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MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
City Hall, 385 S. Goliad, Rockwall, TX 75087
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
6:00 PM

7 **Call To Order**

8 The meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at 6:00pm by Chairman Brad
9 Bassett with the following Board Members present: Kevin Moffat, Wayne Larson, Bob
10 Lewis and Charles Johnson. Larry Denny and Ray Harton were absent. Also present
11 were Parks and Recreation Manager Andy Hesser, Parks Superintendent Aaron Dobson,
12 Recreation Superintendent Andrew Ainsworth, Athletic Supervisor David Wilson and
13 Administrative Secretary Wendy Young.

14
15 **Consider approval of the minutes from the November 11, 2015 Park Board meeting**
16 **and take any action necessary**

17 The minutes from the November 11, 2015 Park Board meeting were provided to the
18 Board for their review and approval. Board Member Kevin Moffatt made a motion to
19 approve the minutes. Chairman Bassett seconded the motion which passed by a vote of
20 4-1 (Lewis abstain).

21
22 **Open Forum**

23 Chairman Bassett explained how Open Forum is conducted and asked if anyone in the
24 audience would like to come forth and speak during this time. There being no one
25 wishing to speak, Chairman Bassett then closed the Open Forum.

26
27 **Discuss and consider The Preserve Phase I final plat and take any action necessary**

28 Parks and Recreation Manager Andy Hesser explained that The Preserve is located east
29 of N. Lakeshore Drive and south of East Fork Road. The development is in Park District
30 #4. Phase I proposes 132 lots on approximately 53.5 acres. The original development
31 known as PD-41 was approved in 2004. The land known as Northshore Park adjacent to
32 Reinhardt Elementary was dedicated at that time to satisfy the park land dedication
33 requirements. Staff requests Park Board consider accepting the pro-rata equipment fees in
34 accordance with the Mandatory Park Land Dedication Ordinance for Phase I in the
35 amount of \$405 per lot for a total of \$53,460. Additionally, any floodplain, detention
36 areas or other natural open space, shall be maintained by the HOA and be stated on the
37 final plat. Chairman Bassett made a motion to accept the pro-rata equipment fees in the
38 amount of \$405 per lot for a total of \$53,460 and any floodplain, detention areas or other
39 natural open space shall be maintained by the HOA and be stated on final plat. Board
40 Member Moffatt seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 5-0.

46 **Discuss and consider request by Arkoma Development LLC regarding the use of**
47 **park land for the purposes of floodplain mitigation and take any action necessary**

48 In 2006, Arkoma Development LLC submitted a master plat to develop the corner of N.
49 Lakeshore Blvd and SH 205; one parcel to the south of Lakeshore and multiple parcels to
50 the north. The development proposed is zoned commercial and retail, with no residential
51 components. Also in 2006, the developer dedicated land along the northeast side of
52 Squabble Creek for the purpose of park land with the potential to construct concrete trail
53 within it. This dedication was voluntary because the development was commercial/retail
54 and therefore not required by the Mandatory Park Land Dedication Ordinance. The 2005
55 bond funds included money for constructing 8' concrete trail. These funds were used to
56 build the trail that currently goes from Phelps Lake around Raymond Cameron Lake,
57 underneath SH 205 and connects to the Squabble Creek Mountain Bike trail. The key to
58 this connection was utilizing the property that Arkoma dedicated. Arkoma is now ready
59 to develop the parcel on the southwest corner of SH 205 and N. Lakeshore Drive. A
60 large portion of this development is located in the floodplain. One of the requirements to
61 build in a floodplain is to perform a flood study and to mitigate any floodplain that was
62 lost due to construction. The floodplain mitigation for this parcel proposes to utilize
63 some of the land that was originally dedicated. This entails excavating an amount of soil
64 that is equivalent to the amount of fill that is brought in to construct upon. The proposed
65 grading plan is included in the packet for your review. The developer's request has been
66 reviewed by staff and the City Attorney. Because a private developer's improvements
67 require cooperation from the City in utilizing the parkland, a determination of impact
68 must be made. The excavation to mitigate the floodplain design is permissible if it is
69 determined that the excavation does not change the use of the parkland, which is public
70 recreational trail.

