

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Planning Board
Work Session
August 1, 2006

1. Parks and Recreation Spotlight: Chess Club

Guy Wormald, former Parks and Recreation Planning Board Chairperson, introduced Henry Delafield, instructor and representative of the Oak Point Center Chess Club. Mr. Delafield discussed the club's activities at Oak Point Center, the Douglass Community Center, and soon to be at the Senior Center. He also introduced various members of the chess club who have recently participated in tournaments. With the help of Don Wendell, Mr. Delafield presented Certificates of Recognition to several of the chess club members.

Staff and Board Reports

a. Fall Recreation Programs

Amy Fortenberry reported that fall catalogs are scheduled to be in homes by August 12, with registration beginning on Saturday, August 26. She reported that Plano schools began on August 9 and that recreation centers and pools will reduce their schedules at that time. She reported that the fall catalog will have a special section with classes and events scheduled for Plano's fall break, and that the successful K-9 Kerplunk will be held this year on September 9.

b. Park Development Programs

Robin Reeves reported that:

- (1) The Tom Muehlenbeck Center is proceeding on schedule with walls beginning to appear.
- (2) Oak Point Park and Nature Center's Public Art Committee has selected an artist for an art piece to be placed in the visitors center. He reported that the center is still in design phase with bids scheduled to be out in January.
- (3) Archgate Park bids have been opened with construction of seven ball fields scheduled to begin in September. He reported that the construction costs for this athletic facility will be \$7,220,000.
- (4) Big Lake Park is scheduled to begin silt removal in 4 weeks. Robin reported that the lake will be drained and the sediment removed and hauled away.

c. Labor Day Soccer Tournament

Jim Fox reported that this year's 26th annual Labor Day Soccer tournament will host over 500 teams and will be played on 47 Plano fields. He reported that some of the championship games will be played at Frisco's Pizza Hut Park.

d. Country Music Series at the Amphitheater at Oak Point

Jim Wear discussed the upcoming country music series that will be held at the Amphitheater at Oak Point. He reported that the music series is being promoted by KHYI, a local country music station and that the performances will be held for four consecutive Friday nights beginning August 11.

e. Items for Future Agendas

There were no future agenda items presented.

h. Board Member Reports

Bill Neukranz reported that the Parks Foundation is off for the summer and will resume meeting on Thursday, August 24.

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Members Present

Susan Plonka
Karen Bellessa
Francis Ngoh
Mary Long
Bill Neukranz
Alan Vuckovich
Nathan Barbera

Staff Present

Don Wendell
Jim Fox
Dana Conklin
Amy Fortenberry
Linda Benoit
Jim Wear
Christine Eubanks
Ron Underwood

Others Present

Guy Wormald
Henry Delafield
Michael Kendall
David Newton
Michael Coleman
Kim Henderson
Chess Club representatives and parents
Veteran's Memorial Committee members

1. Consideration of Minutes from the June 6, 2006 Meeting

Karen Bellessa noted that the minutes indicated that a stop was made at Jack Carter Pool during the June 6 park tour, but that due to time restraints the only stop was actually at the skate park in Allen. Susan Plonka noted that her name was not listed as present at the June meeting; however, she was present. She also asked that a list of the tour sites from the June 6 tour be included with the minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes with the changes noted was made by Mary Long, seconded by Nathan Barbera, and approved 7-0.

2. Consideration for Master Plan and Art Element for Memorial Park

Jim Wear introduced Michael Kendall, Landscape Architect, David Newton, Artist, and Michael Coleman, Chairperson of the Public Art Committee. Mr. Kendall provided a slide presentation of the park master plan, and he discussed each element with the Board and answered any questions. Mr. Kendall reported that construction for the project will begin this fall and the budget for the project is \$2 million.

Mr. Kendall then introduced David Newton, who provided the Board with an example of the proposed art element for the Veteran's Memorial.

After discussion, a motion to approve the master plan for Memorial Park and forward the plan to City Council was made by Susan Plonka, seconded by Francis Ngoh, and approved 7-0. A motion to approve the art element of the project was made by Mary Long, seconded by Nathan Barbera, and approved 7-0.

The master plan and art element for Memorial Park will be presented to the City Council at their August 14 meeting.

3. Drought Conditions

Jim Fox updated the Board on the drought conditions currently being experienced in Plano and surrounding areas. Jim provided a slide presentation and a discussion on the drought's impact on the park system. He also discussed in detail the parks watering variance which has been granted for all public properties. There was a review of the impact of the drought conditions on athletic fields and their usage. The Parks Department is being proactive to conserve water while trying to maintain turf and plant material in parks and other public sites.

Mary Long questioned what the North Texas Municipal Water District is doing to provide water for future usage. Jim Fox reported that the district has plans to bring additional sources of water on-line to meet growth in the area.

4. Consideration of Changing the Date of the October Parks and Recreation Planning Board Meeting

Don Wendell reported that the October 3 Board meeting date falls during the PISD fall break. He requested Board input on the effect this will have on the October meeting and whether or not the meeting should be moved to the following Tuesday. Don also reported that on October 10, he, Jim Fox, and Dana Conklin will be attending the annual NRPA Conference and will be unable to attend the meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made to move the October 3 Parks and Recreation Planning Board meeting to October 10. The motion was made by Alan Vuckovich, seconded by Mary Long, and approved 7-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mary Long, Secretary

Date