



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

City of Dripping Springs

Council Chambers, 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX

Monday, January 04, 2021 at 6:00 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

This meeting will be held via videoconference and the public is encouraged and welcome to participate. Public comment may be given during the videoconference by joining the meeting using the information below. Public comment for this meeting may also be submitted to the City Secretary at acunningham@cityofdrippingsprings.com no later than 4:00 PM on the day the meeting will be held.

The Parks & Recreation Commission respectfully requests that all microphones and webcams be disabled unless you are a member of the Commission. City staff, consultants and presenters, please enable your microphone and webcam when presenting to the Commission.

Agenda

MEETING SPECIFIC VIDEOCONFERENCE INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89552330066?pwd=Z0s4MEhxM3BRTkdvQllpY3FvR3d6UT09>

Meeting ID: 895 5233 0066

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Join by Skype for Business: <https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/89552330066>

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commission Members

Robbie Zamora, Chair

Eric Russell, Vice Chair

Matthew Fougerat

Paul Fushille

Eric Henline

Wade King

Matthew Zarbaugh

Amber Ballman

Staff, Consultants & Appointed/Elected Officials

Parks & Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt

City Secretary Andrea Cunningham

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS

A member of the public who desires to address the Commission regarding any item on an agenda for an open meeting may do so at presentation of citizens before an item or at a public hearing for an item during the Commission's consideration of that item. Citizens wishing to discuss matters not contained within the current agenda may do so, but only during the time allotted for presentation of citizens. Speakers are allowed two (2) minutes to speak during presentation of citizens or during each public hearing. Speakers may not cede or pool time. Members of the public requiring the assistance of a translator will be given twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator to address the Commission. It is the request of the Commission that members of the public wishing to speak on item(s) on the agenda with a noticed Public Hearing hold their comments until the item(s) are presented for consideration. Speakers are encouraged to sign in. Anyone may request a copy of the City's policy on presentation of citizens from the city secretary. By law no action may be taken during Presentations of Citizens.

MINUTES

- 1. Discuss and consider approval of the December 7, 2020 Parks & Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes.**

BUSINESS

- 2. Discuss and consider recommendation regarding a request for a recreation trail connecting Springlake neighborhood and Dripping Springs Ranch Park.**
- 3. Discuss and consider recommendation regarding a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Dripping Springs and Tiger Splash TAAF Swim Team for use of the Founders Pool.**
- 4. Discuss and consider recommendation regarding a request to remove Mountain Bike Riders from Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit of the City of Dripping Springs Fee schedule.**
- 5. Discuss and consider recommendation regarding the creation of a Parks & Community Services Programs & Aquatics Manager position.**

REPORTS

The following reports relate to the planning and administration of the City's Parks & Recreation Program. The commission may provide staff direction; however, no action may be taken.

- 6. Parks & Community Services Director's Monthly Report**
Kelly Schmidt, PCS Director

PARKS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following reports relate to the administration of the City's Parks. The Commission may provide staff direction; however no action may be taken.

- 7. Charro Ranch Park Committee**
Commissioners Paul Fushille and Matt Fougerat
- 8. Dripping Springs Ranch Park Committee**
Commissioners Wade King and Matthew Zarbaugh
- 9. Founders Memorial Park Committee**
Commissioners Eric Henline and Amber Ballman
- 10. Sports & Recreation Park Committee**
Commissioners Eric Russell and Robbie Zamora
- 11. Veterans Memorial Park Committee**
Commissioner Robbie Zamora

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Dripping Springs has the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.086 (Economic Development). The Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Dripping Springs may act on any item listed in Executive Session in Open Session or move any item from Executive Session to Open Session for action.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings

February 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

April 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p. m.

February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT PUBLIC NOTIFICATION & POSTING OF MEETING

All agenda items listed above are eligible for discussion and action unless otherwise specifically noted. This notice of meeting is posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes. Annotated. In addition, the Commission may consider a vote to excuse the absence of any Commissioner for absence from this meeting.

Due to the Texas Governor Order, Hays County Order, City of Dripping Springs Disaster Declaration, and Center for Disease Control guidelines related to COVID-19, a quorum of this body could not be

gathered in one place, and this meeting will be conducted through videoconferencing. Texas Government Code Sections 551.045; 551.125; and 551.127.

*I certify that this notice of meeting was posted at the City of Dripping Springs City Hall and website, www.cityofdrippingsprings.com, on **January 1, 2021 at 2:40 p.m.***

City Secretary

This facility is wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for auxiliary aids and services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting by calling (512) 858-4725.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

City of Dripping Springs

Council Chambers, 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX

Monday, December 07, 2020 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

MEETING SPECIFIC VIDEOCONFERENCE INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87450846734?pwd=UW9tS01BMWROSTILWWhVMzZ2NIJPdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5084 6734

Passcode: 668529

Dial Toll Free:

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888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87450846734>

Join by Skype for Business: [https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/87450846734](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87450846734)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commission Members present were:

- Robbie Zamora, Chair
- Eric Russell, Vice Chair
- Paul Fushille
- Eric Henline
- Wade King

Commission Members absent were:

- Matthew Fougerat
- Matthew Zarbaugh
- Amber Ballman

Staff, Consultants & Appointed/Elected Officials

- Parks & Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt
- City Secretary Andrea Cunningham
- City Attorney Laura Mueller
- Senior Planner Amanda Padilla
- Planning Consultant Robyn Miga
- Parks Planning Consultant Brent Luck

With a quorum of the Commission present, Chair Zamora called the meeting to order at 6:17.

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS

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No one spoke during Presentation of Citizens.

MINUTES

- 1. Discuss and consider approval of the Parks & Recreation Commission November 2, 2020 regular meeting minutes and the November 16, 2020 special meeting minutes.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Henline to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission November 2, 2020 regular meeting minutes and the November 16, 2020 special meeting minutes. Commissioner Fushille seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

BUSINESS

- 2. Discuss and consider recommendation regarding an Ordinance amending Exhibit A, Subdivision Ordinance, Article 28.03, Parkland Dedication.**

Robyn Miga and Brent Luck presented the staff report which is on file.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fushille to recommend City Council approval of an Ordinance amending Exhibit A, Subdivision Ordinance, Article 28.03, Parkland Dedication as presented by staff. Commissioner Henline seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

- 3. Discuss and consider recommendation of an Eagle Scout Project to donate the Design, Funding, and Construction/Installation of a Chimney Swift Tower at Dripping Springs Ranch Park.**

Eagle Scout Alexander Seshan gave a presentation on the project which is on file. Kelly Schmidt's staff report is also on file.

Victoria Chip spoke regarding the item and was concerned with additional noise from the nesting birds, and asked about the building materials, location and maintenance of the tower.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fushille to recommend City Council approval of an Eagle Scout Project to donate the Design, Funding, and Construction/Installation of a Chimney Swift Tower at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. Commissioner King seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

REPORTS

The following updates relate to the planning and administration of the City's Parks & Recreation Program. No Action to be taken.

- 4. Parks & Community Services Director Monthly Report**
Kelly Schmidt, PCS Director
- 5. Parks & Community Services Monthly Financial Report**
Gina Gillis, City Treasurer

Reports are on file and available for review by request.

PARKS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following updates relate to the administration of the City's Parks. No action is to be taken.

