



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, beginning at 12:00 p.m. at Brenham City Hall, Conference Room 2-A, 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas

Members present:

Paula Buls, Bill Betts, Luis Mendoza, Pam Hohlt, Robert Haberman, Ginger Bosse, and Darron Smith

Member absent:

Jim Baker and Delbert Boeker

City staff present:

Wende Ragonis, Dane Rau, Kevin Boggus, Stephan Gerhard, and Paula Shields

Others present:

Tommy Upchurch and Adam Wells from Upchurch Architecture

1. Citizens/Visitor Comments

2. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for a Term of One (1) year

A motion was made by Darron Smith and seconded by Robert Haberman to elect Bill Betts for Chairperson and Luis Mendoza for Vice-Chairperson for the 2017 term.

Vice-Chair Bill Betts called for a vote. The motion passed with the Board voting as follows:

Board Member Jim Baker	Absent
Board Member Bill Betts	Yes
Board Member Delbert Boeker	Absent
Board Member Robert Haberman	Yes
Board Member Pam Hohlt	Yes
Board Member Paula Buls	Yes
Board Member Luis Mendoza	Yes
Board Member Darron Smith	Yes
Board Member Ginger Bosse	Yes

3. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the December 14, 2016 Meeting

A motion was made by Pam Hohlt and seconded by Robert Haberman to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2016 meeting.

Chair Bill Betts called for a vote. The motion passed with the Board voting as follows:

Board Member Jim Baker	Absent
Board Member Bill Betts	Yes
Board Member Delbert Boeker	Absent
Board Member Robert Haberman	Yes
Board Member Pam Hohlt	Yes
Board Member Paula Buls	Yes
Board Member Luis Mendoza	Yes
Board Member Darron Smith	Yes
Board Member Ginger Bosse	Yes

4. Discussion and Recommendation for Possible Dates and Times for Evening Parks and Recreation Community Meetings

Chair Bill Betts suggested that community meetings be held to gather public input on future improvements in the Brenham parks. Community Services Director Wende Ragonis explained that Main Street holds quarterly informational meetings either early morning or after business hours. Ragonis explained that informational meetings could be held at the various parks, with the park venue being the topic of discussion for that meeting. Public Works Director Dane Rau stated that Henderson Park is the next park on staff's plans to do improvements and updates. Ragonis suggested that a subcommittee be formed, which would include some Parks Board members along with staff, to plan activities such as programing and advertising for the informational meetings. Paula Buls and Ginger Bosse volunteered to be on the subcommittee. The subcommittee will bring suggested ideas back to the next Parks Board.

5. Update and Discussion Relating to Fireman’s Park Restroom Facilities Improvements

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Rau explained that Tommy Upchurch from Upchurch Architecture will provide a status regarding the new restroom facilities at Fireman’s Park. Rau stated that surveying and some site evaluation was conducted. No construction will begin until after Maifest and Juneteenth activities. The goal is to have the design and the project bid out so that construction can begin after June 20th.

Tommy Upchurch introduced Adam Wells, who has been working on this project with him. Upchurch explained that the focus has been on the new facility only and that they are still working on a design concept for the WPA building.

Visibility is important for the new facility, Upchurch stated, as well as accessibility routes and safety. He explained that the site has its challenges with a flood plan to the south and slope to the north of the site. Upchurch said he is proposing three buildings – men’s facility, woman’s facility and a family facility. Accessibility to all three buildings will be according to code.

6. Presentation and Demonstration of Online Parks and Recreation System

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis stated that Community Services Technical Specialist Kevin Boggus will be demonstrating the on-line Public Access System for the park system. At the June 4, 2016 BCDC meeting, city staff presented the FY16 projects that had been recommended for funding by the Parks Advisory Board. One of these items was the on-line registration for recreational programing and public access to the parks system amenities.

Boggus presented the on-line demonstration of the web-based portal that the public can now access. Reservations for the parks’ amenities can be accessed through the City of Brenham’s website or by calling the Park Central help desk.

7. Presentation of Library Programming and Facility Update

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis provided the Parks Board with a presentation and an overview of the newly modernized and renovated library facility and the programs that are now offered. Ragonis explained that with all the new renovations at the library, it is now an intricate part of Fireman’s Park and is in a unique position to offer programming that will enhance the surrounding park areas. She explained that the library activities are now included in the Parks and Recreation Guide.

8. Parks and Recreation Update

➤ Administrative

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis provided the following update:

- Ragonis stated that budget items will be discussed at the next Parks Board meeting. She requested that the Board review the Master Plan to determine what initiatives/priorities are needed to address the community's needs that they would like to recommend for consideration in the next budget term.
- Wayfinding: Ragonis explained that this is a city wide initiative and that Main Street has taken the lead. Wayfinding's purpose is to get people off the Hwy 290, Hwy 36 and 105 corridors and direct them through the downtown area. Once downtown, hopefully they would park their cars and signage would direct them to where they might want to go in the area. The bids for this project are due next Tuesday and will be taken to Council for their approval.

➤ Recreation

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis provided the following update:

- We are hosting approximately 40 participants in Spring Training Camp. Community Programs and Blinn Buccaneer Baseball partner to host this event.
- Walk with the Doc is Saturday Feb. 25th. Typically there are about 35 – 40 participants in this event each month.
- Carousel is scheduled to open March 1 and will operate on the same schedule as last year.
- Community Services is now responsible for the Barnhill Center and will be bringing cultural arts and other programming opportunities to the area to help boost tourism.

Assistant Parks Superintendent Stephen Gerhard provided the following update:

- Tournament Update : In January, we hosted 3 soccer tournaments. Softball and baseball will begin their season in the next couple of weeks. April – July are scheduled to be very busy months.

➤ Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis provided the following update:

- Ragonis explained that Tammy Jaster was attending the Public Pool Conference, an association with 900 members. She is the president of this association. Ragonis stated that she was informed by Jaster that the Blue Bell Aquatic Center had just won the Safety Award.
- BBAC finished out the year with revenue slightly ahead of last year.
- Approximately 70,000 people came through the doors at BBAC. This includes the participants and spectators in the swim meets.

➤ **Maintenance**

Assistant Parks Superintendent Stephen Gerhard provided the following update:

- Jackson Street Park tables have been installed. We received great feedback from the community park.
- New sidewalks at Fireman's Park tying the park to the library have been installed.
- Re-leveling of the infields at Fireman's Park is under way.
- New signs have been ordered at Jackson and Henderson parks.
- Canopies at Hohlt Park to be installed by opening day.
- Fireman's Park scoreboard to be installed by the high school's opening day.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Bill Betts

Bill Betts
Chair

ATTEST:

Paula Shields

Paula Shields
Staff Liaison