

**Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of the River Oaks Parks Board
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

The Council Chambers, 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, TX 76114

Members Present:

**David Ballard, Chairman, Place 1
James Myrick, Place 3
Bob Jamison, Vice Chairman, Place 4
Jlynn Vandiver, Secretary, Place 2
Joksan Holquin, Place 5
Leigh Ann Turner, Council Liaison**

Staff Present:

**Marvin Gregory, City Manager
Cassie Dyer, Public Works Admin
Gordon Smith, Public Works Director**

Visitors Present:

**Abby Offenback
Joseph S. Portugal, PhD**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman David Ballard
2. Public Testimony
3. Member Roll Call

Members Present: Ballard, Myrick, Vandiver, Holquin, Jamison and Turner.

4. Approval of Board Minutes:

Approval of minutes from the November 10, 2022, Parks Board Meeting and January 12, 2023, Meeting.

Bob Jamison made a motion to approve the minutes and James Myrick seconded the motion. All approved. The minutes stand as written.

5. Liaison Council Member Leigh Ann Turner.

No report. Chairman thanked Council and volunteers for all their hard work to make the Christmas celebration a success.

6. Discussion and/or Action on presentation by Joseph S. Portugal, PhD ICMA-CM, Assistant Adjunct Professor, UTA, on future Park Master Planning.

Concept – Preparing a Master Park for the City of River Oaks to be submitted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for Grants to Cities program. The application and Master Plan are due to TP&WL by August 1st, 2023. The review will take approximately 5 months. Grant system is very competitive. The upgrade from the grant usually takes about 5 years. Plans need to be re-accessed and changes made if necessary. May lead to subsequent grants. Redevelopment grants are also available and there is no waiting period.

There are 3 components to the Project Planning:

1. Project Planning
 - a. Community Assessment - Survey Citizens – What do they want.
 - b. Park Inventory – Opportunity to Expand or Improve what areas we have.
 - c. Demographic Analysis of Citizens – info retrieved from census bureau.
2. Public Hearing
3. Approval by City Council

What the public wants, and the hearing outcome need to match. The Master Plan is done after it has received the public input. The Master Plan must contain the results from the Citizen Survey.

There are 10 students from UTA working with Dr. Portugal. Most have actual experience working in the field with City Governments, assessments and grants. Dr. Portugal has already done an assessment on McGee Park taking inventory and assessing problems. Other parks and the Community Center will also be assessed. The Community Center is included in the survey and grant request because it provides recreation to citizens of River Oaks.

Next step after assessments will be to Survey the Residents which will be done through the city website and paper surveys. It will contain 10 to 15 questions.

The survey will be ready for the citizens in approximately 2 weeks (about 2-23-23) for the citizens response. The questions are geared to our population through the US Census Board. Information from American Housing estimates what it will be like in 5 years.

It is estimated that about 3% of our population will respond to the survey. The survey takes into account every park and every activity that occurs in the city.

7. Discussion and/or action on the future for the Skate Park Mural Project at Woolridge Park.

The mural plans should continue. Leigh Ann Turner, Council Liaison will help us secure a liaison with the CHS art class. We should seek donations from local businesses such as Lowe's and Ace Hardware for paint and other supplies for the project.

8. Committee Reports:

Lion's Triangle – Looks good.

Heritage Park – Needs some clean-up. Community Garden will continue.

Community Center – Cleaned up. Looks good. Boxes still there. Gardens will most likely continue. Consider rehab grant for Community Garden.

Woolridge Park – Hopefully finalization of retaining wall by next meeting and info regarding the lighting. Marvin has scheduled meeting with Oncor for light on main pole. Will get quote from Lonestar also.

McGee Park - Lights will be repaired soon on ball fields. Need LED Light on the basketball court. We had a rental last week for the basketball court. What is the timer set for on the basketball court? On the East side of McGee Park, the Handicap sign is down. It needs a new pole. Restrooms need repair as does the roof. It was only partially replaced/repaired. Public Works Director does have a contact for the roof repairs.

Lone Star J.R. Park – Pipes still visible as is the matting, these need to be removed soon. Don't plant any new plants until the Master Plan is approved and then build beds in which to plant flowers, shrubs, etc.

Correspondence:

9. Board Member Questions, Comments and Announcements.

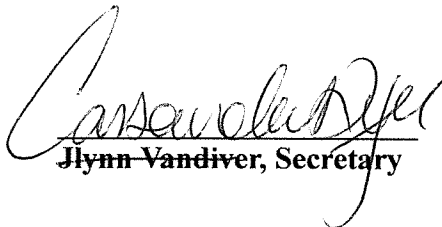
We will invite LYSA to next meeting to renegotiate an ANNUAL contract.

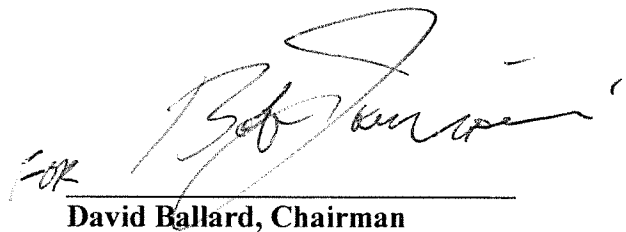
The next meeting will be March 2, 2023, We will have a work day at McGee Park on March 4th at 8:30.

13. Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Ballard and seconded by James Myrick. All AYE! The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jlynn Vandiver, Secretary


FOR
David Ballard, Chairman