- 6. Charro Ranch Park Committee**
Commissioners Paul Fushille and Matt Fougerat

Commissioner Fushille gave the report. There is a water situation at the park, to which Kelly Schmidt assured Commissioner Fushille that the maintenance staff inspected, and it is working as intended. The Committee is keeping a closer track of volunteer hours related to non-native management for the City's Bird City designation.

- 7. Dripping Springs Ranch Park Committee**
Commissioners Wade King and Matthew Zarbaugh

No updates to report.

- 8. Founders Memorial Park Committee**
Commissioners Eric Henline and Amber Ballman

No updates to report.

- 9. Sports & Recreation Park Committee**
Commissioners Eric Russell and Robbie Zamora

No updates to report.

- 10. Veterans Memorial Park Committee**
Commissioner Robbie Zamora

No updates to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Dripping Springs has the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.086 (Economic Development). The Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Dripping Springs may act on any item listed in Executive Session in Open Session or move any item from Executive Session to Open Session for action.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings

January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

February 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

December 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Vice Chair Russell to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Paul Fushille seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

This regular meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Date: January 4, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: Discuss and consider recommendation regarding a request for a recreation trail connecting Springlake neighborhood and Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Agenda Item Requestor: Travis Wilson, Springlake Resident

Summary/Background: On September 13, 2020 Director Schmidt was contacted by Travis Wilson, a resident of the Spring Lake neighborhood in Dripping Springs. Approximately 15 lots of the Spring Lake neighborhood are located within the City's incorporated limits the rest are in the ETJ.

In the communication Mr. Wilson proposed a possible connection route from his neighborhood to the park:

“I live at 1807 Spring Valley Drive just north of Dripping Springs. My residence is not in the City limits; however, we are frequent users of the trails at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park. To access the park, we have to utilize a vehicle. I'd like to discuss possibilities for a trail connection between the DS Ranch Park and the Springlake neighborhood. I see there is a connection shown on the 2017 Trail Master Plan, but I don't know what the timeline is for that connection or what steps are required (land acquisition, etc.).

I also wanted to pitch another possible alignment for the City to consider: using an easement following the alignment of the existing gas pipeline between the Springlake neighborhood and the DS Ranch Park as shown in the attached GoogleEarth kmz file. Has this idea been explored? The existing pipeline runs through the ranch park and crosses a public street within the Springlake neighborhood. I know that there are a couple of property owners that would need to be approached (including the gas company), but I'd like to know your thoughts on this possibility. The gas pipeline runs through the existing ranch park, and indeed, part of the mountain bike trail overlaps the gas line alignment, so I think the gas company would not have any significant objection to a trail easement (my speculation, of

course). I would propose only a trail easement with a “soft-scape” trail (i.e., not a hardscape improvement at this time).”

Staff

Recommendation:

At this time, staff does not have the resources to explore a trail connector from Springlake to DSRP nor have connectivity trails been prioritized directly in the P, R,O Master Plan and annual operating budget. Staff is happy to support the work of community volunteers that are interested in researching the endeavor and pursuit further.

There are many funding resources out there for trail connectivity to be explored. However, with the creation of Rathgeber Natural Resource Park all PCS staff time will be devoted to that park development.

It is

Attachments:

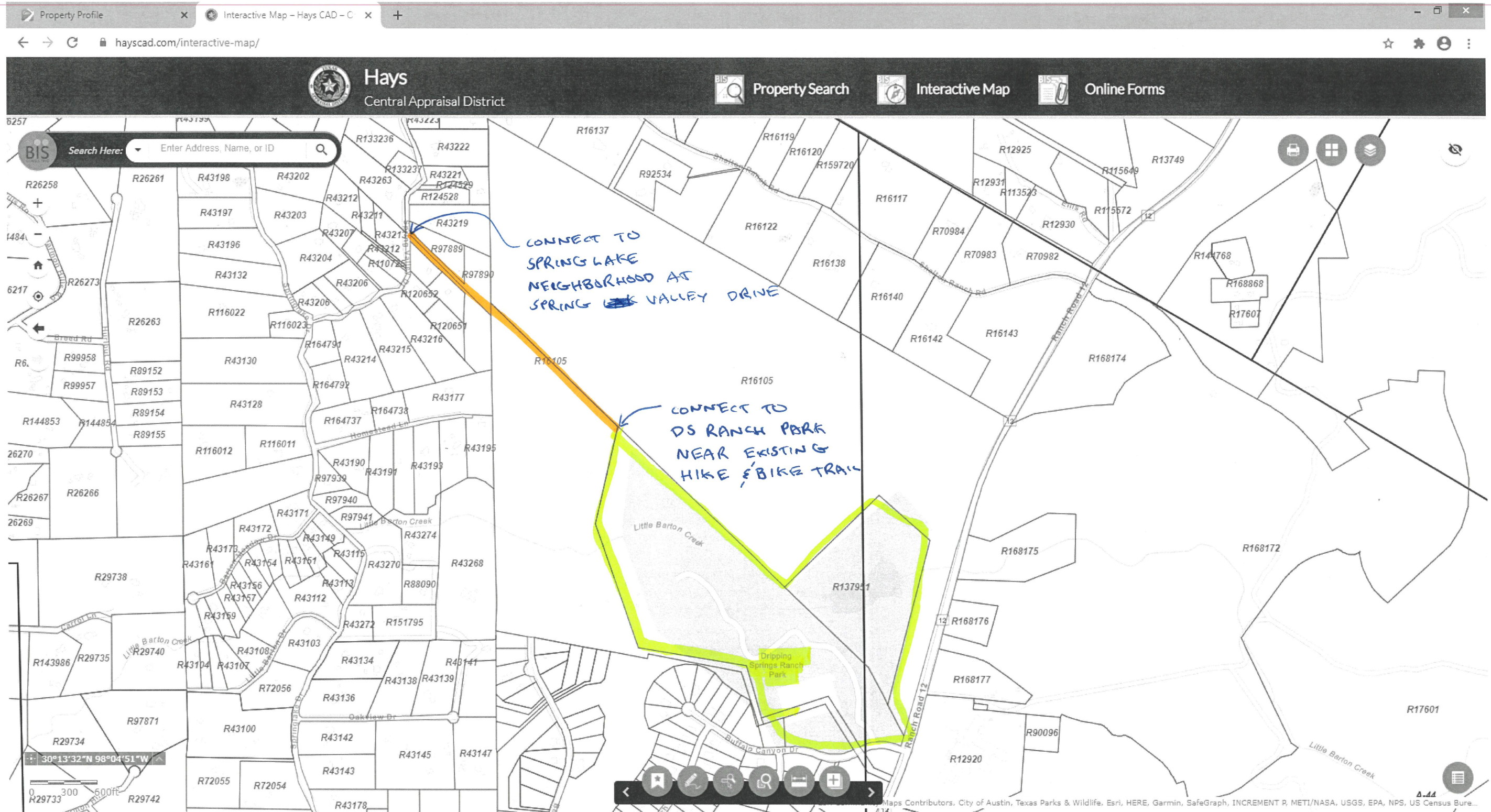
Email Communication

Proposed conceptual trail connector map

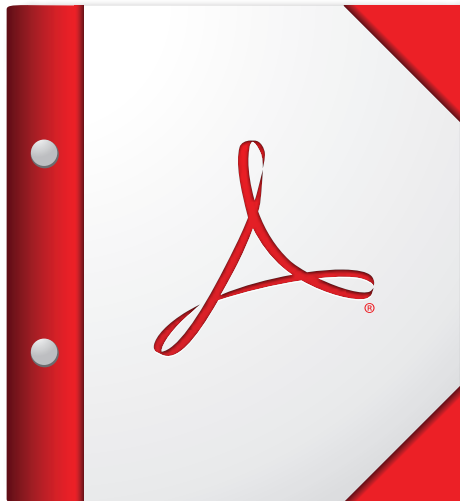
Next Steps/Schedule:

If PRC Commission & DSRP Board support the concept, review with Lead Planner for viability and assist Mr. Wilson when possible serving as City liaison for his endeavor.

