



**Community Services
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT.
PARKS BOARD**

**San Marcos Activity Center
501 E Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666
5:30 P.M.**

Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 18, 2016

I. Roll Call

Present- Sue Cohen, Frank Contreras, Bridgett Phillips, Mary Seaborne, Robert Tobias, Derrick Lee

Absent- Larry Mock, Brad Smith

Excused- Paul Murray

Staff Present- Rodney Cobb, William Ford, Bert Stratemann, Daniel Montemayor

Due to the absence of chairperson Paul Murray Sue Cohen Vice Chair presided at meeting

II. Citizen Comment Period – (each individual will be limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken on these items)

Brian Olson- came to discuss Stokes Park, recommend that it would be good to put a fence on the wall of the embankment of where Thompson's dam is.

He also inquired if there is any desire to put trash cans down there below where the waterfall is. Trash cans would be useful between Thompsons Gin and the Capes Road. Signage would be helpful to alleviate trash issues.

Mark Taylor- President of San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance. Here to listen to comments and discussion of the Crosstown trails and the Natural Area Land Study.

III. Approval of the minutes: July 28, 2016 Minutes

Bridgett Phillips motion to approve. Derrick Lee second. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

Discussion- Short Term Solutions for River/Park Overcrowding

Rodney Cobb- reported that we are staffing 15 person to work weekends from 7am-11pm. We're going to bring in two more additional people to work facility rentals. In addition we bring in a team from Easter Seals to help

alleviate the trash issues.

We have purchased trailers and placed them strategically so that trash can be collected and hauled easily.

Frank Contreras- the park on Cheatham St is overcrowded. We need to do away with the on street parking between Reynolds and CM Allen. There is space for 12 cars. He is concerned about the safety of people.

Sue Cohen- what decisions can we make that doesn't require an ordinance? Do we have it in our authority to alleviate issues at least on a short term basis?

Rodney Cobb will check with Ken Bell to implement short term solutions. When Crosstown Trails are completed, the trail to the river will be free of and off limits for shelters, picnic tables, portable tables, and pop up tents. We are also discussing designated places for pop up tents at picnic table areas. We may introduce picnic tables from trail to the road to control crowd. We also need to consider whether to ban portable pits and the use of charcoal.

Sue Cohen- in favor for no grills at all, portable grills or charcoal.

Frank Contreras- in favor of removing permanent barbecue pits on concrete slabs.

Derrick Lee- Backside of Rio Vista Pool area is almost empty. How do we move folks to use that area?

Rodney Cobb -Park Rangers recommend no barbecue grills in natural green areas.

Rodney Cobb- reported plans are in place to remove the incoming road of Rio Vista Park in an effort to move parking from the interior of the park. Rodney Cobb suggest that we have to always look at where folks are parking and wanted to voice concern of not pushing folks to park in neighborhoods.

In City parking management plan, we requested metered parking on CM Allen. I think we can be successful at using specific fees for park use that will go into a fund to improve parks.

Bridgett Phillips- recommends looking at fees. Rodney Cobb mentioned that we will be looking at fee structure over next couple of months.

Sue Cohen - recommends designated swimming areas, no picnic tables or grills allowed.

Frank Contreras restated recommendations that the board wants to implement after Labor Day.

#1-Move picnic sites back in all City River parks

#2 Remove on street parking on Cheatham St. (weekends/holidays only)

#3 Remove picnic tables and grills from Cheatham St

#4 No shelters except in designated picnic sites

#5 No portable grills in City River Parks (City Park to Lucio Park)

Robert Tobias- requested timeline.

Sue Cohen- motion to make 4 recommendations. Second by all. Motion carried.

Bridgett motion to vote on #3 recommendation separately. Frank Contreras second the motion. Motion carried.

Sue Cohen stated we are now voting on removing picnic tables and grills from Cheatham St. Motion carried. Sue Cohen requested to keep this item on next agenda to track progress on recommendations. All five recommendations for short term solutions for river overcrowding passed.

V. Update- Crosstown Pathways

Rodney Cobb- reported a meeting in Austin with TXDOT took place. Project going forward with bid and whether they will allow the bridge over the river. They may request that the bridge be taken out. If the bridge is taken out we will reroute using the existing bridge. TX DOT project will want to raise the roads.

Will Ford-reported we think we came to a consensus of keeping the bridge in if we make it longer. TXDOT wants to raise the access road.

VI. Update- Natural Area Land Study

Mark Taylor- reported the Land Manager position was discussed by City Council to be funded by hotel tax. Letter was sent from Parks Board chair with detail on a bullet list job description to the City Manager. We want to make sure staff understands details of this position, where funding comes from, who this position reports to, and roles of the position.

Sue Cohen recommends that the Board continue to support the position.

In reference to the Natural Area Land Study Will Ford reported that we continue to work with Texas Soil and Water Conservation Service and GVA. We would like to pull all information together and we'll create a timetable.

Bert Stratemann - important modeling information is needed, along with the groundwork of the Land Management plan. We are trying to compile data to look at different ways to manage properties.

Will Ford - mentioned that we will continue to provide updates and put this on the agenda.

VII. Update- Trash Cans Varmint proof

Rodney Cobb reported that we have our first 30 trash cans. They are in Rio Vista Park. We are in the process of putting them in. We are putting placards on them. We are also setting recycle cans next to them that will be in blue. We can look at different locations to plan on where to place them. The plan is after October is to order another set and it may take an additional two years to complete.

VIII. Update- Soccer Fields (Solar Panels) / Tennis Courts (LED Lights)

Bert Stratemann- the solar panels puts out about 3 kilowatts and as part of the original project they installed a wind tower (10 kilowatt) by the City as part of energy study of the soccer complex.

LCRA had a grant opportunity to spend \$23k on solar. They asked us to pilot the project. Installation and

engineering were free if we purchased the solar panels. Additional solar panels included two banks of solar panels producing 24 kilowatts of power. As part of the project an educational kiosk will be installed. It allows a person to read what the solar panels are producing and as an educational tool for information. The kiosk will operate also as a charging station and also have cameras.

We hope to implement the same project at the Softball complex.

Bert Stratemann reported the solar panels will provide power to the complex with the exception of the lights. This provides us a discount off our utility cost.

Tennis Court lights were replaced with LED lights. The LED version was able to simplify the hardware needed to power the lights. We also reduce the # of lights by half with LED installation.

IX. Discussion- Questions and Answers about monthly reports

No questions

X. Recommendation- Agenda Requests for next meeting-

Discuss Fee Structure for next meeting

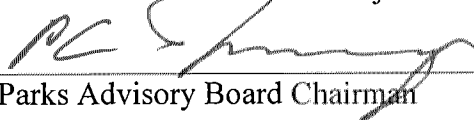
Follow-up on Short term recommendations

XI. Question and Answers with Press and Public

No Questions or Answers

XII. Adjournment

Frank Contreras motion to adjourn and Bridgett Phillips second the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.



Parks Advisory Board Chairman



Facilities/Events Coordinator

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