

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

Approved

The Bedford Parks and Recreation Board met in a virtual meeting on January 7, 2021 with the following members present:

Randy Newby	Doug Allbach	Sam Fairchild	Maggie Jones
Richard Steves	Megan Girard	Jeannette Cook	Heather Lopez Valarde
Jeff Killian	Laron Street	Donna Hanson	

Constituting a quorum.

City Council/Staff Representatives:

Don Henderson – Parks Superintendent
Kelly Snook – Projects Manager
Rusty Sartor – Council Liaison
Michael Radoyevich - Athletic and Aquatics Coordinator
Janell Denton - Recreation and Senior Program Supervisor

Kim Brown – Chairperson for Cultural Commission
Marty Geer – Chairperson for Beautification Board

CALL TO ORDER

Randy Newby, Chairman call the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- 1. Consider approval of the following Parks and Recreation Board minutes:**
 - a. October 1, 2020 regular meeting.**

Motion to approve by Richard Steves; seconded by Donna Hanson - - motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2. Marty Geer, Chairperson for the Beautification Commission and Kim Brown, Chairperson for the Cultural Commission to speak on a collaboration of members to support events.**

Marty began discussing working together on projects between Cultural, Beautification and Parks. Beautification has had people drive up at Crud Cruiser and give feedback – gives instant information. People like that the city is giving residents an opportunity to get rid of junk. She would like more volunteers from each board represented at the events. She discussed Keep Texas Beautiful and what the grant money from them could do for our city. Educating children, using art, and recycling would be of a great benefit. This could be done through HEBISD, PTA, etc.

Kim discussed doing a mural at Roy Savage – that has been put on hold. Art has been posted on the back side of the fences in the Linear Park, including solar lights to have it lit at night. They would like to see more art and other things done on the trail. Texas native flowers would also be a nice edition. Donna Hanson was at the Music Pocket Park this winter, driving through the lights. We could do a large, drive-through art gallery where the lights were, and people could drive through and enjoy the art. Kim said she will discuss this in the Cultural

Commission meeting next Monday. Kim would like to see some statues or other art within Generations Park. This would also be good to be put in other parks as well. It is a great way to spotlight local artists. She would like our different boards to collaborate on ideas.

Jeannette Cook agreed we should combine our efforts and include each other in communications with each board. One person from each board could attend a meeting in the other boards to get ideas of what is being discussed. She walked a lot of Linear Trail Park but did not see any art on the trail. Kim clarified that most of the art is on the North-South paths. Jeannette said she will walk those areas and see the art. She agrees the art at the Music Park would be a great idea. Instead of trying to get art on the long areas of the Linear Park, it could be done at the Old Bedford School. Don was asked about using the drive-through areas for art. He said it would be easy to do.

Kim also discussed the Cultural Commission working on a project for signal box wrapping. This will allow local artists to decorate the signal boxes. They will start out with a few, specifically located boxes. They will pass along more information soon.

3. Discussion and possible action on purchasing new park amenities.

Don has information on potential projects in 2021. One of them is a lake retaining wall at Generations Park. It would be on the East side of the lake. Currently, there is a railroad tie wall that is falling down and needs to be repaired or replaced. One option would be to make the wall out of brick. It will look like what is already there, so it matches. The other option is to pour concrete wall for the same price. Rusty asked about the life expectancy of the brick wall. He was concerned about movement and shifting. Don is unable to answer that, but it is engineered, and this is how the engineers suggested it be done. The wall will be about 3 feet tall. Megan asked about putting art on wall if it is made of concrete. Don would like to see the name of the park with lights instead. Jeannette mentioned that the height of the wall may prevent much art from being displayed. The question of budget was raised, and Don mentioned we have \$75,000 to spend this year.

There is a 5-year plan he shared with the group. This were playground borders being replaced, new fencing, and retro lighting being changed to LED lights. Some of these will be motion activated. Ballfield lights are being replaced. Forest Ridge to Harwood trail can be extended, along with the Cheeksparger Trail.

There are some small items he was asked about for smaller kids, and there is a lot of interest. Currently, there is no place for smaller children (6 and under) to play in a lot of parks. He showed a small playground for smaller children at "Miracle Park". With the equipment and border, it would be about \$60,000. He also showed some small, individual items. He has no costs for these but showed them as an option. Donna agreed, and mentioned that at Chisolm Park in Hurst, there is a playground for smaller children there. She would love to have something like that in each of our parks. Heather asked about the smaller pieces, and if they would require their own footprint, or would they need to be in part of a larger area. Don said there needs to be a large enough footprint to provide a safe fall area. Jeannette asked about putting smaller items at Meadowpark. Onkor will not allow anything to be put in the easement. Donna mentioned Carousel Park since some equipment was removed. Currently, all playgrounds are for ages 5-12. There are several parks where the small pieces could be placed. Doug asked if any of this equipment would be put in Generations Park. There are future plans, but nothing has been defined yet.