POSSIBLE TRAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN SPRING LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD AND DS RANCH PARK



EXISTING LCRA GAS PIPELINE EASEMENT TO BE USED AS TRAIL CONNECTION



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STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

**Parks & Recreation
 Commission
 Meeting Date:** January 4, 2021

**Agenda Item
 Wording:** Discuss and Consider recommendation for approval of Tiger Splash TAAF Swim Team's 2021 Founders Pool Facility Use Agreement

**Agenda Item
 Requestor:** Jennifer Krajecki

Summary/Background: Tiger Splash is Dripping Springs' registered Texas Amateur Athletic Federation's (TAAF) summer swim league. Every year they operate their swim league out of Founders Memorial Pool. The attached agreement as presented was approved for the 2020 swim season which was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Edits include updated applicable dates, the addition of two pavilion use dates during corresponding practices, and new fees owed due to an intentional decrease in planned enrollment and an added Covid Precautions plan. The plan has been reviewed and approved by the City's Emergency Management Coordinator and City Administrator.

**Staff
 Recommendation:** Recommend approval as presented.

Attachments: 2021 Tiger Splash Founders Memorial Pool Facility Use Agreement

Next Steps/Schedule: Place on the January 12, 2021 City Council Agenda for consideration.

TIG12182020

USE AGREEMENT

Tiger Splash and City of Dripping Springs for Founders Memorial Park Pool

THIS USE AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”) is entered into by and between the City of Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas, (the “City”), a general law municipality organized and operating under the general laws of the state of Texas, and Tiger Splash, a registered Texas non-profit organization.

I. RECITALS

- A. Tiger Splash is a registered Texas non-profit in good standing whose purpose is to provide the youth of Dripping Springs and surrounding areas swim programs that encourage confidence, positive self-esteem and good sportsmanship.
- B. Tiger Splash wishes to enter into a use agreement with the City to allow Tiger Splash to use Founders Memorial Park Pool (“Pool”) for Tiger Splash practices and swim meets.
- C. The City desires to aid Tiger Splash and, accordingly, agrees to allow Tiger Splash to use the Pool for their practices and swim meets.

II. AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants described herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

A. Duties of Tiger Splash

- a. Tiger Splash will collect all Swim Team Registration fees.
- b. Tiger Splash will provide all equipment needed for Swim Meets including, but not limited to, timing systems, and will provide for set-up and take down.
- c. If Tiger Splash chooses to utilize the City provided pool cover, Tiger Splash representatives may be called upon to assist aquatics staff to remove the pool covers prior to usage and replace the pool covers after each usage.
- d. Tiger Splash will adhere to and provide volunteers to enforce submitted ~~Covid~~COVID Precautions Plan (Attachment A)

B. Duties of the City

- a. The City will allow Tiger Splash to use the on-site storage shed at the pool for storing swim meet items.
- ~~a.b.~~ Tiger Splash shall not operate or allow the sale of concessions without City written approval, which shall be requested in advance of any sale, unless otherwise specifically authorized by this agreement.
- ~~b.c.~~ The City will allow Tiger Splash to sell coffee and breakfast tacos on Swim Meet Days: May 22, May 29, June 5, -June 19, and June 26.
- ~~e.d.~~ The City will provide a pool cover.
- ~~d.e.~~ The City will purchase 300 gallons of propane for the pool.
- ~~e.f.~~ The City will provide a minimum of 2 lifeguards at every swim practice and meet.

D. Fee splits and Payment

- a. 2021 Tiger Splash Meet Fees- Tiger Splash has requested to pay their 2019 rates for the 2021 swim season.

6 Hour Pool Rental, Total Fee for Meets = \$1200
Tiger Splash 2019 rate: \$40/hr | 2021 Non-Profit rate = \$90/hour
- b. Tiger Splash Practice Fees- Tiger Splash will give the City a minimum of 30% of all Swim Team registration fees that are collected by Tiger Splash (estimation: 144 swimmers who pay \$180.00 each = \$25,920 Gross). Estimated payment to the City will be a minimum of \$7,776.00 to compensate the City for facility use, utilities and lifeguard staff for the swim season. (Normal hourly rental would yield an approximate rental revenue of \$13,230.00.) Payment to the City of the Practice Fees will occur by _____August 6, 2021. [LM1]
- c. If Tiger Splash chooses to heat the pool for any practices or meets during the swim season, Tiger Splash will reimburse the City the current market rate per gallon of propane used. [LM2]

E. Access to Facilities

- a. Tiger Splash swim team is permitted access to Founders Memorial Park Pool during reserved times for swim team practices and meets. If a pre-scheduled practice or swim meet time is going to be utilized for a team social event that is not already documented in this agreement, the use change and supporting details must be communicated at least two weeks in advance, in writing to the Pool Manager to allow for proper staffing and accommodations.

- b. Tiger Splash is permitted to host social events outside the dates detailed in this Agreement. However, the organization will have to reserve and pay the associated rental fees at the current Fee Schedule Pool Rental rates and terms.
- c. Tiger Splash shall have access to the Pool for the following times on the following dates, Monday, April 26, 2021 – Wednesday, July 27, 2021, and contingent on the completion of pool repairs:
 - i. April 26 through April 29, 2021: Wednesday & Thursday, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - ii. May 3, 2021 – May 27, 2021: Monday – Thursday, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - iii. June 1, 2021 – July 15, 2021: Monday – Thursday, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 - iv. July 19, 2021 – July 27, 2021: Monday – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 - v. Five Meet Dates: Saturday, May 22, 2021, Saturday, May 29, 2021, Saturday, June 5, 2021, Saturday, June 19, 2021, and Saturday, June 26, 2021, 6:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - vi. Tiger Splash may also have exclusive use of Founders Memorial Park Pavilion for a team social event during practice on May 20, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and on July 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- d. If there is an emergency such as inclement weather or an unforeseen circumstance, the City may decide to close the Pool or limit access to the Pool on one of these days. If that occurs, the City will work with Tiger Splash to reschedule and/or not charge Tiger Splash for that scheduled swim meet date.
- e. Tiger Splash will not have access to the pool Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 or Independence Day, July 4, 2021.

F. It is understood and agreed between the parties that:

- a. Tiger Splash will maintain its own liability insurance through Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) and will name the City as an additional named insured and provide a copy of such policy prior to the beginning of the terms of this Use Agreement.
- b. It is specifically agreed that nothing herein is intended to convey any real property rights of the Pool to Tiger Splash.
- c. The City assumes no responsibility for any property placed by Tiger Splash or any Tiger Splash member, agent, or guest, at the Pool or in the storage facilities or any part

thereof, and the City is hereby expressly released and discharged from any and all liability for any loss, injury, or damage to persons or property that may be sustained by reason of the use of the Pool and related facilities under this Agreement.

