

April 18, 2024

**ROCKDALE PARK BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Present:**

**Members:**

Lisa Benford-Roberts- Chair  
Dave Melton- Vice Chair  
Mary Lou Loehr  
Georgia Marshall  
Judith Carver

**City Staff**

Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director  
Shanna Johnson, City Secretary

**Absent\***

Barbara Holly, AICP, City Manager  
Brett Boren

**Call to order and announce a Quorum is Present**

With a quorum present of the Park Board members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockdale Park Board was called to order by Lisa Benford-Roberts at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday April 18, 2024, at City Hall, 505 W Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas.

**3. Citizen Communications**

No comments made.

**4A. Receive a presentation from Freese and Nichols on the Parks Master Plan.**

Caitlin Admire spoke about the design of the comprehensive plan. It is not a regulatory document, but rather a guideline for future development projects.

**5A. Review and approve minutes from regular meeting on January 18, 2024.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Boardmember Loehr and a second by Boardmember Melton, the Parks Board voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

**5B. Consider and approve hosting a fundraiser for the Dog Park.**

Boardmember Marshall suggested a fundraiser to possibly move the Dog Park to a new location with easier access for citizens. The City has an account for the Dog Park to save funds raised by the community. Boardmember Melton discusses the idea of a city ordinance to register and vaccinate dogs. Boardmember Loehr offers to gather information on accreditation for the Animal Control Officer to have the authority to enforce laws pertaining to animals. No motion made.

**5C. Receive an update regarding the Parks Master plan.**

Freese and Nichols provided the presentation.

**5D. Receive an update and take any necessary action regarding Moultry Park.**

Director Brunson informed the board that there are no active projects for the park. The restrooms are being maintained. The Rotary Club had offered to provide metal toilets for the park to dissuade vandalism.

**5E. Receive an update and take any necessary action regarding Bridge Park. (adding a pond- Councilmembers Olivares and Starnes)**

Director Brunson spoke about a request from Council to research the logistics of installing a pond. The board agreed to look into other issues such as parking, fixing up the bridge and trails. No motion made.

**5F. Receive an update and take any necessary action regarding Sumuel Park. (bridge)**

Director Brunson reported the findings of the health of the cottonwood tree. The finding show internal decay and a safety hazard. The board discussed salvaging the wood for community crafters. Also discussed cutting off the three branches while leaving the stump and installing a marker commemorating the biggest cottonwood tree in Milam County.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Boardmember Melton and a second by Boardmember Carver, the Parks Board voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to recommend the removal of the tree due to safety concerns. Motion Carried.

**5G. Receive an update and take any necessary action regarding Veterans Memorial Park. (new benches)**

Discussion on board approval to replace the broken benches at he tennis courts with the new sesquicentennial benches.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Boardmember Loehr and a second by Boardmember Carver, the Parks Board voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the replacement of the tennis court benches. Motion Carried.

**5H. Discuss and take any necessary action on City Park projects/maintenance.**

Discussion was on the pool opening May 25, 2024. Staff requests a free pool day during the sesquicentennial events in July. Boardmember Loehr requests the walking trails be maintained and updated with new path materials when funds allow. Director Brunson spoke about the trails on the project list under the Capitol Improvements projects (CIP).

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**



Timothy Kelty  
City Manager



Lisa Benford-Roberts  
Chairman