

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION REGULAR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 20, 2024 (Monday) at 12:00 PM

McGuire-Dent Recreation Center
2222 28th Street, Galveston, TX 77550
(409) 797-3700

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:00 PM BY CHARLYN VAIANI.

PRESENT: Rose Tijerina (Mayoral), Charlyn Vaiani (District 1), Mary Ross (District 3), Diana Davison (District 4), Marlee Williams (District 5)

ABSENT: Blair Alexander (District 2), Dyann Polzin (District 6)

CITY STAFF: Megan Pierce, Recreation, Events, & Project Manager
Daniel Thomas, Parks Superintendent
Stormy Collins, Sr. Administrative Assistant & Special Events Coordinator
Jami Huygens, Aquatics Manager

Review and Approval of Board Minutes:

Board member Rose Tijerina made a motion to approve the January 22, 2024, minutes with Board member Marlee Williams seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Board member Diana Davison made a motion to approve the April 15, 2024, minutes with Board member Mary Ross seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Discussion / Action Items:

Update: Committee Chair (Charlyn Vaiani)

Board member Charlyn Vaiani wanted to give thanks to the Parks department for help with the Better Parks Gala and wanted to give particular thanks to Megan Pierce for help with the raffle drawings.

Presentation (Kathy Tiernan)

Guest, Kathy Tiernan, gave a presentation for a 2023 Parks Inventory which provides a detailed overview of all City owned parks and their amenities.

Vote on Baseball Complex at Crockett Park Naming:

Board member Diana Davison made a motion to approve the naming of the baseball complex at Crockett Park. Mary Ross seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Update on Special Events (Megan Pierce)

City staff member Megan Pierce provided an update on upcoming and recently completed Special Events. Recently completed events include Grand Kids Festival, La Izquierda Surf & Music Festival, Sunshine Center Mother's Day Market, and more. Upcoming events City staff are working on include the Ball High Senior Picnic at Lasker Pool, Galveston Island Beach Revue, Old Smokey Throwdown, various Juneteenth celebrations, and more.

Update on Recreation Centers (Megan Pierce)

City staff member Megan Pierce provided an update on the recreation centers. McGuire Dent will be trading in multiple units of fitness equipment in order to acquire a larger piece of equipment. Staff are looking forward to continuing hosting adult programming throughout the summer. Wright Cuney is prepping for summer youth programming with summer staff attending group orientation. The update for new security cameras will be presented to City Council later in the week. Megan updated that IDC Parks Package 5 has been approved, Vision Galveston says designs for Jones Park are almost complete, and Shield Park is still waiting on TCEQ to give their final reports.

Update on Lasker Pool & Pocket Parks (Jami Huygens)

City staff member Jami Huygens provided an update on Lasker Pool. Jami Huygens was promoted to Aquatics Manager and will now oversee Lasker Pool and the Pocket Parks. Staff member Lauren Arcidiacono was promoted to Assistant Aquatics Manager. Lasker Pool is set to fully open on May 31. The splashpad will open again after repairs and deck rentals are doing well. Jami updated that the swim team now has 74 members and will compete in their first swim meet on June 1st.

Public Comment:

George Quiroga and Mike Miller expressed their support for the naming of the baseball complex at Crockett Park after Eddie Janek Sr.

Council Report:

N/A

Director's Report:

Barbara Sanderson wanted to give thanks to Better Parks for honoring her at their annual fundraising Gala, sharing that it was an excellent event. Barbara also updated that McGuire Dent completed their fitness flooring and new equipment purchases will go to Council soon. Additionally, she updated that Pocket Park 2 has a few bidders for managing the pavilion on site.

Board Member's Reports / Comments:

Board member Marlee Williams wanted to express praise for staff member Amberly Mobley's fitness classes and her teaching skills, as well as Sheila Smith's Senior Bingo hosted at Wright Cuney.

Discussion Items for Inclusion on Next Agenda:

Discussion to write a letter to City Council in support of updates to the Community Center in order to better the facility for future events held there.

Next meeting:

Next Meeting will be on June 17, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 PM

Minutes prepared by: Stormy Collins
Sr. Administrative Assistant/Special Events Coordinator