

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of December 13, 2023

PLACE	NAME	P/A	PLACE	NAME	P/A
1	Angela Lewallen	P	6	*Blake Wyne	P
2	Elizabeth Flores	P	7	John Brooks	A
3	Chery Brennan	P	8	Jim Domer	P
4	Chris Crawford	P	9	Elaine Borchardt	A
5	Julia Sykes	P			

A. Call Meeting to Order and Announce Quorum is Present:

The December Park Board Meeting was called to order by Blake Wyne, Park Board Chair at 6:00 p.m.

B. Visitors: 0

C. Approval of Park Board Minutes:

Chery motioned to approve the Park Board Minutes of the November 8, 2023, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Julia and the vote was unanimous.

D. New business:

a. Establish Dates for 2024 Park Board Meetings – Stacie Anaya

- Blake asked if we needed a vote to accept the proposed schedule.
- Stacie confirmed that a vote is necessary to approve the schedule.
- Julia motioned to approve, Elizabeth seconded, all in favor no opposed – motion passed.

b. Blue Ribbon Committee Program Update – Stacie Anaya

- Jim: What are you wanting to do with Vista Ridge Park and Amphitheater? Wondering what you're doing with that area – are we still using it?
- Stacie: I'll send the concept again – the idea is that the area that gets flooded needs to be dug out. We use the dirt to fill up the amphitheater and create a lawn, biergarten, chicken n pickle...basically, an adult game area that caters to the nearby multifamily housing which houses mostly young professionals. We have had consultations on maintaining funding toward this, as well as the Miracle League and inclusive playground. This is about \$24 million to do both projects there.
- Blake: Thanks, that was good information! That was the Blue Ribbon committee update, correct?

E. Report:

- a. Director's Report - written.
- b. Preserve and Greenbelt Manager's Report – written.
- c. Programs Manager's Report – written.
- d. Park Operations Manager's Report – written.
- e. CIP Manager Report – written.
- f. Volunteer Opportunities – written.

- Blake asked what the surprise listed on the Director's Report is.
- Stacie: At the TRAPS Conference in February, we will receive a statewide award for HIP –

Planning excellence; Dr Lauren Fischer will be recognized as Educator of the Year; the department will be recognized as the best-managed parks program in the state of Texas. We will be down in Galveston for that.

- Blake: Tell her (Dr Lauren) that she's presenting.
- Stacie: Yes, that's how we planned it (to keep the honor a surprise)
- Blake: Any questions about reports?

F. Round Table:

- Angela Lewallen –
 - Elizabeth Flores –
 - Chery Brennan –
 - Chris Crawford –
 - Julia Sykes –
 - Blake Wyne –
 - Michael Pope –
 - Jim Domer –
 - Elaine Borchardt –
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- Elizabeth: Glory Park is looking great. But regarding Southwest parks improvements – I want to bring up crosswalk & pedestrian safety. I know we're developing parks. What are we doing about pedestrian safety to get to these parks?
 - Jose: There is a Complete Streets Committee. Our consultant Freese & Nichols is asking apartment complexes for feedback. They had good public engagement from one recent meeting. There is a survey on the City of Lewisville website for major projects. Anyone living in the City or that crosses the area can take the survey. You can provide feedback there on your personal experience and give feedback on Glory Park/Timber Creek. The crosswalk specifically – it will most likely be HICW (hawk) which looks like a stoplight but it's not. It flashes when people press a button to activate. Drivers will be alerted to the crossing. This is a high priority for our consultant and for us because it's a main traffic zone. It will be a priority for public safety, but the structure is still in consideration.
 - Elizabeth: Are there any temporary measures in place? Or is it just the one crosswalk at Southwest and Corporate?
 - Jose: We just have a formal sidewalk on Southwest and Corporate. We don't want to encourage jaywalking but there is no stop sign on Southwest Parkway. We can look at temporary measures.
 - Elizabeth: I understand that we want cost effective solutions but those are low-income apartments and people jaywalk to convenience stores. We want to make sure families are safe. There should be some type of safety control in place before the grand opening.
 - Jose: The park will open soon so this is a good time to conduct some site analysis that is cost effective. I'll discuss it with the Committee to see what we can do until construction is complete. I'm not sure if the Traffic Engineer will want a full signal setup.
 - Chris Crawford: High intensity devices are not enforceable. Why would there not be a stop light?
 - Jose: The Traffic Engineer would have to see that the conditions show the need for a traffic light. The survey is being conducted. A flashing beacon has the same legal weight as a sign. "Yield to pedestrian" state law has the same weight.

- Chris Crawford: I've seen people wandering through these high intensity yield signs. What is the criteria for a stop light?
- Angela: Yielding to pedestrians is enforceable by state law. Even if there is no high intensity light. That's my understanding.
- Jose: That is correct. Like the one here (at Thrive). There are some that are red lights vs yellow. That's the most expensive, the safest, and the lights are in the middle of the road not the sides.
- Chris Crawford: I've seen the flashing light signal in Old Town.
- Angela: Is the survey still open? I was impressed by the questions – where you live, where is it connected to the park... compliments on the survey design.
- Stacie sent the survey to the Park Board
- Jose: The survey is open until Friday 15th. We have not received as much response as we wanted. Public engagement meetings are also going to continue. Once the meetings are finished, there will be a bigger meeting with stakeholders to show schematics. Please take the survey
- Elizabeth: We've talked about our concerns with the HICW crosswalk devices. We don't see them as effective. I prefer to go with a stop light because I've found that especially at night it is dark near the crossing, and I haven't seen the HICW crosswalks as effective. I haven't seen enforcement.
- Chris Crawford: A lot of Texas drivers are not aware of that rule.
- Elizabeth: The apartments located on the same side isn't a worry. Follow-up question: the landscaping going in – with dipping temperatures, is that a concern with using landscaping money?
- Randy: Landscaping is going in over the next week and a half. Two dozen trees are already in. I don't see anything below freezing for the next 10 days. Anything that dies will be under warranty. No charge to us for replacements until Spring.
- Chris Crawford: The Castle hills parks are looking good. Any planned publicity to tell residents the parks exist and to visit?
- Chris Jones: We do have social media posts about completion and progress.
- Chery: Old Orchard is looking nice.
- Chris Jones: We're close to finishing that up. Two to three parks in next few weeks are set to open up with new amenities.
- Chery: I help with the bicycle (toy) run. I've heard from people that ride bikes that they can't find us. We have changed locations over the years. Any way to secure one place?
- Stacie: We would love to share that with the Tourism Department - that's good feedback.
- Chery: I've done this for five years and you see the same people. We should put (the collected) toys on the steps of City Hall.
- Erika: Many don't register in advance so they don't get the notifications and if they don't have social media we can't reach them
- Elizabeth: Is there physical signage?
- Chery: Yes, and people move it and have flags. But the issue is that the location changes. It's not a half block difference, it's totally different (each year)
- Stacie: We don't put (the event) on but we'll try to work with the department that does.
- Blake: Alright, sounds good. Any other questions?
- Julia: On Saturday there are two events – Christmas at the Cabin and the Chin event?
- This was confirmed by the group.
- Blake: Anyone want to promote?