71 After some discussion Chairman Bassett made a motion to approve the floodplain
72 mitigation and that it does not change the use of the land with the following conditions be
73 considered.

- 74 • Any excavation adjacent to the trail takes care not to create any potential for erosion.
- 75 • Does not create an unsafe drop off along the trail edge. All building and
76 engineering codes apply regarding slopes and drop offs.
- 77 • Vegetation must be re-established to at least 95% coverage using native vegetation
78 approved by the City.
- 79 • Excavation must be done in such a way as to keep a natural appearance using
80 gradual slopes, non-linear edges and not hold water for an extended period of time.
- 81 • Any damage to the trail during excavation will be immediately addressed by the
82 developer.

83 Board Member Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

84
85 **Discuss and consider adoption of updated park maintenance standards and**
86 **classifications and take any action necessary**

87 One of the strategic initiatives for the upcoming year is to update and adopt park
88 maintenance standards and classifications for park land, City facilities and right-of-ways.
89 The standards are intended to reflect the values and expectations of our residents. These
90 standards detail the expected appearance and frequency that specific tasks should be
91 performed in order to maintain those standards. Included in your packet is a DRAFT of

92 the beginnings of a Park Operations Manual that contain the maintenance classifications
93 and recommended frequencies of certain tasks. The classifications range from A1 that
94 reflect premier properties such as Tuttle, The Harbor and Downtown to a level G which is
95 the minimum maintenance performed once a year. Each maintenance level is prescribed
96 based on several factors such as:

- 97
- 98 • Level of use by the public
- 99 • Visibility
- 100 • Purpose – natural undeveloped, developed, special use etc.
- 101 • Access and site limitations
- 102 • Site amenities
- 103 • Safety
- 104

105 Each maintenance level is intended to be optimum given the available resources,
106 manpower, funding, special event needs, weather and other uncontrollable circumstances.
107 Staff will reserve the ability to make adjustments to the frequency of cycles and tasks
108 performed as needed based on those factors. Also included in your packet is a map book
109 that was created to illustrate the boundaries for each park, City facility, and ROW and the
110 maintenance class associated with that parcel. It is common that each property could
111 have more than one type of maintenance classification. For example the developed
112 irrigated portion of the Park at Hickory Ridge is a class A while the portion to the north is
113 undeveloped and should not require the same level of maintenance. Adopting
114 maintenance classifications is important and useful for a few reasons. It communicates
115 clear expectations to the residents and staff as to how an asset will be maintained and
116 why. It also provides a basis for budget and resource allocation and requests. Contingent
117 on Council approval of the maintenance classifications, staff will begin the next strategic
118 initiatives that include analysis of contract and City personnel relative to the standards.
119 The information generated from this analysis may be used to provide recommendations to
120 change the service mix of contracted services and make budget requests in order to meet
121 the adopted standards. After a brief discussion Chairman Bassett made a motion to
122 accept the park maintenance standards and classifications as presented. Board Member
123 Lewis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

124

125 **Discuss and consider inclement weather procedures at Leon Tuttle Athletic**
126 **Complex and take any action necessary**

127 Mr. Hesser gave a brief update on weather procedures. He explained that in an effort to
128 provide the safest possible conditions during baseball and softball games at Leon Tuttle
129 Athletic Complex for participants, staff and visitors, the City has procured and installed a
130 lighting prediction system from the FY 2016 budget. In previous years a “lightning
131 detection” unit was used by the individual youth sports associations. These have proven
132 to not be particularly reliable. Staff requests that Park Board discuss and consider an
133 inclement weather procedure to guide staff, umpires and coaches in how severe weather
134 conditions will be handled going forward.