He then shared our basketball court idea. This has been discussed the last few years and was tabled until this year. Potential locations are Stormie Jones and Central (Miracle) Park due to sufficient parking areas. He mentioned the possibility of removing the sand volleyball pit at Central for the basketball court. Randy asked Rusty if this might interfere with possible Miracle Park plans. Rusty asked if this would include a fence (it was pictured with one), but the \$70,000 price is only for the court. Richard asked about private funding through the Nancy Lieberman Foundation. Don informed us that Bryan TenEyck is no longer with the city. Don will try to follow up with the Foundation to see if there is still interest. Jeannette expressed a concern that if we remove

the volleyball area, we will only have courts at Stormie Jones. She has not seen anyone using the courts at

Stormie Jones but has seen them playing at Central Park. Heather agreed and said she would like to see it as an *added* amenity. Heather asked if we have a way to find out about funding for the court before we agree to invest our money for that.

Don also went quickly through several other items that could be put in place if we decide we would like them. He will send out the information for us to look at and discuss.

He also showed several accomplishments that have taken place since October of 2020. There were a lot of hours spent working on Stormie Jones, trimming trees, painting bollards, and upgrading to LED lights, put in new picnic pads, and added sidewalk. They also updated irrigation in Meadowpark and City Hall. They have also done a lot of work at Generations Park and supporting Special Events with their activities.

Don will send a copy of the presentation to everyone so we could look through it and discuss where we want to make improvements and upgrades. Donna asked about the due date for Generations Park. It is slated to open September of 2022. Jeannette asked about Cheeksparger Trail and moving this up in the priority. She said she thought part of the Phase Next Bond money was slated for this improvement. She also thought we were unable to extend the trail from Forest Ridge to Harwood. Don clarified that they have already received approval for that.

Don would like each of us to email him our top 2 ideas of what we would like to see done, once we have looked through his information. He will discuss this with us during our February meeting.

This will be tabled until February after we have a chance to reply.

4. Discussion and possible action on the Recreation and Special Events.

Michael Radoyevich – Athletic and Aquatics Coordinator - talked about events coming up. Bedford has lost a couple of people, and he would love any help with these events that they could get. Even if we could just help promote it on social media and helping with the cost of the licensing for movies, it would be appreciated. One event during summer could be a drive-in talent show, talent night, trivia or karaoke event. They would also like to do a trail-run or obstacle course, but this would depend on COVID restrictions being lifted. Would we be able to help promote, and possibly help man some of the events? He loves the idea of a drive-through art display but is concerned about a small art item being seen correctly, as well as weather.

Janell Denton- Recreation and Senior Program Supervisor – talked about movies. They have been doing drive-ins and would like to do one in March or April at the BluesFest site. This site worked well with parking and projection. They would also like to get to other parks to promote the parks if some COVID restrictions are lifted. The city only has to pay for the licensing fee for the movies, and they have been very successful.

Donna asked about getting a list of volunteer opportunities that we would be able to help them with. Michael said he would provide this for us.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Discussion and possible action on upcoming events and new ideas.

Randy asked about work being done on Dewey Tennant Park. Don said he has some information he has been waiting to share. Randy also asked about making a nature park next to Don's building. Nothing has been done yet. Jeannette thought the field was originally for the Fire Department. Rusty did discuss with former Police Chief Gibson, who also mentioned a police training site being put there. The Parks Board had at one time walked the property, and said it was going to be a nature trail. Don said he will add it to his 5-year-plan.

REPORTS

6. Discuss individual park assignments:

- a) **Bedford Trails Linear Park** – looks good. Being used a lot when weather is nice
- b) **Boys Ranch Park NOW GENERATIONS PARK** – looks good – lots of people on the walking path
- c) **Brook Hollow Park** – looks good
- d) **Carousel Park** – looks good. Grass looks great.
- e) **Central Park** – looks good, still seeing a lot of people. The hand-sanitizer is no longer there. Don will check on it tomorrow morning.
- f) **Dewey Tennant Park** – looks good. Lights have been upgraded to LED
- g) **Harris Ryals Park** – looks great. Lots of people there
- h) **Meadowpark Athletic Complex** – looks good – fence in the large area is loose. Don will look at it
- i) **Stormie Jones Park** – looks good. Lots of people when weather is nice
- j) **Old Bedford School (OBS)** – looks good – drive-through lights were a big hit. Would like hand-sanitizers
- k) **Cheek Sparger Trail** – Jeannette said it is overgrown and looks the same as it has for years

7. Staff updates.

Don, Michael and Janell have already shared their updates and information

NEXT MEETING

- 8. The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be February 4, 2021. This will be another Zoom meeting.**

ADJOURNMENT

Laron Street motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Megan Girard and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04.

Randy Newby, Chairperson