

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m., Monday, April 28, 2014

Bay Education Center
121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas

On the 28th day of April, 2014, the City of Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Board met at 6:00 p.m. at the Bay Education Center, 121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas, and notice of meeting, specifying time, place, date and subject, was posted in accordance with the Texas Government Code, § 551.041.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ty Brisgill
Bob Shoemaker
Kathryn Morrow
Ellen Kennard
Cassandra Perkins
Leo Villa
Richard Corbit

OTHERS PRESENT:

J.D. Villa, City Council Member, Liaison to Park Board
Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Barbara Gurtner

1. Call meeting to order.

The meeting of the City of Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Board was called to order by the Chair, Ty Brisgill, at 6:00 p.m., who noted the presence of a quorum of members.

2. Citizens to be heard.

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Board may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens present wishing to speak.

3. Deliberate and act on the March 24, 2014, regular meeting minutes.

Upon receiving confirmation that members present had reviewed the March 24, 2014, regular meeting minutes, the Chair called for a motion.

MOTION: Board Member Morrow introduced a motion to approve the March 24, 2014, meeting minutes as written. Board Member Kennard seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Deliberate and discuss planning an update to the children's play area at Spencer Park.

Tom Staley said that repairs and upgrades to the children's play area at Spencer Park were made since its original installation about 20 years ago, but the play features are old style and are primarily for children of 10 years and younger. He added that in the last year or two, little use of the park has been observed, including at the basketball court that at one time received regular use. The real question is what to do at the park in the way of change. The demographics of the neighborhood directly around the park are beginning to change. There are vacant building sites for sale, as well as homes. Some existing homes have also been remodeled. However, the properties directly surrounding the park are, for the most part, in need of attention. There are also several apartment complexes within walking distance of the park where children were observed. They may or may not be familiar with the park, or it may be too far away and not convenient to those living at those locations.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed optional ways to approach the question of what action is best to determine a course of action for the children's play area at Spencer Park, and the following action plan was decided: 1.) Send letter to surrounding area residents inviting them to a neighborhood get together with free hot dogs, so that the board can hear what they would like to see in the way of amenities. 2.) Ask those in attendance to complete a questionnaire for added feedback to the board in its decision making.

Tom Staley agreed to present a draft letter to residents at the next board meeting.

5. Hear and deliberate on Community Development Strategic Initiative identified at the City Council and Staff Strategic Retreat held January 30, 2014.

Tom Staley briefed board members on the City Community Development Strategic Initiative identified at the January 30, 2014 City Council and Staff Strategic Retreat. He said the formation of an action team comprised of both internal and external members is in progress, and he asked if the board wanted a position on the team. Several board members offered to serve on the team, and after a short discussion all agreed that Kathryn Morrow serve as the board representative.

6. Hear and deliberate upcoming recreation programs, including but not limited to the Sharks Youth Summer Swim Team and Summer Concerts in the Park.

Tom Staley said that the Summer Youth Swim, the Sharks, will begin practice next month, and Saturday dual swim meets will begin in June after school ends on June 6th. He said that it is likely that Rockport will host two Saturday morning meets, and that volunteer help is always needed. Scorers, timers, runners, and event organizers are some of the needs for volunteers. Members asked Tom to let them know when he knows the meet dates. Tom also said that he is planning to conduct several summer concerts at Memorial Park. Council Member Villa asked if the concerts could be held in the downtown area in an effort to bring more attention downtown. Board members were in agreement that a city park, such as Memorial Park, is the most appropriate location for an event sponsored by the City Parks Department.

7. Adjournment

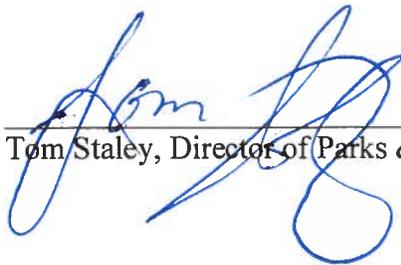
Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday, May 19, 2014, since the normal meeting date of May 26th is Memorial Day.

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD



Ty Brisgill, Chair

ATTEST:



Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services