- d. Tiger Splash accepts the premises as-is. Tiger Splash may not change any part of the Pool or layout of its related facilities unless it receives prior ~~only after obtaining~~ written approval from the Founders Pool Manager or the Manager's designee ~~City~~ for the proposed changes.
- e. Tiger Splash will cooperate with the City to comply with all applicable laws (federal, state, and local), including ordinances of the City. Tiger Splash agrees to abide by and conform with all rules and regulations from time to time adopted or prescribed by the City for the government and management of the Pool.
- F. TIGER SPLASH AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CITY, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS, AND EMPLOYERS, FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES OR INJURIES TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY ARISING OUT OF OR INCIDENT TO THEIR USE OF, OR THE USE AND OCCUPANCY OF, THE POOL BY TIGER SPLASH, AND TIGER SPLASH DOES HEREBY ASSUME ALL LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR INJURIES, CLAIMS OR SUITS FOR DAMAGES TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY WHATSOEVER KIND OR CHARACTER, WHETHER REAL OR ASSERTED, OCCURRING DURING THE TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OR OCCUPANCY OF THE POOL BY TIGER SPLASH OR ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS OR SUBCONTRACTORS, MEMBERS, GUESTS OR INVITEES.
- g. Tiger Splash shall not assign this Agreement, or any rights, obligations or entitlements created under this Agreement to any other person or entity.
- h. Either party may terminate this Agreement without cause upon the terminating party giving the non-terminating party thirty (30) days written notice.
- i. This Agreement will automatically terminate if Tiger Splash fails to adequately respond and remedy any complaints or concerns from the City within thirty (30) days of a written request by the City.
- j. All notices in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be considered given as follows:

When delivered personally to the recipient's address as stated in this Agreement; or Five (5) days after being sent by certified mail in the United States mail, with postage prepaid to the recipient's address as stated in this Agreement:

To the City:
City of Dripping Springs
Attn: City Administrator
PO Box 384
Dripping Spring, TX 78620

To Tiger Splash:
Tiger Splash
Attn: Vice - President
1521 Kemp Hills Dr.
Austin, TX 78737

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to restrict the transmission of routine communications between representatives of City and Tiger Splash.

k. This Agreement shall be effective upon final signing by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The City of Dripping Springs and Tiger Splash have executed this Agreement on the dates indicated.

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS:

TIGER SPLASH:

Bill Foulds Jr., Mayor

Mike Lemonds, President

Date

Date

ATTEST:

Andrea Cunningham, City Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Tiger Splash COVID Precautions Plans Summer 2021

This is a preliminary plan to facilitate COVID precautions of wearing masks and social distancing during the Summer 2021, if necessary.

Overview of Tiger Splash Practice:

Tiger Splash uses Founders Pool which has a 6-lane pool. Swimmers who have signed up for each practice via the online practice reservation system will be assigned four to a lane with two being assigned each end of the pool. Each swimmer will have an assigned corner of the lane and shall never be within six feet of each other in the lane by staying in their corner during any rest periods on the wall for the workout.

Registration limit (change):

Given the safety precautions described above, the maximum number of swimmers per lane for each practice session is 24. There will be three practice sessions per day and swimmers will be divided into an A-practice and B-practice schedule to limit the number of swimmers on a given practice day. **This reduces the total team size from a maximum of 180 swimmers to 144 swimmers.**

Flow of Athletes:

- Before getting to practice, a parent will fill out a google “symptoms” form
- When you arrive, stand in line along the fence at/by the ribbons placed 6 ft apart, while waiting for entrance inside where the check-in area will be.
- Swimmers report to check-in first at the check in table wearing a mask. There, the swimmer will be checked off for having google form completed and assigned a lane and waiting area, this information will be written with a Sharpie on their hand.
- Once cleared, they proceed inside to a dot on the ground to drop their bag and get ready for practice.

- Masks remain on for Drylands/warm-up.
- After dropping off their stuff, they proceed to the drylands/warm-up area with their masks on, located on the pool deck, spread out 6 feet apart (mostly at the end of their lanes). Once drylands/warm up is complete, swimmers will place their mask in their baggie and begin the swim workout in the lane they were assigned at check-in.
- After practice is complete, swimmers will move quickly to their spot and put on their mask, grab their belongings, and exit the pool. Parents and siblings will not be permitted in the pool area during practices. It is advised to be in your cars for pick up.

Equipment:

All swimmers must keep all their belongings inside one bag (included with registration and picked up at first practice). The bags must be placed on a spot inside the check in doors of the competition pool. Personal fins and kick boards are encouraged and should be dipped in pool water and place at their assigned end of the lane when ready for practice.

Tiger Splash will not allow access to shared equipment during COVID reopening. Lane space: Max 4 swimmers per lane in 6 lanes. Each swimmer stays in their own lane and corner.

Locker Room and Restrooms:

All users of Founders Pool will be required to come and leave without using lockers, showers, or the changing areas in the locker rooms. The locker areas and showers will be closed. The restrooms located on the outside of the gate will allow for those that need to use the facilities to do so on an individual basis.

Swim Meets: Process and Procedures:

Swim meets will begin promptly at 7am for warm-ups. At check in, swimmers will be assigned to an area within the fenced area of the pool based on age group for the duration of the meet. All swimmers will wear masks when not in the pool. The only adults on deck for the swim meet will be volunteers running the meet: Coaches; adults specifically trained for the timing system; and six timers--one per lane. Parents will observe from outside the fenced area of the pool. With wi-fi at Founder's Park, Tiger Splash will do their best to simulcast the meet via Facebook or YouTube for families to observe from home. Tiger Splash will encourage families to limit spectators to just one parent.

- Swimmers will be sent a google symptom form to fill out prior to the meet.
- Swimmers will check in at registration table and be checked off for completed covid symptom form
- Swimmer will be given their area assignment, lane assignment, and ready bench assignment during check in.
- Swimmer will wait on their dot to swim their event
- Swimmers will wear masks until it is their turn to swim, they will bring a baggie to put the mask in once on the blocks.
- There will be only one timer per lane.
- After the swimmer is done with the event, they will get out of the pool and immediately put on a mask, then proceed to their assigned area to wait for their next event.

- Parents will watch outside of the pool area. Spectators are allowed to set up tents but at least 10 feet away from the fence; spectators are expected to be socially distanced by family groups; and spectators are expected to wear masks throughout the event.
- Concessions will take place in the Pavilion area with payment via credit card/square app only.
- Once finished with events, swimmers will exit the pool area and go home.



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Date: January 4, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider amendment request to remove Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit of the DSRP Fee schedule from applying to Mountain Bike riders**

Agenda Item Requestor: Taline Manassian, Mayor Pro Tem

Background: On September 9, 2020 the Dripping Springs Ranch Park Board unanimously approved a recommendation to expand the DSRP Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit to apply to mountain bike riders in addition to horseback riders. This fee change along with several others was then submitted to City Council for consideration and approval at their September 15, 2020 meeting. It was approved unanimously.

