

**Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of the River Oaks Parks Board
Thursday, April 6, 2023**

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

Members Present:

**James Myrick, Place 3
Bob Jamison, Vice Chairman, Place 4
Joksan Holquin, Place 5
Leigh Ann Turner, Council Liaison**

Staff Present:

**Marvin Gregory, City Manager
Cassie Dyer, Public Works Admin
Jeremy Bell, Interim Public Works
Director**

Member Absent:

**David Ballard, Chairman, Place 1
Jlynn Vandiver, Secretary, Place 2**

Visitors Present:

**LYSA member,
Dr. Portugal PhD ICMA-CM & staff
Abby Offenback
Karl Diederick
Mary Tyler**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Vice Chairman Jamison

2. Public Testimony

None.

3. Member Roll Call:

Chairman Ballard was not able to attend.
Member Vandiver was not able to attend.

4. Approval of Board Minutes:

Member Myrick made a motion to approve March 9, 2023, Parks Board Meeting Minutes.
Member Holquin seconded the motion.

All vote “aye”

5. Liaison Council Member Leigh Ann Turner.

No Report.

6. Public Hearing: River Oaks Park Master Plan

Meeting Opened at 6:42 p.m.

Mr. Karl Diederick from 309 Winters. He had not received the parks survey. He would like to see green space: dog park, frisbee field, or a picnic place. We would like something done about the stickers; they have become a problem.

Mrs. Mary Tyler from 310 Winters: will comments be welcome after this meeting?

V-Chair-yes we will have more meetings.

Leigh Ann Tuner: we have phases for this project. we are in phase 1, gather information and getting it back to Dr. Portugal and his staff, that way they can build a parks master plan.

Mrs. Mary Tyler from 310 Winters: owns a few different businesses. She moved to River Oaks in 2017. We bought a house that we had rehabbed, we live by the community center and to be able to have a green space to live across would be amazing. The stickers are horrible, and if we had new playground equipment that would be a good thing for the kids. She was really concerned about the idea for the Community Center being sold, she said it would be a loss for the community if we lost it.

Mr. Karl Diederick from 309 Winters: Is there a timeline for a master plan to be developed for a draft or final. Do you think 5 years or 2 years? V-Chair I don't think this will take that length of time. Mr. Diederick: another question, I am confused about item 7 on the agenda to adopt the master plan. Marvin we will not have that, this is just for the public to comment.

Mr. Jesse Martinez from 5513 Gilbow: I am a 10-year vet with the Army. My family has lived here in River Oaks since 2007. I have seen the cities around us continue to grow but River Oaks has stayed stagnant. In my opinion the City of River Oaks is heavy catered to the older generation, as in having 50, 60, 70, and Elvis's nights at the Community Center. It's important to start looking at the younger generation that's coming up. I would like to see events at the Community Center catered to the younger generation. I am concerned about the stickers at the Center, there are a lot of them. I saw the parks survey on Facebook. The city is dated, and that maybe bringing in younger perspectives could do a lot for the city.

V-Chair: Thank you for your service. When you say you want things more to younger people your age, we need to know what those things are.

V-Chair: I dealt with the parks department in California when I lived there, I had 12 parks under my responsibility. I come at this with a different view, I am used to parks with no stickers, lush lawns to where you could lie down and read a book. It takes a lot of money. If you don't wish you may never get it. I was over 2 parks that had waterfalls, who would think a park would have one, dog runs, parks with rivers, a disc golf, we also had a rubber ducky ran: they would have thousands of rubber ducks running down a river. There was a park that had model train.

Leigh Ann: Is there a way to solve the sticker problem? Marvin: We have tried so many things if anyone has an idea. Jeremy: the best way to remove them is to dig it all up. Leigh Ann: can we have a controlled fire? Jeremy: there is no irrigation out there. Marvin: so when you say dig it all up? Jeremy: take all the grass up and dig it out and put new sod down, but there's no irrigation to keep water on it. Member Myrick: what about chemicals. Jeremy: the best thing is to get them up from the roots and resod the whole but then again no irrigation. Member Myrick: water is a resource that no one really thinks about.

V-Chair: I would like to thank everyone for coming to give input on this.

Open Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

7. **Action from Public Hearing: consider calling a Special Meeting**

No Action.

8. **Update on Contractual obligations by LYSA and final approval of the 2023 Agreement with LYSA**

Marvin: provided is the signed contract, a scheduled and the insurance. I wanted to let you see a copy of it.

9. **Committee Reports:**

Lion's Triangle – no report

Heritage Park – looks cleaned up. one or two shrubs that look dead. Public Works is getting up there Monday to handle it, along with a leak that needs to be repaired. Once repairs are made we will schedule the water to be turned on.

Woolridge Park – the retaining wall is still down. We are waiting for the master plan. Public works is maintaining the area.

McGee Park – Public Works installed 3 new locks, we had Lone Star Electric come and install lights. The locks that were installed are a different type of lock than we had, it should reduce the number of people breaking the lock and using the lights without permission. We have no issues as of now with this park.

Member Myrick: we have people parking in the parking lot for McGee and they are not using the park. They are blocking parking for visitors to the park.

PWD will find a few signs to help prevent parking, and if they park the police department can help enforce the no parking. There are four lighting/storm signs that we need to have replaced. It is two for each field.

Leigh Ann: can we see about getting some industrial trash cans. Just something small to spruce up the park, since we have so many people coming and going.

Lone Star J.R. Park – We are working with Oncor to see if we can get the lights up and working. We can't use the stands there we will have to run new lines. Once we have a price we will come back to the board. It is looking good, glad they got some of the limbs clipped on a timely basis.

Correspondence:

10. Board Member Questions, Comments and Announcements.

Member Myrick: glad everything worked out, even though we had a rough start. I am glad the others came.

V-Chair Jamison: we don't want to do anything permanent, with the parks until the Master Plan is done.

Adjourn:

11. Adjournment: 8:10 p.m.

Member Myrick made a motion to adjourn.

Member Holguin seconded the motion.

All voted "aye."

Respectfully Submitted:


Cassandra Dyer, Recording Secretary


David Ballard, Chairman