez, Administrative Coordinator

Note: The meeting began at 5:40PM due to technical issues. The meeting was called to order by Director Case and began with Agenda Item 2 due to the nominations for a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

Citizen Comment Period: Persons wishing to speak during the citizen comment period please submit your written comments to parksinfo@sanmarcostx.gov **no later than 12:00pm on the day of the meeting.** The first 10 comments will be read aloud during the citizen comment portion of the meeting. Comments shall have a time limit of three minutes each. Any threatening, defamatory, or other similar comments prohibited by Chapter 2 of the San Marcos City Code will not be read.

Morgan Hammer with Mission Able Executive read a statement written by the Mission Able Director Monica Followall, advocating for the Lion's Club lease renewal. Monica Followall shared the Lion's Club is vital to Mission Able's work in providing home repairs to the community. Morgan Hammer add her own support for the Lion's Club to remain the stewards over the tube rental facility.

Mitch Hoffman member of the Lions Club shared that all profits raised by the tube rentals are given back to the community. He explained the Lion's Club call to eliminated blindness. He stated that the tube rental was started in the 1970's renting 20-40 tubes a day. The Lion's also began a vision screening event in 2013 that has continued through the years becoming more advanced with high-tech screening equipment. He stated that Lion's Club want to continue to serve the community for many years to come by attracting visitors, donating to non-profits, and hiring students. He asked the board to support the renewal lease agreement.

Diane Breedlove represented School Fuel a non-profit organization that sends food home with school aged children. She stated the School Fuel feeds 11,000 children due to support from organizations like the Lion's Club. She asked the board members to recommend to City Council to renew the lease agreement with the Lion's Club.

Michael Cardona Superintendent with SMCISD shared that his students benefit from the work of the Lion's Club. His students receive School Fuel food, Scholarships, Clothing donation to the Rattler Closet. He shared the Lion's donation of Gift Cars to teachers during COVID. The Lion's Club also hires students to work the summers at the tube rental. He advocated like the previous speakers for the board to recommend renewing the lease agreement.

Danielle Castillo represented the Greater San Marcos Youth Council in support of the renewal agreement with the Lion's Club. She stated the Lion's have supported the GSMYC for 30 years to cover the basic needs of the children in this program. The residential program assists children ages 2-17 who are removed from their homes due to abuse.

Norma Blackwell the CEO of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in support of the Lion's Club renewal agreement. She shared the Lion's club assist some many people in need. The tube rental is crucial to their efforts to support the community. She asked that the board support the renewal agreement and recommended the term be extended from 20 to 40 years.

Kelly Carter representing the Hays County Food Bank spoke in support of the Lion's Club lease renewal agreement. She stated that the Lion's have been a reliable supporter to the food bank by donating to grant programs, sponsoring events, and donations for Turkey meal kits. She shared that the Food Bank serves an average of 800 people per week because the support received by the Lion's.

Melissa Rodriguez the CEO of the Hays Caldwell Women's Center stated the Lion's Club has been a partner to the Women's Center since 1997 with a life-giving amount of \$156,000. This support helps survivors of domestic abuse, dating abuse, sexual assault, and child abuse. The Lion's donated seed money for the newest program of transitional housing called Marla's place. She stated the city has generously given the Women's Center a lease and strongly urged the board members to consider doing the same for the Lion's Club lease agreement.

Cory Wheeler the President of the Lion's club shared the economic and employment impacts the Lion's Club has on the community. He shared they hire 70 employees a year for the tube rental business. He shared the tourist industry impacts the tube rental holds. He explained that people come to the river also stay in hotels, shop, and eat, bringing money to the city. He shared that the Lion's have assisted the Park's department by donating money for the park rangers' ATVs and purchasing the Perry Weather station for City Park. The Lion's club also promote reusable containers at the tube rental and help educated tourists. He asked for five more years to continue to serve San Marcos by having the lease agreement renewed.

III.

MINUTES

1. Consider approval, by motion of the February 20, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Derek Griblin, seconded by Peter Tschirhart to approve the February 20, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote:

For:	6 - John Thomaides, Derek Griblin, Dan Alden, Peter Tschirhart, Jordan Lange, Alejandra Roman, Benjamin Peck
Against:	0 -
Absent:	2 - Amanda Fox, Lara Sears

Note: The Action items were opened first to establish a Chair and Vice-Chair to lead the rest of the meeting.

ACTION

2. Discuss and consider nominations and the selection for the position of Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Benjamin Peck nominated John Thomaides. Alejandra Roman nominated Amanda Fox. The role was called with each member stating their vote of the presented nominees. **John Thomaides was named Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

For John Thomaides:	5 - Benjamin Peck, Derek Griblin, Dan Alden, Peter Tschirhart, Jordan Lange
For Amanda Fox:	1 - Alejandra Roman
Absent:	2 - Amanda Fox, Lara Sears
Abstained:	1- John Thomaides

3. Discuss and consider nominations and the selection for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

John Thomaides nominated to reappoint Benjamin Peck as the Vice-Chair.

