



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The City of Grand Prairie Park Board Meeting convened at 6:30 PM on January 27, 2021 via teleconference.

Park Board Members Present:

B.J. Nichols	John Stewart	Emita Garcia	Jerry Partain	VanDella Meniffee
Greg Mullen	Malcom Chakery	Mal Earl	Bryan Parra	

City Staff Present:

Duane Strawn Krista Marrs

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizens were in attendance to comment

AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of December 2, 2020 Minutes, Presented by B.J. Nichols

Greg Mullen made a motion for approval of the December 2, 2020 minutes and Mal Earl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Naming Committee Presentations, Presented by Naming Committee Chairs

- a. Park Naming Committee Recommendation for Parks, Arts & Recreation Administration Building.
 - Jerry Partain made a motion to rename the Parks, Arts & Recreation Administration building to the Rick Herold Administration Building. Mal Earl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Park Naming Committee Recommendation for Prairie Lakes Tournament Pavilion
 - Malcom Chakery made a motion to name the Prairie Lakes Tournament Pavilion the Jerry V Debo III Pavilion at Prairie Lakes. VanDella Meniffee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Tree Board Report, Presented by Duane Strawn

The following is a list of tree related activities for Parks, Lake Parks, Golf Courses, and Cemetery Divisions reported for the month of December 2020.

Parks Maintenance: (North, South, Municipal & Gateway Crews)

- 1,600 Man hours – Winter Pruning, maintenance, removal, hauling brush.

Lake Parks: (Lynn Creek Park / Loyd Park)

- 40 Man hours – Pruning, maintenance, removal, stump grinding, and storm clean up
Golf Courses: (Prairie Lakes / Tangle Ridge)
 - 128 Man hours – Pruning, maintenance and storm clean up
Cemetery:
 - 5 Man Hours – Pruning and maintenance
- Totals for Tree Related Activities:
- 1773 - Man hours

Tree City USA Update: We have submitted our Tree City USA application for our 37th year. The Texas Forest service has approved our application and we will be accredited from the Arbor Day Foundation in the coming weeks.

Epic Central Butterfly Garden: The National Wildlife Foundation has approved the Butterfly Garden as a “Certified Wildlife Habitat” The Garden promotes Food, Water, Shelter, a place to raise young, along with sustainable practices. We have placed a neat plaque in the garden.

Park Board Reports, Presented by The Park Board Members

- Special Events (Malcom Chakery) – Prairie Lights had a record-breaking year. Chicken N Pickle had their groundbreaking on Friday, Jan 22. Recreation team hosted the MLK Celebration and Parade at Epic Central on MLK Jr. Day.
- Recreation (Mal Earl) – Center continue to be used as Fitness centers and hosts after school programs.
- The Summit (John Stewart and Emita Garcia) – March 1st is still the projected opening date. Meal Program still serving 65 meals daily. Several construction projects have been completed
- Uptown/Market Square (Bryan Parra and Jerry Partain) – Farmers Market wrapped up with over 200+ guests. Uptown has a steady flow of rentals. There will not be season tickets for 2021. They are looking into improvements and future events. They will continue to work with GPAC on their plays.
- Playgrounds (Mal Earl) – Parkhill Park looks great
- Ruthe Jackson Center (Bryan Parra) – 50% capacity brides are still booking wedding. Hoping to see more corporate events soon.
- Golf (Greg Mullen) – The courses are still maintaining great business
- The Epic (John Stewart and Malcom Chakery) – GroupFit classes taught inhouse. Hit 10,000 members since closing in March 2020 due to COVID Pandemic. Continuing to grow membership with positive feedback on cleanliness of facility.
- PlayGrand Adventures (Emita Garcia) – PlayGrand is still closed and there are patrols to keep people from jumping the fences. Working towards next steps to fundraise and start the next Phase of PlayGrand Adventures.
- Cricket/Rugby (B.J. Nichols) – League play has continued for Cricket and Rugby.
- Lake Parks (VanDella Meniffee and Jerry Partain) – No report
- Memorial Gardens (VanDella Meniffee) – Have had several burials and sold out of certain areas.
- Alliance Skate Park (B.J. Nichols) – Had a successful year and sold out nearly every week of camps
- Pickleball (Greg Mullen) – Averaging 150 players per week and will be part of the fitness component offered when The Summit reopens
- Sports Association (VanDella Meniffee) – Complexes are closed during the winter for maintenance. Boys baseball and Girls fastpitch are in registration for spring season.

Chairman Presentation, Presented by B.J. Nichols

- a. 2021 Park Board Schedule - Meetings will be the 4th Wednesday of the month with the following exceptions: No meeting in July for National Parks & Recreation Month. We will combine November and December's meeting on December 1.
- b. Mi Familia Park – City Council adopted the new name on October 18, 2020 and the new sign was added to the park this month.

Director Presentation, Presented by Duane Strawn

- a. Prairie Lights – Prairie Lights had a very successful year. Staff did a great job organizing the event during the pandemic.
- b. EpicCentral – Chicken N Pickle had their groundbreaking on Friday, Jan 22. Should open sometime this fall. Within the next 18-24 months EpicCentral should be developed.
- c. COVID-19 – City employee in housing passed away recently in relation to COVID. Our department wide protocols are spot on and we're making every location as safe as possible for all our citizens and guests.

ADJOURNMENT

Certification

In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A, the Park Board agenda was prepared and posted January 22, 2021.

Krista Marrs, Administrative Supervisor