

City of Carrollton
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
June 24, 2024 Minutes

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff Present:
Chad Averett	Nancy Stallings	Scott Whitaker, Parks & Rec Director.
Meghan Monds	Carrie Stovall	Kim Bybee, Parks Mgr.
David Taylor		Justin Swaney, Park Superintendent.
David Pagel		Maria Inciarte, Admin Specialist.
Bill Jones		
Suzanna Dooling		
Sharon Mathes		

- **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Chad Averett called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- **APPROVALS OF MEETING MINUTES**
 - Minutes from **April 22, 2024**, were motioned for approval by Suzanna Dooling, and seconded by Meghan Monds. All members in favor.
- **PARKS MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION**
 - Staff prepared a priority ranking list for members to provide their opinions on various amenities and features for Parks and Recreation development in the city. High-priority items included covered pavilions, pickleball courts, improved trail connections, benches for trails and park areas, additional splash pads, and more. For moderate priorities, they considered restrooms in parks, interactive installations, additional trails, and historical preservation. Low-priority items encompassed skate parks, nature areas, and open spaces. Members and staff agreed that this approach emphasized balancing current needs with future trends, ensuring facilities met the community’s recreational and cultural needs while optimizing benefits for various aspects of the city.
- **ROSEMEADE RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE**
 - Justin Swaney shared updates on the Rosemeade Recreation Center expansion. He mentioned that the air conditioning has recently been turned on to cool down the facility. As soon as it's adequately cooled, they will start working on interior finishes, like installing basketball goals and flooring. While the exact completion timeline is still uncertain, they’re aiming for late summer, depending on how progress goes. There are also plans to remove the temporary dog park fence and restore the area to its original size once the sidewalk on the north side is completed.

- **DISCUSSION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ORDINANCE**
 - Staff included an extensive review of proposed updates to Parks and Recreation policies, focusing on clarifying and modernizing regulations that hadn't been revised in some time. This involved standardizing definitions, particularly around permits for events at various city facilities, from downtown venues to parks. Key changes included introducing permits for larger gatherings, typically over 50 attendees, and consolidating rules on alcohol consumption. There was also a thorough review of historic designations, aligning with planning and advisory boards to streamline procedures. The debate centered significantly on potential fees for non-residents participating in youth sports, recognizing the need to balance revenue generation with community accessibility. The council sought further exploration and public input before any decisions were finalized, emphasizing fairness and sustainability in park service funding

- **DISCUSSION OF FEE ORDINANCE**
 - Staff and members reviewed and proposed changes to the fee ordinance for various programs and memberships. They discussed benchmarking against other cities' fee structures and proposed an additional 25% for non-residents, rounding to the nearest dollar, for programs like classes at locations such as Crosby and the Senior Center. They also considered simplifying pricing models, adding an esports incentive, and revising membership fees at the Rosemeade and Senior Center, particularly for lifetime members and those over 70. The focus was on maintaining affordability while adjusting prices to better align with market rates and expanding amenities.

- **CALENDAR DISCUSSION**
 - Staff considered holding a brief meeting outside of the regular schedule to discuss budget details once changes were made and a decision needed to be reached. It was agreed that this would be discussed in the future, and members would be notified by email if a meeting needed to be held.

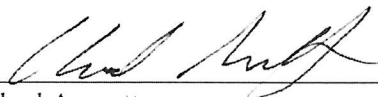
- **PARKS MAINTENANCE PRESENTATION**
 - Kim provided an in-depth overview of the parks maintenance operations. She first outlined the organizational structure, detailing various crews, including those responsible for construction, landscaping, trash collection, irrigation, aquatics, chemicals, ball fields, and mowing. She also discussed the equipment and fleet used by the department, along with the challenges of maintaining such equipment as trucks, mowers, bobcats, and other specialized machinery.

 - Kim shared the impact of the storm that occurred in May, describing significant damage to trees, playgrounds, and sports courts, and presented aerial photos illustrating the extent of debris collected. Efforts to manage the debris involved collaboration with city staff and contractors to expedite clean-up, especially in preparation for upcoming events. Kim highlighted the substantial workload and dedication of the parks and public works staff. She concluded with an update on ongoing debris removal and the challenges faced due to the storm's widespread impact.


○ **UPCOMING EVENTS/STAFF REPORTS**

- Kim provided an update on the pools and splash parks, noting that they were performing well and staying busy as temperatures rose. A new playground was set for Branch Hollow Park, with installation expected by mid-July. Several bond projects were in progress, including the installation of synthetic turf at McInnish Park's fields 16 and 11, as well as Field 5, a softball field, with contracts already secured for these projects. Renovations for the Perry Homestead Museum were also in the works, based on a storable structures report, and a contractor had been chosen to complete the necessary improvements. Additionally, a new outdoor fitness area was being developed at Josey Ranch, which would feature fitness equipment and a shade structure.
 - Scott reported that the golf course, heavily damaged by the recent storm, managed to reopen on Sunday for the first time since May 28th. However, it still faced challenges with debris and sand erosion. They hoped to have the Lakes course open by Saturday, depending on further cleanup and the release rates from Lake Lewisville, which were being monitored closely. Additionally, the city secured design funding for Oak Creek Tennis Center, planning to add more courts and pickleball facilities. An architect would be hired soon to begin the design process.
- **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Mathes and seconded by Suzanna Dooling. Chad Averett adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm. The next meeting will be on Monday, August 26, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chad Averett
Chairperson



Scott Whitaker
Parks & Recreation Director