135

136 LIGHTING PREDICTION SYSTEM – THORGUARDIAN

137

138 Lighting is a hazard that must be taken seriously by coaches, officials, parents, spectators
139 and participants. Lighting is a form of electrical discharge between clouds or between
140 clouds and the ground. Thunder is the sound waves produced by the explosive heating of
141 air in the lightning channel during the return. The average lightning strike is six miles
142 long (but could strike from 20 miles away resulting in a 'bolt from the blue'), reaching
143 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit and produce millions of volts. Ground based items such as
144 fences, trees, light poles, bleaches and dugouts emit varying degrees of induced electric
145 activity which can act as a lightning rod. As you are probably familiar, many people rely
146 on the 'flash/bang' technique to count the seconds between the flash and the audible
147 thunder. By the time you hear the thunder, you are already well within the reach of a
148 lightning strike. For this reason the City has installed the Thorguardian lightning
149 prediction system at Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex. This system is designed to predict a
150 lightning strike with a defined geographical area. Using sensors connected to a
151 computer, the Thorguard system is able to measure and analyze the electrostatic field in
152 the atmosphere. It is in this field that lightning originates. Once the pre-established
153 detection limits are reached, the system activates a series of loud horns and strobe lights
154 to warn those playing on and around the sports fields to seek shelter immediately. When
155 the conditions for a lightning strike exist, the Thorguard system will give a 15 second
156 blast from the horn located at the top of the Tuttle concession stand and can be heard up
157 to 700 yards away. At the same time, a yellow strobe visible from most areas of the park
158 will activate and stay on until the danger has passed or at least 130 minutes after the last
159 detection of lightning. Once the potential for a lightning strike has passed, the system
160 will activate the horns giving the all clear signal with three, five second blasts and the
161 strobe light will go off. However, if weather conditions appear unsafe and the system has
162 not sounded the alarm, common sense should still be your guide and activities should
163 cease despite the absence of a Thorguard warning sound. Due to the unpredictability of
164 weather patterns, it may be possible for the alarm to sound multiple times within an hour
165 or even sound when there appears to be no danger. While starting and stopping game or
166 practices activities due to the Thorguard warnings may result in some frustration, the
167 warning must be heeded at all times. If the system sets off the alarm on a sunny day, it is
168 not malfunctioning. There is a change of being struck by lightning if the alarm is not
169 heeded. Once the Thorguard Lightning Prediction system senses conditions that favor
170 lightning, there is often a flash of lightning in the area within 10 minutes. Chairman
171 Bassett brought up several questions that staff should ask before presenting a final policy
172 or procedure:
173 Is there a staff person that can enforce the policy at Tuttle?
174 Is there an RBSL chain of command, and if so what is that?
175 Who makes the final call on suspension of games?
176 Who makes that happen?
177 Where is the safest place to tell patrons to go? (In your car with windows up?)
178 What designated mobile apps do we refer to? Let parents, coaches know.
179 Mr. Hesser said that we needed to establish chain of command and answer these
180 questions before a policy is set. Chairman Bassett made a motion to recommend that the
181 City staff develop an inclement weather procedure for all city-sponsored outdoor
182 activities at all athletic facilities in addition to a 30 minute wait rule with the safest shelter
183 being in your cars with the windows up, establish chain of command with the spirit of the

184 procedure being SAFETY FIRST. Board Member Moffatt seconded the motion which
185 passed by a vote of 5-0.

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187

188 **Adjournment**

189 There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was
190 adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

191

192 PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE PARK BOARD OF THE CITY OF
193 ROCKWALL, TEXAS, this 2nd day of February 2016.

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Brad Bassett

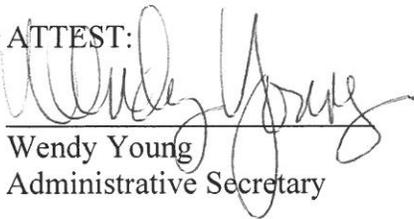
Chairman, Park Board

198

ATTEST:

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Wendy Young

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Administrative Secretary

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