

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF TARRANT §  
CITY OF BEDFORD §

**approved**

**The Bedford Parks and Recreation Board met in regular session at the Old Bedford Library Location on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January with the following members present:**

Jeannette Cook                      Elvera Henderson  
Doug Allbach                        Randy Newby  
Bryan Burgess                      Cathy Schneider  
Alex Cowart                         Donna Williams  
Sam Fairchild

**Constituting a quorum.**

Donna Hanson and Jeremy Loy were absent.

City Council/Staff Representatives:  
Eric Valdez – Community Services Manager  
Don Henderson – Parks Superintendent  
Rusty Sartor - Council Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jeannette Cook, Chairperson, called the Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 1. Consider approval of the following Parks and Recreation Board minutes:  
a) November 3, 2016 regular meeting.**

There being no corrections, a motion was made by Alex Cowert, seconded by Cathy Schneider, to approve the November meeting minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 2. Discuss scheduling a tour of the city parks.**

Scheduling a tour of the parks was discussed as being beneficial to getting the Board on the same page with respect to vision. March 4<sup>th</sup> was raised as possibility in conjunction with a March meeting and it will be discussed at the February meeting.

- 3. Discuss Park maintenance funds expenditures for new playgrounds.**

Don Henderson reviewed the previous plan to replace park playground equipment on an annual basis using money from the park maintenance fund. There is currently \$106,000 in the fund and he will bring back modular equipment options to a future meeting. Park priorities were discussed and Don expressed that the playground at Stormie Jones was in the most immediate need of replacement. The current equipment at that park has limited parts availability and other

parks are in or close to the same predicament. Harris Ryals was mentioned as another possibility due to similar existing equipment age and the high visibility of the park. Don discussed the process for finding options for purchase. A question was raised about reusing the old equipment to repair existing units at other parks and Don said that could be explored along with the possibility of donating the used equipment. Don also mentioned that any old equipment removed from Meadowpark or East End Trail Park will likely not be able to be replaced due to its proximity to the power line easement. Don and Randy Newby reviewed the details of the Central Park all-inclusive and accessible playground plan.

**4. Staff recommendations for park improvements.**

Don Henderson reviewed planned park improvements to be paid for with budgeted funds.

- Meadowpark – new sidewalks, bleacher pads, and shade structures at the soccer fields.
- Monterrey – add sidewalk, small picnic structure and light poles.
- Stormie Jones – add small covered picnic areas and sidewalks to seating areas.

The use of tables made from recycled materials and light poles similar to those at Boys Ranch Park were discussed.

**5. Park Board priority list for 2017 projects.**

This item was moved up in the agenda due to its relevance to the previous item. Don Henderson expressed the need for the Board to clarify their priority list for park projects. In order to move forward with the playground replacement, Stormie Jones should be moved up with the understanding that the Central Park project is still being worked on independently. The Board agreed on the following priority list:

- Central Park
- Stormie Jones
- Harris Ryals
- Carousel
- East End/Meadowpark
- Cheek Sparger trail as part of Phase Next.

A motion was made by Randy Newby to rework the park project priority list as listed above. The motion was seconded by Elvera Henderson and passed unanimously.

**6. Joint venture with the Beautification Commission for a Boy Scout Camp out at the Boys Ranch on February 24<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with a tree planting on February 25<sup>th</sup>.**

This item was moved up in the agenda and was presented by Board member Alex Cowart as a representative for the Cub Scouts. The all-day conservation project on February 25<sup>th</sup> is open to all members of the Cub Scout Roadrunner district and the accompanying camp out portion of the event on the 24<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. The event will include the planting of 20 30-gallon trees donated by MetroTex Association of Realtors and the preparation of a Monarch butterfly way station. The agenda for the day was reviewed. Approximately 139 people will be attending the event and participating Scouts will be eligible for the World Conservation Award. There will be a dedication ceremony for the tree planting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The group will be using the pavilion at the Boys Ranch free of charge for the event on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 20 trees will be planted at 3 different parks: Boys Ranch, the dog park, and Stormie Jones. The city will be able to choose from a variety of native trees. Part of the project includes the preparation of plants for a Monarch butterfly way station. The logistics of the way station were discussed, including that the plants will be prepared at the event and placed in the greenhouse until the threat of freezing weather passes. The final way station planting will take place in conjunction with the dedication in May. A question was asked about whether or not the plants would attract monarchs and that was confirmed. In response to a question, Alex confirmed the group's plan for meals for the

day. Don Henderson said that he will verify any regulations concerning the use of fire pits for the event.

Don confirmed that he will work out the location of the trees prior to the event and will have staff on hand that day to supervise the tree planting. Community Services will also have staff present to monitor the event. Councilman Sartor said that he would check on the mayor's availability for the event on the 25<sup>th</sup> and for the dedication ceremony in May. There will be a leader meeting at the Boys Ranch pavilion on February 5<sup>th</sup> if it is available. Should the weather be bad on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the rain out plan calls for most activities to be held in a room at the BRAC should one be available. The camp out portion of the event was cancelled because the Boys Ranch is not a certified Boy Scout camp out location. Jeannette Cook has information for the city staff on how to have the park certified.

A motion was made by Donna Williams for the Boy Scouts to use the Boys Ranch Park on 3 days for tree planting and Monarch way station preparation, in conjunction with the Beautification Commission, Texas Tree Foundation, and MetroTex Association of Realtors. The motion was seconded by Sam Fairchild and passed unanimously.

Alex mentioned that she would be presenting the same information to the Beautification Commission and Don stated that it would be a great idea to present the information to the City Council at an upcoming meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **7. Discuss individual park assignments:**

Reports on individual park assignments and park conditions:

- a. **Bedford Trails Linear Park** – no issues, lots of use during good weather, wildflowers planted recently should come in during the Spring.
- b. **Boys Ranch Park** – tough keeping up with trash pick-up due to high winds, duck feeding activities have been witnessed, signs put out were vandalized.
- c. **Brook Hollow Park** – no report.
- d. **Carousel Park** – staff will have a report on lights.
- e. **Central Park** – nice shape, staff complimented for keeping it looking so nice.
- f. **Harris Ryals Park** – no issues.
- g. **Meadowpark Athletic Complex** – no issues, water was recently turned on by a user.
- h. **Monterrey Park** – looks good.
- i. **Stormie Jones Park** – looks great.

### **8. Staff updates.**

- a. **Parks – Carousel and Bark Park – Pet Soft Grant – Water fountains**  
Carousel Park lights are still not on. Don took over supervising the project. It has been released for inspection and Oncor should have power to the meter and lights on in approximately 10 days. The \$10,000 Pet Soft grant has been awarded but is tied up in legal issues. It should be released soon with options for materials or payment. Options should be available soon for the 2 lights scheduled to go in at the Bark Park. An extra water fountain left from the Boys Ranch project could be installed near the shade on the large dog side of the Bark Park. Don said that he was considering crushed granite pathways at the Bark Park to alleviate damage to the grass and said that there continues to be requests to add lighting to the soccer field at Meadowpark.

**b. Recreation**

The staff is back for the new year. Work has started on staffing Aquatics and a front desk person has been hired. Preparations are under way for the Valentine's dance with a luau theme. The College Gridiron Kickoff is scheduled for this weekend at Pennington Field. The family campout event is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> and invitations for the volunteer banquet at the Pat May Center should go out soon.

**NEXT MEETING**

- 9. The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, Cathy Schneider made a motion for adjournment of the meeting; Elvera Henderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

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**Jeanette Cook, Chairperson**