

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of March 20, 2024

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

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

The March Park Board Meeting was called to order by Blake Wyne, Park Board Chair at 6:03 p.m.

B. Visitors: 5

C. Approval of Park Board Minutes:

Chery motioned to approve the Park Board Minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Elaine and the vote was unanimous.

D. New business:

a. Sports Partners Update – Marcus Gallegos/Erika Tang

- Lewisville Football Association – Daniel & Amber

- Angela: What is a strength you see with working with City parks, what would you like the Parks Board to think about in years to come?
- Amber: Strengths: we have some of the nicest fields in the area. We also have lots of support from the park crew here. Bryan and Ramiro are great.
- Daniel: Railroad Park is nice.
- Amber: Yes and being near the skate park gives siblings a thing to do while the family is out there.
- Elaine: Why is LISD not wanting you to pass out flyers? (to promote LFA)
- Amber: Not sure. Possibly a concern with crossover with other cities. But we are the only football organization in the area so again we're not sure.
- Daniel: Me and Josh played football in middle school and we know the teachers. Maybe if we can talk directly with them it'll help.
- Amber: And turnover within LISD might mean there's a way. We schedule every Saturday with LHS and we're hoping that those connections help.
- Stacie: LISD is adamant that no organized sports league activity take place at schools unless they do an intermural league. The fields do get torn up, usually by adult groups, so everyone gets shut out to protect their assets. But it's all public money, they're all our kids, so hopefully it's something we can work through.
 - GLASA – Michael and Joe
- Elizabeth: Would love to see you donate soccer goals. Finding some practice fields for you to use is in our court, but if you could add 3 goals per year to your budget, that would help the partnership.
- Joe: I've donated goals to other cities and the issue is who maintains them and who is liable for them. They've been torn up with kids hurt in the past. It's an option but who's liable? That's the issue.

- Stacie: LISD has expressed this same concern regarding out-of-school times.
- Mike: Lots of people use the goals to train. Rec teams. In Flower Mound you can reserve half a field for 3 months so you almost have it for your whole rec fall or spring season. You still have teams that just show up and use it. And then those who have rented the field have an issue and we don't have enforcement on the fields. It's hard to track who is responsible for the group that's out there. It happens at Railroad Park too and we can inform Ramiro but if the Park Operations guys aren't out there, there's nothing to do. There's a church next to farmland where we've come to an agreement in Flower Mound but that's a special case.
- Stacie: That goes to your comment from last month, Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth: Yes, there are two Baptist churches off Bellaire with fields with lighting and they don't ever use those. I know that's in our court though.
- Mike: What about the open spaces here around Thrive?
- Stacie: That's meant as a pickup/open play area for those who want to do pop up games or informal practices. We send people there and we don't schedule it, want to avoid liability, and give space to those who are not organized.
- Mike: So is that where our donated goals could be?
- Stacie: That's a slippery slope, because permanent goals will make the neighbors upset.
- Mike: When I was growing up, you could practice anywhere, but it's not like that anymore. We'll just have to brainstorm.
- Stacie: People want to play, they're going to find a place. It doesn't have to do with culture.
- Mike: There's some open space to the left at LP.
- Ramiro: We just added goals there.
- Elizabeth: If you build it, they will come.
- Mike: Great, good for 4v4.
- Elaine: Are the doubletree ranch games hosted by GLASA?
- Mike: Yes, U4-U6 and U11 field
- Blake: Concern about adding permanent goals: when you have so many age groups, there isn't enough space to get everyone goals.
- Mike: With the City of Flower Mound, we use the smaller goals (not the 11v11 size)
- Joe: For U4-8 you just need the pop up goals.
- Mike: For U14 practices- we won't kick on big goals. We use the small goals to work on moving the ball quicker. They get the big goal on Saturday.
- Elizabeth: would love to see more ads for youth sports. A happy medium of ads that are local, and offered in Spanish. So we need to figure out how to get info out there for people to see
- Joe: we're working on a blast to get info to everyone
- Elizabeth: I mean with recruiting
- Mike: schools are usually in charge of ads along the roads and they're rough with restrictions
- Angela: impressed by TOPS program. Your ID about demographics and your plan for moving forward. You have researched this
- Mike: not trying to focus just on one group but yes we see kids playing pickup and they don't know about the league

- Stacie: we're trying to start a rec league within elementary schools and partnering with GLASA to make that happen. But we can't let the bigger kids come in and use the fields. We have to use this as a true rec and intermural league
- Mike: we have to communicate more, there's not a new GLASA but we're improving. I say this to the kids I train: communication is key to success. We recently had kids handing out candy and in the homecoming parade. Getting involved in Lewisville will help us get out there
- Elaine: maybe a barrier is not having Hispanic coaches and advocates for the organization
- Mike: a lot of it is that the organization is based around those who are interested and involved and can volunteer. If a Latino or Hispanic person volunteers, that's great. We have to let them know we have a league that's just as good. They don't have to go to Carrollton. We do have a lot of Hispanic coaches. They are located in a certain area and the reach isn't as far as it could be
- Joe: a lot of folks are playing from Little Elm. They could just play at The Colony.
- Mike: We might have to work on having Lake Park or Railroad Park being where 4v4 is set up. Those along the 121 corridor have to go to doubletree for 4v4. If we can open up fields or take a field and make it 2v3 4v4 they don't have to drive so far and they might choose to play here
- Jose: going back to the churches, have you tried to partner with a church before?
- Mike: we only have the current partnership because we were already there, we have a great rapport. The church on garden ridge and valley parkway came to us because lacrosse left. But there's no irrigation so by mid-July you have gaps. We're trying to see if someone in the club has the ability to help with irrigation. We're not trying to make money but field maintenance fees are a lot less right now. We do have one sponsor that helps keep the fields green but the sprinklers don't reach the middle of the 9v9 field. We do a lot of networking and some rec teams use our fields but not often.
- Stacie: have we made a presentation to you on our bond for April/may (bond election May 4) about how that will impact sports and the potential projects in there?
- Angela: City Staff is limited in what they can say but PACs – Invest Lewisville can
- Elaine: Maybe you can advertise at the schools and also restaurants.
- Joe: lots of teams get sponsored by restaurants. But it's hard because they want to play street ball. They don't know the rules, they don't want to play organized. The kids I coached are coaching now, they just have to get used to it. A team off Bellaire got to be 2nd place. Lots of good changes as we go.
 - Lewisville Baseball and Softball Association
- Blake: Was raffle new? Difference in registration numbers?
- Josh: Not new. It was a dollar then, it's a dollar now. There are prizes. Raffle hasn't been a deterrent to registration. You are told it's part of it, have to click to accept. And the website can be translated to different languages. We have a Hispanic population in the training program. 1/3 of our coaches are bilingual. We encompass the whole Lewisville culture in our youth program.
- Elizabeth: I am not appreciating the timing of practice field availability. I want to see physical recruitment. Lewisville does something every month (hosts a public event). Maybe you guys team up and have people sign up for sports in general. I saw that