The motivation behind the fee schedule amendment was inspired by several submitted comments from the park’s equine community to the Event Center Manager that the fee was not equitable. The fee expansion also attempts to meet the continual challenge and charge of generating revenue that will cover the park’s operational costs. After surveying similar area parks that also serve the Dripping Springs equine and mountain bike communities, it was decided by staff to propose expanding the scope of our current DSRP Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit to include mountain bike riders instead of creating a new fee structure for them specifically.

17.5 Horseback Riding throughout Park & Outdoor Arena

- (a) Outdoor Daily Use Permit: \$5.00/day/horse/bike
- (b) Indoor Arena Day Pass Permit: \$20.00/day/horse
- (c) Individual Riding Membership: \$200.00/year
- (d) Family Riding Membership (1 – 4 persons): \$500.00/year
- (e) Each Additional Family Member added to Family Riding Membership (5+ persons): \$100.00/person/year
- (f) Annual Outdoor only Riding Membership Permit: \$50.00/person, per year
- (g) Trainer Membership: \$400.00/year
- (h) Youth Membership: \$100.00/person who is under the age of eighteen, per year
- (i) Coggins Certificate must be on person during park use.
- (j) Liability waiver must be signed by each permit holder.
- (k) Permit must be displayed in vehicle and on person during park use.

It is noted the title of the Fee section should have been updated to reflect the new scope of 17.5.

For reference the following area parks have entrance stations that are manned by staff and cater to equine and mountain bike enthusiasts:

Pedernales State Park – Equine Trails -14.4 Miles
 Hiking & Mtn Bicycling Trails – 28.8 Miles
 Entrance Fees - 13 years + = \$6 Daily
 12 years and younger = FREE
 Distance from DSRP - 21 miles – 32 minutes

Reimers Ranch Park – Equine Trails (shared use) – 10 Miles
 Hiking & Mtn Bicycling Trails – 18 Miles
 Entrance Fees - 13 years + = \$5 Daily/\$3 Seniors
 12 years and younger & Disabled Vet = FREE
 Distance from DSRP - 11 miles – 17 minutes

City of Georgetown Hiking Trails (pedestrian only) – 2.6 miles
 Garey Park – Equine Trails (shared use) – 4.68 miles
 Mtn Bicycling Trails - 0
 Entrance Fees - \$2 Resident / \$4 Non-Resident
 3 years and younger = FREE
 Equestrian Rider - \$6 Res / \$8 Non-Res
 Distance from DSRP - 44 miles – 1hr 10 minutes

LCRA
 McKinney Roughs– Hike/Bike/Equine Trails (shared use) – 17.2 miles
 Entrance Fees - \$5 Adult / Disabled & 65+ \$2
 12 years and younger = FREE
 Equestrian Rider - \$12
 Distance from DSRP - 47 miles – 1hr 15 minutes

At the City Council meeting held on December 8, 2020 Mayor Pro Tem Manassian requested that the Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit fee be revisited and suggested that the expansion to include Mountain Bike riders in the fee be removed.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends not implementing any further changes to the DSRP fee schedule until the underway DSRP Master Plan update has been completed in May. Considering Mayor Pro Tem Manassian’s concerns, staff also recommends that the recently expanded daily use fee application to include mountain bikers be suspended until after public input has been obtained and the DSRP master plan update is finalized.

Attachments:

Next Steps/Schedule: Place on DSRP Board January 6, 2021 Agenda
Place on City Council, January 19, 2021 Agenda



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Date: January 4, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider recommendation for the creation of a Parks & Community Services Programs & Aquatics Manager position.**

Agenda Item Requestor: Kelly Schmidt

Summary/Background: Notification that the Founders Memorial Pool full-time seasonal pool manager would not be returning for the 2021 pool season inspired an opportunity to reassess the recruitment objectives and scope of the position. At the conclusion of the very irregular 2020 swim season it was made abundantly clear by the Founders Pool swim community that a desire existed to have the season extended from a traditional Memorial Day to Labor Day to something more seasonally appropriate that aligns with Texas weather, like March – November (closed December, January & February for maintenance and upkeep).

With that said, Founders Memorial Pool and Park are on the verge of becoming a major community resource with provisions and amenities that serve the recreation and health and wellness needs of a multitude, year-round. In order to achieve the objective of meeting the desires of the community and providing a public aquatic facility and park that meet high standards and align with industry best practices it is time for the city to invest in on-site professional consistency and facility management.

The current budgeted payroll for aquatics/pool staff will cover the position's hourly rate of \$25/hr from April 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022 plus staffing needs. Annual salary in FY 2022 will equate 52,000/Annually + benefits. The hourly rate was derived after reviewing similarly posted positions on the Texas Recreation and Park Society's job bank and contrasting against existing department payscale and scope.

- City of McKinney, TX: Aquatics Supervisor \$46,075 - \$67,730/Annually
- City of Baytown, TX: Aquatics Coordinator \$57,406 - \$71,758/Annually
- City of Marble Falls, TX: Recreation Coordinator \$22.06 - \$31.76/Hr
- City of Pflugerville, TX: Recreation Programs Supervisor \$46,342/Annually

Staff Recommendation: Staff is requesting that the scope and title of the seasonal, full-time Pool Manager position change to seasonal, full-time Programs & Aquatics Manager and approve the position transition to Full-time, Exempt on October 1, 2022.

- Attachments:**
- Proposed PCS Department Re-Org Chart for FY2022
 - Draft Programs and Aquatics Manager Job Description

Next Steps/Schedule: Place on City Council January 19, 2021 Agenda



PROGRAMS & AQUATICS MANAGER

Full-Time Seasonal

(approved for Full-time Exempt with benefits October 1, 2021)

Approved _____

A. GENERAL PURPOSE

The Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services Programs and Aquatics Manager's general purpose is to serve as pool manager overseeing operations of Founders Memorial Park Pool and future Skate Park. This position is also charged with coordinating the creation of youth & adult enrichment, wellness and athletic programs utilizing City parks and facilities to their fullest potential.

B. SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Works under the general direction of the Parks and Community Services Director and the City Administrator.

C. ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Supervises Lifeguards, instructional swim program when offered, and serves as liaison for TAAF summer swim team.
2. Responsible for hiring, training, scheduling and supervising pool and program staff, program contractors and volunteers.
3. Conduct in-service for staff; perform administrative duties including daily financial reports and pool chemical reports.
4. Teach and/or coordinate American Red Cross Health and Safety program course offerings as well as provide city-wide staff CPR/AED trainings as needed.
5. Responsible for pool chemical levels and maintenance, working closely with assigned maintenance personnel to ensure optimal water quality and equipment operations.
6. Must be able to verbally communicate with both public and staff effectively.
7. Supervise skate park and patron usage.
8. Develop "on call" aquatic emergency chain of command system.
9. Develop and expand relationships with existing youth and adult sport associations and the local YMCA.
10. Create a thriving park wellness program that encourages hiking, nature observation, yoga in the park, walking and other clubs, tai chi, etc. Build community through identifying people with common interests that enjoy essential quality of life pursuits.
11. Respond to citizen requests for information and complaints with respect to programs, pool operations, skate park operations and provide appropriate follow-up.
12. Plan, schedule and implement all recreation programs, Coyote Kids Day Camp, classes for children, adults, families, and seniors ensuring orderly integration throughout the year and maximize program participant health/safety: conduct or provide supervision of programs as required; requisition supplies; organize registration and instructor staffing.

