



LA MARQUE PARKS BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2014

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman McGaffey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Mac McGaffey, Bo Hunter, Larry Walker, Herbert Franklin & Michael "Rock" Bock

ABSENT: C.J. Leggett and Al Reida

STAFF: Ed Hersh, Cyndi Efird and City Manager Carol Butler

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting, November 21, 2013

Larry Walker made a motion to approve the minutes.

Bo Hunter seconded the motion. Minutes were passed unanimously.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Comments from the Public (At this time, any person with city-related business who has signed up may speak to Parks Board limited to three (3) minutes). In compliance with Texas Open Meeting Act the Parks Board may not deliberate on comments. Personal attacks will not be allowed, and personnel matters should be addressed to the City Manager during normal business hours —

Chairman McGaffey welcomed Sergio Martinez to the meeting. Mr. Martinez is president of the LaLiga Soccer League. Mr. Martinez requested use of the Highland Bayou Park soccer fields for the upcoming season. Mr. McGaffey said that the request would be placed on the February 20, 2014 Parks Board agenda.

Mr. Hunter introduced participant winners from the 3 on 3 basketball tournament held during Bayou Fest last October. Although the third place team was not in attendance, they will be sent their ribbons. The second place team winners were recognized and presented ribbons as well as the first place team. Mr. Hunter also told the Board that he has certificates of appreciation for the referees of the tournament and they will be presented at a later date as they could not attend this evening's meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action- approving the Parks Board Monthly Financial Report

Larry Walker made a motion to approve the financial report.

Bo Hunter seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion/possible action – repairs to equipment in all parks –

Chairman McGaffey introduced Ed Hersh who is an interim assistant to Mr. Morgan since Nathan Epperson retired from the City at the end of 2013. Ed updated the Board on the status of work being done in the parks. To date, dirt has been excavated around the swings at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Lagana Park and Highland Bayou Park and fall surface has been added. Staff will next week continue adding fall surface under the rest of the playground equipment at Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Staff has been trimming trees in the parks and has thus far trimmed trees in Westlawn Park and in Mahan Park. Work throughout the park system on tree trimming will continue through the end of February.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action –Grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Mr. McGaffey opened the discussion on the grant application staff is preparing and said that while it is a worthy project, he is concerned about the road leading into the park needing significant work. Mr. McGaffey asked Ed Hersh to elaborate on the proposed grant. Ed told the Board that the grant is for \$200,000 and would allow the City to construct a concrete walking/jogging trail around the soccer fields and along one section of the pond for a total of 1 (one) mile. The trail would be all weather, low maintenance and be accessible by all people. The trail would promote health and wellness, family recreational opportunities and be of benefit during the annual Bayou Fest Festival.

City Manager Butler addressed the financial aspect of the grant for the City's share and assured the Board that the City's cost of the project (if approved) would be shared between the City, Park Board and possible donations. Funds would not need to be committed until the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the grant application and forward it to Council for their approval for submission to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion/possible action-Waiving fees for Galveston County Sheriff's Association Annual picnic (March 22, 2014)

Mr. Mark Salinas with the Galveston County Sherriff's Association requested the Board waive the fee for use of the pavilion at Highland Bayou Park for their upcoming picnic. Mr. McGaffey told the Board that he discussed with the police chief waiving the policy of local police security for rentals since this is the Sherriff's Department and they can provide their own security. Mr. Salinas said that the picnic is family oriented and no alcohol will be served. They anticipate having softball games, water balloon fights and maybe a cook-off.

Herbert Franklin made a motion to approve waiving the fees for the Galveston County Sherriff's Association to use facilities at Highland Bayou Park on March 22, 2014.

Larry Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Report from Staff

Ed Hersh informed the Board that staff was investigating a possible grant from H-GAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council) for planting trees in the parks and/or public areas. The grant is for \$2,000.00 and requires a City match (funds and/or in-kind) and must guarantee survival of the trees for two years. Hersh requested the Board at the February meeting make suggestions on possible locations for tree plantings.

7. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hunter welcomed new Park Board member Michael "Rock" Bock and Ed Hersh. Mr. Hunter asked Ed Hersh to convey his complements and appreciation to the staff for their work on the playgrounds and tree trimming.

Mr. Walker said that he is looking forward to improving the parks in 2014 and make them more user friendly.

Mr. Bock said he wants to see the parks well utilized.

Mr. Franklin welcomed Mr. Rock and Ed.

Mr. McGaffey thanked Mr. Walker and Mr. Hunter for their work to make the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament successful. He welcomed Mr. Rock to the Board and said that Mr. Rock is a hard worker in the community. He also welcomed Ed and thanked Ms. Butler and Cyndi Efird for their hard and dedicated work to the Parks

8. ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting February 20, 2014

Herbert Franklin made a motion to adjourn.

Larry Walker seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.



Louis McGaffey, Chairperson