you replaced your signs. Thank you, City of Lewisville, for the lights. It is good to be able to practice at 9. I love being at Lake Park. The availability makes it go late. I love Jose. Parents 5 years ago. Now you have a handful of teams. I look around and kids are reliant on .. we're being overrun by screens

- Josh - e-sports baseball program. Maybe if they play the video game they'll try it out on the field. We're trying new things. We've always done the Christmas parade. But now we have the flyer with Spanish on one side. We have talked with school districts to understand the issue with flyers. Have tried per age group per classroom. They just had to put it in teacher folders. If its electronic, they don't always get sent out
 - Elizabeth – I'm bombarded with emails. Mostly spam.
 - Josh - got 2 kids in school. I understand. But I still get phone calls from kids that graduated. They think I should know about things. We all do. Our big push is connecting with people face to face. Jose has done a good job with this (coach for Elizabeth's team) those guys have kids playing and the word of mouth is so helpful. We had 20 days sign up by registration day. We were able to find enough kids to make a full second team after registration date. We partner with Interlock. Helps with game aspect. It's different from other sports because we directly compete with Flower Mound and another city. They can drive 5 min or 12 min. Lewisville layout. Single family homes are all located on one side but we know another side/zip code gets more interest. Now that castle hills is part of Lewisville, we are looking at advertising opportunities. They aren't going to The Colony. There are so many stipulations regarding leagues and teams and all-star teams. We have stayed independent from little league we follow gold standard even for allows kids flexibility. After youth league out rec kids get opportunity to play in rec world series. That and all star tournaments. The coaches would rather keep teams together. We cover the cost and it's played at Bakersfield. When we talk about raffle tickets, the money offsets that. We make sure we have equipment. The bats are expensive. We encourage parents to buy the helmets. If a parent can't afford that we go buy it.
 - Elizabeth: you said some positives. Long term view – challenges, things for board to consider?
 - Josh - we could, at Lake Park, open space 5-6 – we could have score boards on at least 6. We don't have a score board. Tournaments – 5-8 all get games. We don't have a score board. We have added pitching mounds, we could add t-ball field. Parking has been an issue. ADA concerns. Open request? Open field practice fields that can be used for baseball and open to community. When I was a kid, there were several parks you could play at but it's been built up and the maintenance of some areas have gone by the way side. Open play areas would get kids into it. Wiffle ball leagues are getting popular. Is there something there with a summer league to keep kids involved?
- b. Business Plan Update – Stacie Anaya
- Blake: Want to reiterate great job. You didn't mention winning the gold medal which is the best award.
 - Stacie: The award is going to make the rounds with our teams. April 1 at City Council, TRAPS reps will represent the award to us.
 - Eliz: will try to be there
 - Stacie: wear your shirts!

- Jim: I'm the only one who's been here with Stacie and Bob. It's a pleasure to be part of this. Unbelievable job. Saw what it was before and see it now. It's neat to be a part of this
- Stacie: We couldn't do this without you
- Elaine: You can never retire
- Stacie: It's our team and our system. This will continue for a long time
- Charles: The vision of this org with Stacie/Marcus leadership. Great culture to work with.
- Marcus: We're happy to see Charles face to face. He's a trooper. We appreciate him and are happy he's here
- Angela: is there going to be a free library at la gloria. I can write a grant to get one from Scholastic
- Stacie: write it!
- Elaine: all sports partners have scholarships for kids. It's great. Is that a requirement from the city?
- Erika; in our agreement, we encourage it. But it's up to them
- Elaine: glad to see they all had it
- Marcus: highly encouraged if they do that, There's a highly subsidized park and we expect them to
- Eliz: are the projects funded or not – Randy's projects
- Randy: mostly. Some of it is partial (like the design)
- Stacie: a lot of our future depends on this bond initiative
- Chery: what do you think about the school board not getting their stuff and its going to affect our bonds. Do you think it is?
- Stacie can't answer that.

E. Round Table:

- Angela Lewallen –
- Elizabeth Flores –
- Chery Brennan –
- Chris Crawford –
- Julia Sykes –
- Blake Wyne –
- John Brooks -
- Jim Domer –
- Elaine Borchardt –

H. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Elaine to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m., was seconded by Chery and the vote was unanimous.



Stacie Anaya, Director



Blake Wyne, Park Board