13. Other duties as assigned.

D. EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND CERTIFICATIONS

Education: High School Diploma or Equivalent. Preferred four-year college degree in Recreation Administration, Public Administration, Kinesiology, Therapeutic Recreation. Will acknowledge years of experience in municipal Parks and Recreation program management as equivalent to education preference. Experience with teaching swim lessons at a progressive level, swim team coaching, training lifeguards and knowledge of aquatic best practices a must.

1. Strong organization, communication, public relations, and leadership skills required.
2. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with City employees, City officials, vendors, and general public.
3. Experience in public speaking, training and presenting to public officials.
4. Ability to handle and maintain confidential and sensitive information while maintaining confidentiality.
5. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
6. Ability to work independently and exercise good judgment.
7. Experience in Aquatics (specifically pool management and aquatics programming such as swim lessons, water aerobics, seasonal youth swim teams)
8. Experience with or working knowledge of athletic league creation and management.
9. Proficient in marketing via social media platform channels, in various software systems (Microsoft Office) to promote all park programs and aquatics happenings.
10. Certifications: American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor (WSI), American Red Cross Lifeguard & Instructor, CPR for Professional Rescuer Instructor, Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED, First Aid, Pool Operator or Aquatic Facility Operator (or able to obtain within 6 months). Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) a bonus!

E. TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

Point of Sale and Recreation Program Registration computer software system (Activenet), water safety equipment, calculator, pool maintenance equipment, basic cleaning equipment aquatics rescue equipment

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A valid state driver's license.
2. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to sit, communicate, use hands; and reach with hands and arms. The employee is required to be a proficient swimmer and have the ability to rescue and remove an individual from the water.
3. The employee must occasionally carry, lift, hold, push and/or pull up to 50 pounds of office supplies, files, equipment and furniture.

4. Must have reliable transportation.

G. WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to perform the essential functions if needed. The employee regularly works in outside weather conditions; works in both indoor and outdoor environments; and has exposure to extreme weather conditions. The employee will regularly work with minimum supervision and independently at Founders Memorial Park Pool Administrative office.

H. WORK HOURS

The Programs & Aquatics Manager position is a full-time seasonal position from April 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021. Hours will vary based on the pool season, events, programs or projects assigned throughout the year. Shifts may include holidays, weekends and evenings and on call when off duty if needed. This position is non-exempt and eligible for overtime pursuant to the needs of the City, if the employee works more than forty (40) hours in a seven (7) day work period, and at the direction of the Parks and Community Services Director or City Administrator. Any overtime hours performed must be preapproved by the Parks and Community Services Director.

I. SALARY

Compensation is paid every other Friday as outlined in the CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PERSONNEL MANUAL. The position's hourly rate is \$25/hr.

J. BENEFITS

As a seasonal employee, the employee shall not be eligible for City benefits. Additional direction on benefits is outlined in the CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PERSONNEL MANUAL, as may be modified by the specific employee's offer letter.

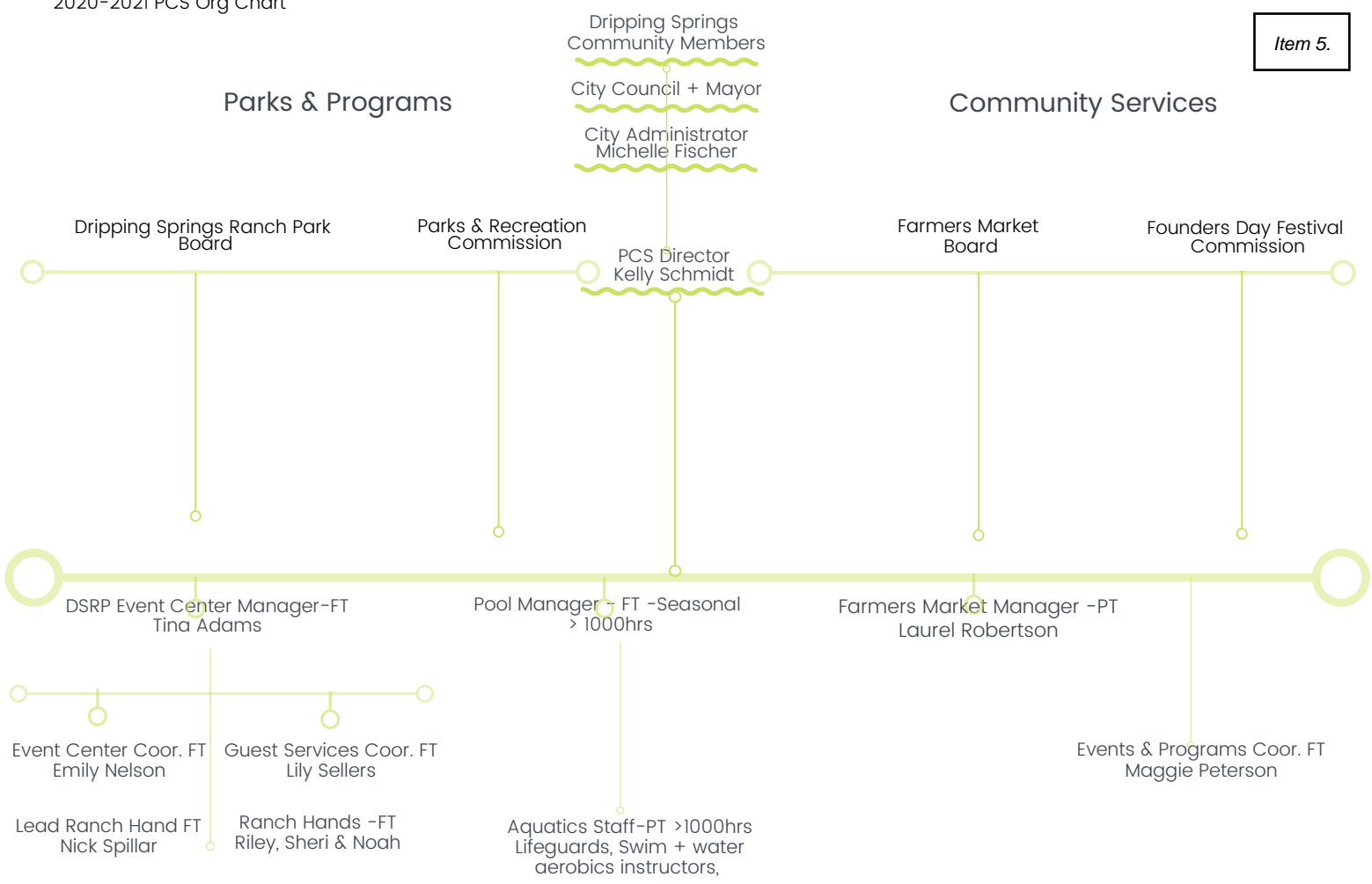
K. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The City's employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, handicap, or marital status. Discrimination or harassment against any person in recruitment, examination, appointment, training, promotion, discipline, or any other aspect of personnel administration because of political or religious opinions or affiliations, membership or non-membership in employee organizations, or because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sex, or marital status is prohibited. If you would like to arrange for accommodations, we encourage you to contact Michelle Fischer at (512) 858-4725.

