

SCHERTZ PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

DATE & TIME: Monday, September 26, 2022; 5:30 PM

LOCATION: 1400 Schertz Parkway, Schertz TX – Schertz Civic Center Bluebonnet Hall

Board Members Present: Johnie McDow, Chairman; William Bosch, Vice Chairman; Reginna Agee; Sally Macias; Carol Yauger; Shawn Moore; James “Brad” Snow

Staff Present: Lauren Shrum, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Brian James, Assistant City Manager; Lexis Michael, Parks Board Liaison; Cassandra Paddock, Recreation Manager

Others Present:

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Mr. McDow at 5:31 PM.

Hearing of residents: None

Regular Agenda:

Agenda Item No. 1. Minutes: Consideration and/or action regarding the approval of the minutes from July 25, 2022, meeting.

Motion to approve the July 25, 2022, minutes as recorded (as amended) of the Schertz Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regular meeting:

Motion: Carol Yauger

Second: Sally Macias

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Approved: Yes

Agenda Item No 2. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair:

Mr. McDow was elected to continue Chair and William Bosch was elected to continue as Vice-Chair.

Motion: Reginna Agee

Second: Shawn Moore

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Approved: Yes

Agenda Item No 3. Discussion of FY22-23 Parks Budget & Project Priorities:

Mrs. Shrum spoke on the approved FY22-23 Parks Budget and how it will affect the coming year. There was a study done city wide showing a deficit of 44 positions. City Council decided to tackle the issue and approved about 30 positions, three of those positions were Park Maintenance Technicians. These three positions will have a big impact in maintaining the parks to the expected standards, as well as help with

the additional parks coming up. Another approved position was the Recreation Coordinator, this position will allow for more adult leagues and special events. These positions were influenced by the Customer Satisfaction Surveys showing a desire for more trails and leagues in the city.

Mrs. Shrum announced there is an addition of \$50,000 to mowing contracts, which is needed to cover the new parks added. There was \$250,000 approved for trail development, advocated for by the Parks Board. The city council also approved wage adjustments for all city staff.

Mrs. Shrum talked on the priority projects for the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services department. Ashley Park is finished and almost ready to be posted for rentals. The upcoming splash pad is pending, and construction is scheduled to start September 27th, 2022. In addition to the new splash pad, the city plans on updating the park amenities as well. Thulemeyer Park is pending an engineered site plan due to unexpected complications, the plan expected sometime in the week of October 3rd, 2022. This project will be done in phases. The Soccer complex went out to bid, but the quote was almost double what was budgeted. The city decided to act as the general contractor and sub everything out instead. The Christmas tree has been delivered for this year. The previous tree had a failure on the bottom ring. The city had budgeted for the new tree at \$50,000 but was able to purchase it at \$32,000. The Cibolo Valley Drive Water taps will hopefully be completed this week (September 26th, 2022).

One priority coming up is Pickrell Park. There will be more Barbeque Pits and picnic tables added in Pickrell Park and this is already funded. The city is hoping to renovate in the 24-25 Fiscal Year but it is currently unfunded. The park has been flooded multiple times, so Mrs. Shrum wants to update the bathrooms, the pool, and the Large Pavilion, this includes all of the electrical. Most of the infrastructure in Pickrell Park was done in the 70s and is due for updating. Funding was discussed and some options were CBDG funds and TPWD funds.

Mrs. Shrum discussed the need for a master plan for Crescent Bend Nature Park. With the influx of people in the area, there is a need for more amenities. Mrs. Shrum offered an outdoor pavilion, more parking, restrooms, and trails, to be added to the area. The outdoor pavilion would be used for education purposes and allow for more programs to be held coinciding with the new recreation coordinator.

The Homestead Park construction will begin soon, the developer has applied for permits to start developing that side. The slide at Cypress Point was claimed on insurance and the process has been started to get it fixed and back out there. The city is still working on identifying funds for the parks and trails waiting to get developed.

The Board discussed ways to get funding for projects with Mrs. Shrum. One option discussed was HOT Funds, Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds. The holiday lighting is a council driven project where HOT funds were an option for funding. This project would include a trails of lights and be managed by the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services department because it would most likely be in Pickrell Park.

Mrs. Shrum also noted the Skate Park will be getting one light installed to enable evening use during the winter.

Mrs. Shrum discussed her goals for the next 10 years. One major project was the Skate Park & Community Circle Park, the goal is to eventually develop that park as originally discussed for 26-27FY. Attached is the PowerPoint of the 10-year plan.

Mr. Bosch asked about new development and if there are any new lands being talked about. Mrs. Shrum stated all of the new development is already accounted for in the 10-year plan. There is expected to be \$562,500.00 in the Parkland Dedication fund by 2025 for these projects.

Agenda Item No 4. Schertz Trails Update:

Mrs. Shrum discussed the updates on The Great Northern Trail from last meeting. There was a property being looked at, the Board members decided to continue looking at it even with the restrictions on the property. Mrs. Shrum talked to council about the property and getting approval and funding, they gave conditional approval for the project. Council stated Mrs. Shrum would need to get official approval for the project once the property was ready to be bought and the funding was available. The Great Springs offered to buy the land at \$375,000 and then sell it to the city. There was an appraisal done on the land and I came back at \$390,000, to which The Great Springs said they would still sell it to the city at \$375,000. There was a public meeting held for the community near the property, to answer any of their questions and listen to their concerns. Most of the homeowners were concerned about the crime and homelessness rate increasing in the area but there is no expectations of it increasing with the addition of this area. The City is working on getting the deed restrictions amended to allow for a park.

Along The Great Northern Trail there is a connection going through an HOA private park, they were concerned people were going to use the park. Mrs. Shrum is going to go to their annual meeting in February to help answer any of their questions before their vote.

The development of West Dietz Creek Trail was addressed by Mrs. Shrum. The initial phase of this trail will go from Wiederstein to Savannah, and the city is currently working with a developer on the land getting donated. There is a potential for Dietz Creek Trail to connect to The Great Northern Trail.

Requests from Advisory Board for Future Agenda:

Mr. McDow requested to formally change the official term dates in the By-Laws Article 3. He wishes to change the dates from May 31st to September.

Announcements by Advisory Board Chairman and Members:

None.

Announcements by City Staff:

Upcoming City events –

- Introduction of new Administrative Assistant, Lexis Michael
- Dunkin' for Pumpkins – October 8th
- Hal Baldwin Golf Tournament – November 18th
- Next Meeting – November 21st

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM.

Motion: William Bosch

Second: Sally Macias

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Approved: Motion approved

Chari/Vice-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Recording Secretary, City of Schertz