

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2013

Present- Councilor Karen Mellin, Grace Laman, Norma Hernandez, Tammy Loughran, Howard Rub, and Parks Director Angela Cosby

Absent: Ron Williams, Brad Johnston and Jay Flint

Staff- Phil Elkins and Terra Patterson

Guest- George Hague

Meeting was called to Order at 6:53am by chairperson Norma Hernandez.

Minutes- The minutes were discussed, Grace Laman moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting and Karen Mellin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Chair Person Section

Grace moved to approve the minutes and Tammy seconded. Minutes were approved.

What do you hear?

- Karen Mellin mentioned a complaint regarding the ARC building. The concerns were addressed.
- Tammy Loughran mentioned the pool closure and looking for information regarding the closure.
- Grace Laman complimented the appearance of the pool after the closure.
- Howard Rub discussed the after the game dance September 20 and that it seemed successful. He also discussed the condition of Evergreen Fields.

The Quiz, Norma gave a quiz on the program guide.

Old Business-

1. Friends of Column- Director Cosby reviewed a letter from the Friends of the Column to City Council. This letter reviewed progress the group has made since the group took over maintenance this spring. Norma asked about a Mission of Understanding. Angela addressed that the city has not yet received a sign copy. Norma Hernandez asked if this could be addressed with City Council as it is over due.
2. Parks Foundation Update- Tammy reviewed progress on the foundation. They have been looking for new members, filled all of the officer positions on the board and are helping with Garden of Surging Waves donations.
3. Potential Wellness Center- Interest groups are still meeting on this project but there is still a lack of funding. The College is waiting to hear if the hospital will commit to the project before committing to moving forward.
4. Norma Hernandez asked if Parks Board members have walked their section of the River Walk. Ms. Hernandez asked that all board members please check in on their section before the next meeting and be prepared to give a status update. Phil Elkins discussed the Maritime Memorial Park. A section of granite blew off during the storm.

New Business-

1. Employee Recognition- Angela introduced Matt Burd. Angela discussed what a good job Matt has done, going above and beyond the call of duty.
2. Top challenges and successes- Staffing continues to be a large challenge for the department. Successes in the department include a successful closure at the pool and keeping that maintenance projects on budget. Program attendance has also been successful.
3. Phil Elkins gave a report on maintenance. He reviewed the closures at the different recreation facilities. The maintenance crew built a fence to protect the new cell phone tower at Lewis and Clark school. Phil discussed cleaning out the Senior Center basement. The basement is about 95% emptied out. The

maintenance crew will be helping install pavers at the column and in the Garden of Surging Waves project. The department had a volunteer who has come forward to work on graffiti. The crew also took on a project to make trees along Exchange look nice with new barks and removing grates.

4. Angela Cosby reviewed the budget to date in the current fiscal year. The income has increased over this time period last year.
5. A recreation report was given reviewing Aquatic center attendance, sports programs, and Lil' Sprouts.
6. 9th Street Park- Ms. Cosby reviewed the meeting held for the public to receive design feedback. 23 local business members and citizens attended. The group seemed to concur that they would like to see the park become a green space that is family friendly. There are four different groups interested in adopting the park. Angela asked for Parks board's input. Jay Flint joined the conversation via phone, he recommended that the department move forward with what the budget would allow and fundraise for other park elements. He also recommended that the local businesses adopt the park as a whole rather than just SETD adopting it. George Hague discussed his concerns with the park design. He feels it should be made handicapped accessible as soon as funds can be raised. He also suggested a few other design elements that could be included in the park. Angela recommended the board go to council to ask for approval to excavate and begin additions to the current irrigation system and remove the hedge. Tammy moved and Grace seconded that the board take a recommendation to proceed with the project to council. The board unanimously approved.
7. Corporate discount discussion- The department has been approached about providing an employee discount for different businesses to offer to employees. Grace Laman discussed support and concerns about how it would be marketed to employees.
8. The progress on recruiting a grounds coordinator was reviewed. Staff Elkins and Cosby did an initial round of interviews last week and have selected 3 or possibly 4 finalists to move forward with a final round of interviews. Ms. Cosby discussed what the final interviews would include and asked parks board for their input.
9. The accomplishments during the aquatic center closure were reviewed.
10. Ms. Cosby talked about the options of using recycling old grocery bags in place of Mutt Mitts. The department spends thousands of dollars each year buying the Mutt Mitts. Tammy suggested that the department test some different park areas with grocery store bags to see how it is received.

Chairperson Norma Hernandez, thanked Director Cosby for the job she has been doing.

Next Meeting- Monday October 28, 2013