Please note: This Position Description is not a contract, and shall not be construed to alter an employee's at-will relationship. The terms and conditions of any employee's position with the City may be altered by the City Council at any time. To the extent reasonably possible, this Job Description, the Personnel Manual, and the employee's Offer Letter shall be read together in harmony. If there are conflicts between this Position Description, the Personnel Manual, and the employee's Offer Letter, the most specific term or condition of employment shall govern.

Parks & Programs

Community Services



Current

PCS Director
Kelly Schmidt

- Manages PRC Department Operations & Team
- Oversees all PCS contracts reviewing and amending
- Oversees budgets (DSRP, FDC, PRC, & FM)
- Oversees HR tasks (recruitment, hiring, training, coaching, recommends termination)
- Creates policy, evaluates & updates existing policies regularly
- Applies for and obtains alternative sources of funding
- Manages all Capital Improvement projects & Master Plans
- Serves as city lead for NRPA Accreditation
- Authors and publishes seasonal PCS Activity Guide
- Serves as PCS staff liaison to PRC & City Council - attends all meetings
- Oversees web content and department branding
- Serves as department software's primary administrator
- Fields escalated questions, complaints, ideas from the public
- Manges all Community Services: film permits, event permits, street closure permits, itinerant vendor licenses
- Manages park dedication bench & tree donation program
- Instructs Red Cross programs (LGI)
- Assists with upkeep and pool oversight. Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO certified)
- Manages Founders Pool Business Operations
- Recruits, hires & trains Seasonal Aquatics Staff (15-20)
- Recruits, hires & trains Seasonal Coyote Kids Staff (6)
- Creates new Park Programs
- Uses Social Media to promote PCS
- Oversees all partnership programs in the parks (DSYSA, DSISD, DSASA)
- Explores and analyzes the introduction of adult sports leagues

Founders Memorial Pool Manager - FT
Seasonal (April - September)

- Instructs Red Cross programs (LGI)
- Assists with upkeep and pool oversight.
- Possesses & maintains necessary aquatics certifications, LGT, LGI, Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO certified), CPR/AED Adult & Pediatric
- Serves as on-site pool operations supervisor & schedules Aquatics Staff (15-20)
- Enforces pool use policies
- Manages aquatic programs (swim lessons & aerobics, swim team usage)
- Uses Social Media to promote PCS
- Provides customer service at Founders Pool Office

Programs & Events Coordinator - (FTE)
Maggie Peterson

- Serves as City staff & facilitator for City-wide Annual & Micro Events (existing & future)
 - Christmas on Mercer
 - Founders Day Festival - Attends Commission meetings assists with agenda
 - Festival of Flight - World Migratory Bird Day
 - Movies in the Park Summer Series (future)
 - Concerts in the Park Summer Series (future)
- Coordinates all Community Initiatives
 - Keep Texas Beautiful
 - Its Time Texas
 - Dark Sky Initiatives
 - Texas Bird City (designation announcement Feb)
- Farmers Market
 - Assists Mngr w/Set-up & POS sales in ActiveNet - covers in mngr absence
 - Attends Farmers Market Meetings
- Creates & Facilitates Community Programs
 - Serves as Coyote Kids Camp Director
 - Skate Night (paused due to Covid)
 - Tot-Time (paused due to Covid)
 - Tween Scene (paused due to Covid)

PCS Director
Kelly Schmidt

- Manages PRC Department Operations & Team
- Oversees all PCS contracts reviewing and amending
- Oversees and authors annual budgets (DSRP, FDC, PRC, & FM)
- Oversees HR tasks (recruitment, hiring, training, coaching, recommends termination)
- Creates policy, evaluates & updates existing policies regularly
- Applies for and obtains alternative sources of funding
- Manages all Capital Improvement projects & Master Plans
- Serves as city lead for NRPA Accreditation
- Authors and publishes seasonal PCS Activity Guide
- Serves as PCS staff liaison to PRC & City Council - attends all meetings
- Oversees web content and department branding
- Serves as department software's primary administrator
- Fields escalated questions, complaints, ideas from the public
- Manages park dedication bench & tree donation program

Programs & Aquatics Manager - (FTE)

- Instructs Red Cross programs (LGI)
- Assists with upkeep and pool oversight.
- Possesses & maintains necessary aquatics certifications, LGT, LGI, Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO certified), CPR/AED Adult & Pediatric
- Serves as on-site pool operations supervisor & schedules Aquatics Staff (15-20)
- Enforces pool use policies + best practices
- Manages aquatic programs (swim lessons & aerobics, swim team usage)
- Uses Social Media to promote Pool & Programs
- Provides customer service at Founders Pool Office
- Creates & Facilitates Community Programs
 - Oversee Camp Director + Staff
 - Skate Night + other skate programs (oversees skatepark)
 - Tot-Time (paused due to Covid)
 - Tween Scene (paused due to Covid)
- Oversees all partnership programs in the parks (DSYSA, DSISD, DSASA)
- Explores and analyzes the introduction of adult sports leagues

Community Services Coordinator - (FTE)
Maggie Peterson

- Serves as City staff & facilitator for City-wide Annual & Micro Events (existing & future)
 - Christmas on Mercer
 - Founders Day Festival - Attends Commission meetings assists with agenda
 - Festival of Flight - World Migratory Bird Day
 - Movies in the Park Summer Series (future)
 - Concerts in the Park Summer Series (future)
- Procures sponsorships for events and other funding resources
- Coordinates all Community Initiatives & Designation Requirements
 - Keep Texas Beautiful
 - Its Time Texas
 - Dark Sky Initiatives
 - Texas Bird City (designation announcement in Feb)
- Farmers Market
 - Assists Mngr w/Set-up & POS sales in ActiveNet - covers in Manager absence
 - Attends Farmers Market Meetings
- Community Services
 - Coordinates Event Permits & Processes Payments
 - Coordinates Film Permits & Processes Payments
 - Coordinates Itinerant Vendor licenses & Processes Payments
 - Facilitates all park, park amenity & field rentals

PARKS

Charro Ranch Park:

No Hays County Master Naturalist workday this month. Nothing further to report.

Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center -Submitted by: *Tina Adams – Event Center Manager*



Dripping Springs Ranch Park wraps up 2020 with only a handful of events, due to elevated Covid 19 numbers. The DSRP Riding Series Dressage Show was a success and our team worked with the Lake Travis FFA to create an outstanding Show & Go "Outdoor" format for the final goat, lamb, hog & steer show for the year. Thomas Carrol has joined our team of Ranch Hands as part time help for the season. The DS Farmer's Market decided to remain at the triangle for the season.

On December 8, 2020 City Council approved a proposed donation of a Chimney Swift Tower for Dripping Springs Ranch Park. Eagle Scout applicant Alexander Seshan will be coordinating, constructing and installing the project on the north side of the pond far off from the trail toward the park's property line. Chimney swift towers are only successful if they are in quieter locations that do not get disturbed. Hays County Master Naturalist Connie Boltz assigned to DSRP as its MN coordinator, worked with Sashan to identify an appropriate location.

Christmas tree collection and shredding, a free service for the Dripping Springs Community was relocated from the Triangle location to Dripping Springs Ranch Park and is offered from 12.28.2020 – 1.3.2021.

Founders Memorial Park:



Ranck dedication bench was installed on 12.30.2020. The bench and Mrs. Ranck contribution represent the City's first PCS dedication bench program participant.

