

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

Approved

The Bedford Parks and Recreation Board met in a virtual meeting on June 3, 2021 with the following members present:

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

Constituting a quorum.
Megan Girard was absent

City Council/Staff Representatives:
Don Henderson – Parks Superintendent
Cindy Almendarez – Council Liaison
Michael Boyter -- Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Randy Newby – Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Donna Hanson motioned to approve the minutes; Richard Steves seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

2. **Discussion and possible action on Central Park projects.**

Randy asked about the Foundation. It is still going on but has not been able to meet due to COVID. No money has been raised yet. Sam is unsure of the Foundation’s status. He is not sure when they will be able to meet again. Don added this to the agenda to catch up with the 501c3. Don wants to get started with the park on some level. He has reached out to Miracle, and Miracle was going to look at the plans and see if there is something that can be added now to get it started, so the public can see some progress. A couple of small all-inclusive items to be put in now. Don also wants to upgrade the volleyball pit to be like Stormie Jones. Jeannette added that anything that is added, we should do it with all-inclusive equipment. Don is trying to push \$50k in his budget that he will discuss with Cliff. Donna asked if the foundation was a sub-group of the Parks Board. The foundation is a separate entity from the Parks Board. Don has added upgrades to all parks except for Central Park (except for upgraded LED lights). Don said he will get back to Miracle to discuss small parts of equipment to put in, and he will bring it back to the Board to discuss.

3. Discussion and possible action on Brookhollow Park lights.

Randy and Don had discussed this as people are afraid to walk at night in the park. Don said they salvaged a lot of the park lights from the Boy's Ranch. They can put the LED (cobra-heads) on them and can possibly install them. They will have to pull out the existing lights. He can put together costs and bring them back to us. It will be a two-to-three-month process to get the project done. Don would love to see the decorative pole lights at all parks. He's not sure if we as a board has the funding to get this done. He thinks it will be 10-12 poles and will be close to \$100k. Jeannette asked about the light's effect on the neighborhoods. She also asked if the lights would be beneficial for police, or more risk to allow vandalism. Putting in the lights from the Boy's Ranch may be around \$10k. Doug asked about how long it would take. Don said it would take about 2-3 weeks from the start of the project. Maggie asked about getting figures on both the re-used lights versus the new decorative pole lights. Don will bring figures back to us next month. Donna asked about branding, so all parks will look similar. Don said that is all part of the Generations Park bid. Michael said the city is soliciting more help from some architects on that.

4. Discussion and possible action on future projects.

Mayor Boyter said we have an opportunity now to provide more for the city. He is ready to be a part of it and will be working with us more in the future. He is ready to "think big" and thinks Bedford is capable of so much more than we have been doing in the past. **"Every resident of Bedford should be proud of our city"**. The Generations Park Lake will be opening in June, and the ballfields will open in July and August. The city will do promotional things to make the public aware of the openings, touting the fact that we are ahead of schedule, and below budget. Residents have now said all the things they wish were in the park. Michael is talking to the council about a "refresher" and bringing in more amenities. He wants to think big and make Bedford competitive to draw new people into Bedford. Economic development, streets, and parks.

During their planning meeting the other night, Michael discussed 21 action items. A strategic parks and trail plan for bike and walking. He heard a lot of feedback from others about other cities' parks and amenities. Trails should be tied to other cities. They are discussing setting aside funds to devote to improving and expanding the trails. We should refresh our mission statements and look at improvements to put us on the front lines. We will begin with an audit of all of the parks to see what we have, and what the expectation of each park is. Gather data of what we *should* have to support our community. He sees us taking on a larger role in the city and its growth. Richard asked if the plan would be done in a year. Michael said it would likely get started in August and is going to take some time to get it done.

Don asked if he should slow down their projects to try to get more of the work done under the mayor's plan for the parks. The mayor does not want to prevent Don from doing his projects, but also wants to make sure we are spending money in a way that makes sense in the long run.

Basketball court bid has been approved and work will hopefully start soon. Some time in August, we hope to have it ready to have an opening. Jeannette asked where this would be put. It will be by the pavilion.

REPORTS

5. Discuss individual park assignments:

- a) **Bedford Trails Linear Park** – Sam said it looked good
- b) **Brook Hollow Park** – Richard said the graffiti is gone, and it looks good
- c) **Carousel Park** – Donna said it looks good. Shelter roof is blackened from trees. Jeannette mentioned there is a pin in the border has been bent. Don will look at it.
- d) **Central Park** – Jeannette said it looks good
- e) **Cheek Sparger Trails** – Jeff said it looks good. Discussions with Colleyville to get improvements done.
- f) **Dewey Tennant Park** – Randy said it looks good.
- g) **Generations Park – Closed** – Jeannette would like to see a progress report on the park’s work. Don said he could bring that. The mayor said this will be discussed Tuesday night during the council meeting.
- h) **Harris Ryals Park** – Maggie said it looks great
- i) **Meadowpark Athletic Complex** – Doug said there is standing water, but grass looks good.
- j) **OBS Park** –
- k) **Stormie Jones Park** – Laron said it looks great. New motion-sensor LED lights have been put in. Jeannette said the South handicapped parking is no longer marked.

NEXT MEETING

6. The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be August 5, 2021.

7. Staff updates.

Staff updates were discussed already.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Richard Steves; seconded by Heather Lopez Valarde

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM

Randy Newby, Chairperson