Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Rowlett Community Centre
5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT Chair: Mike DeLatte; Vice Chair: Dolores Henning; Members: Richard Kull, Eve Johnson, Donna Ferguson, Rebecca Day, Michael Schupp; Alternates: Elise Bowers, Kristy Andrade

ABSENT: Corrie Cabral
VISITORS:
STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Kari Pacheco, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation; Blake Margolis, City Council

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1. Chair Mike DeLatte called meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Quorum present.

2. Consider approving minutes from the regular meeting held February 9, 2022.
   A. Eve Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
   B. Dolores Henning seconded the motion.
   C. Approved 7 - 0.

3. Citizen Input.
   No Citizen input.

4. Hockey Association presentation.
   A. Robert Stockard presented information on league statistics such as youth leagues have 28% from Rowlett, 26% from East cities (Fate, Sachse, Rockwall, Royse City, Greenville, W. Tawakoni, and McLendon Chisolm) and 46% from other cities; adult leagues there is 7% living in Rowlett.
   B. This association works on upgrades and repairs on the hockey rink at Herfurth Park prior to each winter season. Since 2010 the association has hosted a food drive, where in the year 2020 they surpassed 7000 donated items. Reviewed their traditions such as Super Saturday, Trophy Day, Pizza Party and Skills Competition.
   C. Some of their keys to their success are identified as 1) Continued use of free clinics in September to introduce hockey to those new to the sport; 2) Provide used gear that has been donated; 3) Sell the gear at a low cost; 4) Water Bill Mailout. A few challenges for the association are 1) Soccer kids using the rink because it causes destruction; 2) Keep inappropriate players out of the leagues; 3) Kids who fall in love with the game want to excel in the sport move to ice hockey; 5) The Dallas Stars rinks and players are a major draw at camps and programs; 7) Most of the adults who play with this association are also playing on the ice too.
   D. Future plans include the hope to share their vision of what a new rink can be and what it can offer to the city. We must continue to insist we cannot shut down a season for a new rink to be built.
   E. Questions asked in relation to the statistics of members being higher outside of Rowlett and how this brings economy to Rowlett and is it worth the city investing in a new hockey rink. A brief discussion was held.

5. Nature Trail update.

   Kari Pacheco explained the city has reorganized Engineering services and hired a CIP Manager who will oversee Bond Projects; therefore, the department needs to coordinate more closely with them. There are sections of the trail that need repairs and the department is waiting to hear from them on the next steps.

6. Parks Board budget request update.

   Mike DeLatte noted that now is the time to submit any budget requests for Parks & Recreation Department to present to City Council. He suggests $3,000 for promoting parks, the events, snacks and drinks during meetings and events.

7. Dan Roberts Environmental Learning Center update.

   Richard Kull reported he attended one Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB) Board meeting. At this point there has not been much success in raising the half million. At present it is unclear how KRB of the sustainability plan once the center opens. A question asked on the status of a GISD partnership with this project. It was decided for members to submit any questions to S. Monroe which will help prepare for the May meeting.

8. Rowlett Parks Board events update.
   A. Kid Fish: April 23rd from 9am - 12pm at Community Park. Dolores Henning 10-12 & Michael Schupp will volunteer to assist at the table where they can promote upcoming events.
   B. Cardboard Boat: April 23rd at 1:30pm located at Community Park. Kristy Andrade will join R. Kull and B. Day as a rider in the boat. These three will get together to work on the boat.
   C. Paddle Boating: K. Andrade spoke with Kayak Instruction for June 18th and start at 9am. There will be an Olympic event happening at Paddle Point on the same day but believes this will be beneficial. She reached out to the Wildlife & Fisheries for possibly incorporating some programming and has a contact to inquire about bird education.
   D. Star Gazing: City Lights Astronomical Society for Students nor Texas Astronomical Society are back to hosting these events.

9. Urban Forestry committee update.

   Michael Schupp stated Oncor contacted him approximately 2 weeks ago and would like to partner with Rowlett although this is not confirmed yet. Waiting to hear results before deciding on any alternate plans.

10. Social Media subcommittee update.

    Eve Johnson reported a meeting was held March 7, 2022. Derrick Culpepper is working on a script to promote the Family Camp Out and Lunch on the Lawn. Goal is to complete video by March 18th and then filming on site at the events. Focus will be on other events more so than on the actual parks. The committee expects participation from other board members.

11. Update from City Council Liaison, Blake Margolis.
    A. Shared some street closures for March due to road work.
    B. Chamber of Commerce is hosting a mayor candidate forum on April 4th at 7pm and on April 11th a council forum. Both will be held at Church in the City.

12. Assistant Director's Report
    A. Events: Detailed May and June calendars were provided for members. Lunch on the Lawn begins March 21st - April 25th from 11am - 2pm downtown. Camping Out event will be held March 26th. Memorial Day celebration to be held on May 28th.
    B. Rowlett Community Centre: Youth basketball is finishing; volleyball and youth baseball are about to begin; still open recreation positions.
    C. Parks: Irrigation work being done such as making an inventory, inspections, and repair plan; Mowing contract for grounds maintenance of city buildings, medians, and major thoroughfares will be presented to City Council during the March 15th meeting. The awarding bid is to D & D Commercial Landscape Management; Community Park shop drainage repairs are in process.
    D. Projects: Lake Highlands Trail is almost complete and Miller Road project will finish the connection; Herfurth Park construction documents completed and out for bid; Bids being requested for athletic field renovation and repairs such as infield mix and grading; Working with DiscMania on developing an 18-hole Disc Golf course at Pecan Grove Park. Question asked if the course at Springfield will be repaired, and K. Pacheco stated the department hasn't discussed this yet although the feedback heard is that this one isn't used much, and flooding is a big issue.
    E. Aquatics: In the process of hiring various positions; The initial health code inspection is completed; Working on small projects and maintenance such as painting, cleaning, and group preparations for opening season. The revenue last year was $15,000 and this has provided the opportunity to do some projects this year.
    F. Boards and Commissions Appreciation will be expressed differently this year in April. In lieu of a banquet, each board will receive a meal during the board meeting and will be accompanied by a special video message from City Council.
    G. Blake Margolis inquired about the Rowlett High School students and criminal mischief. In response a meeting was held with Principal and police because this is a community problem; Issue s will continue to be reported to the school and the police. School is working on a couple programs. Suggestion is adding cameras outside the back of RCC when funds are available.

13. Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff can be made.
    A. Keep Rowlett Beautiful's Earth Day celebration will be held April 22, 2022.
    B. Senior Advisory Board will be hosting a council candidate forum on April 12th at 1pm at the Rowlett Community Centre
    C. KRB electronic and shred event will be held on April 9, 2022 starting at 9:00 a.m.

14. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.
    A. Preparations for the KRB presentation during the May meeting.
    B. Coyle House update.
    C. Soccer Association presentation.

15. Adjournment at 8:28 p.m.

Mike DeLatte, Chair

Kari Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director