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (Not open to the public)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Lisa Sullivan
 Communications Director
 City of Dripping Springs
 512-858-4725

City of Dripping Springs Receives \$5.7 Million Park Land Gift

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – December 10, 2020 – The Dripping Springs City Council accepted a Donation Deed of 300 acres of land from Dick Rathgeber and Rathgeber Investment Company, LTD this week. This land is located adjacent to the Headwaters Subdivision and will be dedicated to the City as Rathgeber Natural Resource Park.

The future Rathgeber Natural Resource Park will not only protect 300 acres of pristine Texas Hill Country and the convergence zones of Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek, but it will provide public access to passively recreate, immerse in nature, and explore the Texas Night Sky. With the addition of this land, the City's public parkland increases from 271 to 571 acres.

According to Mayor Bill Foulds, Jr., "The City of Dripping Springs is extremely grateful to Dick Rathgeber for his generosity and incredible contribution to the City's current park system. As Dripping Springs continues to grapple with high rates of growth, access to, as well as conservation and proper management of public land, becomes vitally important to the health of the Texas Hill Country. The Rathgeber Natural Resource Park will not only protect and improve an indispensable piece of Hill Country habitat and watershed, it will also provide the Dripping Springs community with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience and learn from this majestic and endangered landscape."

The City of Dripping Springs directed an appraisal of the donated property and the appraisal was for \$5.7 million. The donation deed also contemplates a seasonal Use Agreement of a 66 acres area of the park for the Capital Area Boy Scouts of America Council, Dripping Springs.

Kelly Schmidt, Drippings Springs Parks & Community Services Director, says there's much excitement about the potential for the new park and its varied partners. The park project has already received letters of support from Dripping Springs Independent School District, Destination Dripping Springs, Capital Area Boys Scouts, and Hays County Master Naturalist organizations.

Per Schmidt, "While the Dripping Springs community is the biggest beneficiary of this gift, through the contemplated Use Agreement, the Capital Area Boy Scouts will be able to provide seasonal Boy Scout programs for generations to come. It's exciting to think about the many community connections and improved quality of life experiences the park will serve as catalyst for."

The land is not open to the public at this time. The next step is for the City to facilitate the creation of a master park plan. Schmidt says, “We’re looking forward to these next steps. We’ll be working with stakeholders, community members, and outside firms to ensure that Rathgeber Natural Resource Park will be the best in class and offer much to the Dripping Springs community. This gifted land is a gem and we want to ensure that the master plan protects and manages it to the highest of standards.” According to Schmidt, the plan will be created with the following four guiding principles:

- **Protecting/Improving Water Quality** including all efforts to ensure that the two creeks are kept as pristine as possible as the park is created and used;
- **Nature Education** including educational programming, interpretive signage throughout the park, and a future Natural Resource/Interpretive educational center on site;
- **Conservation** including a long-term land management plan that protects existing flora and fauna, restores disturbed land, and employs on-site dedicated Parks and Community Services staff; and
- **Responsible Outdoor Recreation** including the creation of unobtrusive trails and natural gathering spaces, primitive youth camping & outdoor recreation, and low-impact recreation uses & management/conservation principles so that the parkland is enjoyed through uses that complement the intended goal of a mindful Texas Hill Country nature immersion experience without degradation.

The generous land donation was given by area developer and philanthropist Dick Rathgeber, who believes in the philosophy of giving back to the community. Rathgeber says of the donation, “I’m extremely pleased with the plans that the City of Dripping Springs has for the park because it is about as close to nature as you can get.”

The development of the master plan and the creation of Rathgeber Natural Resource Park will take 2-4 years to complete. Partial funding is expected to come from the Hays County Parks and Open Spaces \$75 Million Bond that was approved by Hays County voters in the last election.

For any questions, please contact communications@cityofdrippingsprings.com or call 512-858-4725.

Sports & Recreation Park

Light project being submitted to International Dark Sky Association for review and certification.

Veterans Memorial Park & Triangle

Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Events & Programs – Submitted by: *Maggie Martin, Programs and Events Specialist*



Bird City:

The Bird City application has been completed and submitted for review! Thank you to all the contributors in this successful application! We hope to hear back from the review committee in early January for designation!

Its Time Texas:

This year for It's Time Texas we are so excited to bring the spirit in house! The CODS employees will be working together to train weekly for a DS 5K in February! We will log our points along the way using the new app provided by ITT. We will train virtually and in person (socially distanced) and the 5k will be socially distanced in an outdoor setting. If you are interested in participating email me at mmartin@cityofdrippingsprings.com to sign up!

Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful:

December 22nd, we hosted the Holiday Community Clean Up! We had 25 volunteers come to pick up trash along Highway 290. The volunteers were CODS employees, Chamber employees, kids, school groups and families! We were thrilled to pick up almost 200 pounds of trash. A huge thank you to our community for supporting Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful!



Community Services - Volunteer Program:

Girl Scout Silver- Award contender, Autumn Pape, has finished the Charro Ranch Park restoration project! Her work included: fixing all structural and cosmetic issues, refinishing the exterior, and updating information to make it more inclusive to visitors with language barriers or impairments. The goal of the project was to add lasting value to our parks, which she has met, and the new structure will be appreciated by park visitors for the foreseeable future. Her donated work hours and creative contributions were recognized with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Parks and Community Services Department!



Event – Christmas on Mercer:



Christmas on Mercer was a huge win in 2020! We were successfully able to hold the event downtown with half of the normal submission of vendor booths permitted and Covid-19 safety precautions were vetted and employed. The event was well received by the community and businesses were grateful for the opportunity to participate yet again in Christmas on Mercer. As has been the case since inception, the Lions Club is the primary partner with the city in the event and serves as the lead. Over the years the City’s Parks and Community Services and

Maintenance departments have been tasked with serving as the City’s primary logistics and City-wide event coordinators. This year, the City’s Communications Director supported and produced all the event’s marketing materials, logos and press releases.



Banner Requests & Co-Sponsorships:

- Christmas On Mercer CoDS 12/1/2020 to 12/7/2020
- Buy Local, Chamber of Commerce 12/1/2020 to 12/7/2020
- Shop Local, CoDS 12/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

Farmers Market – Submitted by: *Laurel Robertson, Market Manager*



On December 9, 2020 Laurel Robertson, Dripping Springs Farmers Market Manager was awarded Texas Recreation and Park Societies' Part-time Employee of the Year Award. She was selected from a group of her Central Texas regional peers and honored for her commitment during the pandemic which shepherded the market's recognition and designation as an essential City service. Other notable contributions include managing the "business" of the market to produce a positive balance in their coughers as well as record attendance with very few markets missed. Awareness and popularity of the market continues to grow monthly.

Marketing, Website, Social Media, Branding & Communications

The PCS department continues to expand their website pages to encompass the resource as a tool to provide the full scope of services within the department's span of responsibility. Currently, the "Community Services" aspect of the department is lacking in web presence and ease of service access. Staff is in the process of creating an easier application process and information dissemination platform.

- Road closure requests
- Itinerant Vendor Permits
- Event Permit for events held on city property and events held within City Limits
- Co-Sponsorship Requests and banners at the triangle requests
- Filming Permit (which tend to be last minute in nature – less than 48hrs notice)