The motion carried by the following vote:

For:	6 - John Thomaides, Derek Griblin, Dan Alden, Peter Tschirhart, Jordan Lange, Alejandra Roman
Against:	0 -

Absent:

2 - Amanda Fox, Lara Sears

Abstained:

1- Benjamin Peck

Note: Benjamin Peck joined virtually and left the meeting after item 3.

DISCUSSION

4. Receive a staff update and hold discussion regarding the San Marcos Lion's Club lease renewal.

Jamie Case presented the board with background information regarding the lease agreement with the Lion's Club.

Alejandra Roman had questions regarding microplastics pollution coming from the innertubes that are rented out by the Lion's club. She asked if there was a backup plan if the Lion's are not able to continue with the tube rental business. Derek Griblin asked if the lease agreement could be extended for a longer period. Pete Tschirhart asked if the city would only allow Lion's Club to sell tubes so they could increase the funds the Lion's donate back to the community. Jamie Case stated that would require high managed access to the river and we currently do not have the staff or funding. Alejandra Roman asked if staff has communicated with the city of New Braunfels to see how they manage river access in their parks. Jamie Case stated that she has worked closely with New Braunfels to create our own plan for San Marcos. Dan Alden stated there should not be a fee to enter the river.

Note: Alejandra Roman joined virtually and left the meeting at 6:39PM. Dan Alden joined the meeting virtually and left the meeting at 6:42PM The board did not meet quorum and took a pause for Dan Alden to rejoin the meeting virtually. Meeting resumed at 6:46PM.

5. Receive a staff update and hold discussion regarding Cape's Dam.

Jamie Case stated City Council has approved a contract with Freese & Nichols for the Cape's Dam study. Currently council has requested the study to prioritize restoration. They are expected to have results in ten months which will include a public engagement aspect. Concurrent to the study taking place the Parks department will do what they can to make the waterway as safe as possible. Dan Alden asked if this study would include a peer review. Jamie Case shared that this is what is called a desktop survey, they will not conduct a field study. Derek Griblin asked how much the study costs. Jamie Case stated the study is \$340,000.

6. Receive a staff update and hold discussion regarding Paid Parking Implementation in City Park and Rio Vista Park.

Jamie Case stated the equipment has been ordered. The contract has been executed, and staff can move forward with the roll out by June 1.

7. Receive a staff update and hold discussion on Rio Vista Tennis and Pickleball Court resurfacing project.

Jessica Ramos presented the suggestions made by the high school tennis coach for changes to the Rio Vista tennis and pickleball courts. John Thomaides stated he would like the tennis court to remain primary and the pickleball courts as secondary on courts 5 and 6. John Thomaides asked if the courts are stiped to regulation play. He also asked when the courts were resurfaced last. Bert Stratemann answered that the courts are stiped to regulation. They were last resurfaced in 2009. Derrik Griblin stated that we would not like to lose tennis courts. He suggested making the neighborhood basketball courts dual purposed for basketball and pickleball. Overall, the board members liked the blue and green color options for the courts. Jessica Ramos thanked the board for their direction and said she will follow up.

8. Receive a staff update regarding room naming at Dunbar Recreation Center and hold discussion regarding a possible Recommendation Resolution to City Council in support of naming the rooms as presented by staff.

Jessica Ramos presented her research and the options for naming the rooms at Dunbar Recreation Center. The Arts and Crafts Room to be named after Harvey Miller who coordinated community programs. The Dunbar Large Room to be named after Ola Lee Coleman a long-time teacher at the Dunbar school. The Dunbar Small Room to be named after Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Marshall, who donated money to the city to purchase the building. In the foyer a plaque will be placed in honor of the "First Five" who were the first black women to enroll in classes at Southwest Texas State when segregation was lifted. John Thomaides shared that those were excellent choices. The next steps are to vote on a recommendation resolution at the next regular meeting.

9. Receive a staff update and hold discussion regarding current Parks Projects.

Jamie Case stated that she went over many of the major projects in the previous items. No additional comments or questions were made.

REPORTS

10. Receive the following reports: Park Projects Monthly Report, Recreation Division, Aquatics/Fitness Report, Athletics Division Monthly Report, Youth Services Division Monthly Report.

Jamie Case shared that the reports are included in the packet and staff is available to answer questions.

IV. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public. *This is an opportunity for the Press and Public to ask questions related to items on **this** agenda.*

No comments were made.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm by John Thomaides.


Parks and Recreation Board Chair


Staff Liaison