



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, beginning at 12:00 p.m. at Brenham City Hall, Conference Room 2-A, 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas

Members present:

Paula Buls, Luis Mendoza, Jim Baker, Pam Hohlt, Bill Betts, Darron Smith, Ginger Bosse, and Delbert Boeker

Members absent:

Robert Haberman

City staff present:

James Fisher, Lowell Ogle, Wende Ragonis, Dane Rau, Casey Redman, Stephen Gerhard, and Paula Shields

Others present:

Jean Shoup, Helen Jordan, Lisa Keesler and Matthew Wehring representing Pickleball and William Amelang, Texas Roots

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Citizens/Visitor Comments

William Amelang, representing Texas Roots, explained how this new organization is helping the Harvey victims in Rockport by donating plants. He said that volunteers are needed, as the plan is to donate plants in Rockport over a period of a couple of years.

3. 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 Delbert Boeker and seconded by Jim Baker to re-elect Bill Betts as Chairperson and Luis Mendoza as Vice Chairperson for a term of one (1) year.

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

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

4. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the October 11, 2017 Meeting

A motion was made by and seconded by to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2017 regular meeting.

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

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

5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Additional Planned Upgrades to Convert the Jackson Street Park Tennis Courts to Pickleball Courts

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Rau explained that last year the City was approached about Pickleball in Brenham. Rau said at that time Staff discussed with Parks Board modifying Jackson Street Tennis Courts to allow for Pickleball. The modifications consisted of having a dual purpose for both tennis and pickleball by adding pickleball courts striping to the tennis courts. Once the addition of the lines were completed, the City purchased portable pickleball nets that was stored on-site. A sign has already been installed stating “Jackson Street Park Pickleball Courts”.

Rau explained that over the year, the local Pickleball League has grown and many great stories came from this new sport played on the tennis courts. Matthew Wehring, one of the league players, stated the league’s appreciation of the work the City has done to allow for Pickleball. Wehring explained that currently there are 49 paying members, paying annual dues of \$25 each, with many more nonpaying participants. Wehring stated that the organization hopes to have a stake in the courts either by funds paid and/or by labor for upkeep.

Ginger Bosse stated that there is a need to make sure there are sufficient tennis courts available. Community Services Director Wende Ragonis explained that when the parks master plan was created, the community polls indicated there was a deficiency in the number of tennis courts. All agreed that the tennis courts at Jackson Street Park were underutilized and most players choose to use the courts at Hasskarl Tennis Courts. Ragonis suggested that staff would reach out to BISD regarding the shortage of tennis courts to find out what their long range plans are for Hasskarl Tennis Courts and to address the shortage for the UIL sponsorships and do a survey of the citizen users of the tennis courts.

Luis Mendoza stated that several years ago there were “bootleg camp groups” that were using the city parks, charging their members a fee and not paying the city. At the time, this was a discouraged use of the city parks. Mendoza stated that the pickleball groups are similar and cautioned that we allow them to use the parks but discourage other from collecting funds for their organizations for use of city parks. Wehring again stated that the organization would contribute in some way.

Rau stated that he anticipates recommending improvements for the pickleball court conversion in the BCDC FY18-19 budget with the following costs for upgrades:

Repainting of existing courts to 6 pickleball courts with permanent nets:	\$19,400.00
Correct expansion court joint issues to make a smooth surface:	1,250.00
Adding a slab and a set of bleachers:	<u>8,000.00</u>
Total Cost:	\$28,650.00

A motion was made by Jim Baker and seconded by Paula Buls to approve the conversion of Jackson Street Park tennis courts to pickleball courts with a recommendation to the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) to approve the recommended fund request for FY18-19 budget.

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

Board Member Jim Baker	Yes
Board Member Bill Betts	Yes
Board Member Delbert Boeker	Yes
Board Member Robert Haberman	Absent
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

6. Discussion and Update Regarding the Fireman's Park Restroom Facilities Improvement

City Manager James Fisher presented this update. Fisher explained that the City is currently working with the surety bond company as the contractor has left the jobsite. The site is secured. We will be bringing in event-style restrooms that will be on site until the project is completed.

7. Discussion and Update Regarding Henderson Park Planned Improvements

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this update. Rau stated that BCDC approved \$294,500 in their FY2017-18 budget for improvements to Henderson Park. Staff is currently working with O'Malley Strand Associates to obtain cost estimates of the plan improvements as it relates to items requiring engineering. Other project items that do not require any engineering, such as the playground and basketball goal improvements, either have been installed or will be installed within a month.

Rau explained that the City has signed an agreement with O'Malley Strand to provide estimated costs for a mini-park plan that will include the following items. The total cost of these items are expected to exceed BCDC's FY17-18 budget amount of \$294,500. The plan will identify how these items can be phased in over the next couple of years. The items are:

- Swing Set and Playscape (close to pavilion)
- Covered Barbeque Area
- Modifications to Kitchen (access door)
- Addition of sidewalks and lighting
- Field renovation
- Grandstand modifications

Currently, the cost spent to date for engineering and the playscape structure and swing set is \$88,372.41. Therefore, for phase 1, the city will have \$206,127.59 remaining for improvements. Once some to these items are completed, another public meeting at Henderson Park will need to be scheduled.

8. Discussion Relating to the 2018 Meeting Dates

Chair Bill Betts requested the Board take note of the proposed 2018 meeting dates. No additional action needed.

9. Parks and Recreation Update

➤ Administration

Community Service Director Wende Ragonis provided the following update:

- Introduction of Lowell Ogle, Assistant City Manager Public Works; Ryan Rapelye left the city for a position in the San Antonio area.
- Tammy Jaster and Crystal Locke is at TRAP meeting this week
- Plan to schedule a meeting at Jackson Street Park

➤ **Recreation**

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis provided the following update on behalf of Crystal Locke:

- Programming Guide is available. Pickleball is highlighted in the guide.
- Walk with the Doc dates have been set for the remainder of the year. We are collaborating with various wellness/nonprofit organizations.
- Spring Training Camp was held in late January with 55 participants.

➤ **Blue Bell Aquatic Center**

Community Services Director Wende Ragonis provided the following update on behalf of Tammy Jaster:

- BBAC was awarded Best Community Outreached Agency in our class from the National Aquatics Professional Association. This award will be recognized at Council on March 8, 2018.
- Tammy Jester has been assisting temporarily with the Animal Shelter.
- Two new programs at BBAC: Beginning Wellness and Aquatics for Arthritis, which started on January 22.

➤ **Maintenance**

Parks Superintendent Casey Redman and Parks Assistant Superintendent Stephen Gerhard provided the following update:

- Basketball goal installed at Henderson complete
- Fireman's Halo reinstalled and paid for by advertising signs
- Removed some the brick pavers and reinstalled with cement walking stones at Fireman's Park
- Cemented benches along trail at Hohlt Park
- All Sports Building parking lot repaving going out for bids
- 2018 tournament field reserved total 34

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Bill Betts
Chair

ATTEST:

Paula Shields
Staff Liaison