

**Minutes of the River Oaks Park Board**

**Thursday, 9/4/2014 at 6:30 pm Regular Meeting**

**4900 River Oaks Blvd, River Oaks, Texas**

**Members Present:**

Hub Makarwich, Chairman

David Ballard, Vice- Chairman- Place 4

Jimmy Warriner, Place 3

Norma Cumberledge, Place 2

Donna Brooks, Place 5, Secretary

Joe Ashton, Council Liaison

**Staff Present:**

Marvin Gregory, City Secretary

James Hatley, Public Works Director

**Visitors Present:**

Jason Martinez

James Myrick, Citizen

**Members Absent:**

J. Lynn Vandiver, Alternate 1 ( Excused)

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Makarwich called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

**2: Member Roll Call: (Makarwich, Ballard, Warriner, Cumberledge, Brooks, Ashton)**

**3. Approve Minutes of August 7,2014 Regular meeting – Chairman Makarwich entertained the motion to accept the minutes from 8/7/14. Vice-Chairman Ballard seconded the motion. All = Aye.**

**4. Statement of Appointed Officials and Oath of Office:**

a. Norma Cumberledge took the oath of office for Place 2

b. Jason Martinez took the oath of office for Alternate- Place 2

**5. Report from Council Liaison Joe Ashton:**

Joe thanked everyone for their service to the City

**6. Discussion and/or Action on the recommendation to the council regarding the planned improvements at Coates Park:**

a. James Hatley reports the sprinkler system is working. One soaker hose is not working and will be repaired the week of 9/8.

b. James Hatley found the original plans from the last project for Coates Park ( installing the Oaks, Chinese Pistachios and Carolina Buckthornes.

c. James Myrick advised that Parks Secretary, Donna should complete a letter to the Residents that live behind Coates Park regarding the trimming of the trees, bushes, etc. The neighbors should be notified in advance and

should be invited to a workshop if interested and given the contact information for the Parks Chairman. The neighbors may have questions .

d. Chairman Makarwich reports the beautiful red oaks growth has been stunted. The trees should have been planted approximately 20 feet apart, instead of 6 feet apart.

e. Norma Cumberland advised that we ask advice from an expert Arborist regarding the details involved in trimming the trees on site. James Myrick said there could be charges involved for the Texas Forestry rep or Archie's Garden rep. James Myrick will check on pricing.

The trimming would need to be completed between October – December.

f. James Myrick did state the Council is open to the idea of trimming the trees at Coates Park.

g. We discussed whether the Parks Board members or the Public Works employees would complete the trimming? This is to be determined at a later date.

h. David Ballard will seek advice regarding trimming the trees, from an acquaintance that he knows that worked for decades at the Fort Worth City Parks.

#### 7. Workshop:

##### I. Lion's Triangle Improvements:

a. Vice-Chair Ballard provided his presentation at the last City Council meeting. The Council approved us using \$2,000.00 from the Parks Board Fund for this project.

b. Chairman Makarwich has bought the Red Yuccas and the fabric needed for the project.

c. We need to purchase the decomposed granite and the salvia flowers.

d. Norma offered to paint the letters ( River Oaks) with black epoxy paint.

e. We discussed the irrigation system.

f. The City employees will dig up the existing Hawthorne bushes and re-plant them at McGee Park.

g. James Hatley said his employees could remove the bushes, place weed killer on the existing Johnson grass and weeds and till the ground. They will place fresh topsoil and manufactured sand at a later date.

h. The Parks Board members will have a special meeting to plant, install the fabric and place the granite in the garden. \*We will meet for a Special called Workshop at 7 am on Saturday, September 20\*. David Ballard will take measurements to confirm how much black fabric is needed.

i. James Hatley will check on the availability of fertilizer.

##### II. Tree problems at Coates Park:

- a. As previously discussed and noted. Also, 2 of the trees were damaged during the hard freezes this past winter.

III. Street Light over electric meter or meters at the park properties.

- a. James Hatley reports a new light was install, but he needs to confirm it is illuminating. There is a new light installed under the bleachers at McGee Park
- b. A sensor will be installed on the West Side of McGee Park
- c. We still need lights to be installed at the right and left side of the ballfield

8. Action, if any from Workshop:

- a. Norma will purchase a plaque and have it engraved to "Thank the School system" for providing the play ground equipment for McGee Park. New School was built and the old equipment was replaced.

9. Committee Reports:

I. Heritage Park:

- a. Chairman Makarwich reports the water system is not functioning properly. Certain areas are not getting watered. James Hatley reports that Tim has been checking the system weekly and adjusting the water as needed.
- b. Donna asked James Hatley to place topsoil in rose garden areas at Heritage. Perhaps till the ground in areas that have no plant growth.

II. Lion Triangle- Workshop due date is Saturday, 9/20 at 7 am

III. Coates Park – DB to complete letter for Hub Makarwich and Marvin Gregory's review. This letter is to advise the Coates Drive neighbors regarding upcoming plan to trim the trees and bushes.

IV. Wooldridge Park- no issues at this time.

V. McGee Park - NOTED: That the Historical society and the Lions Club have funds available to install a base for the McGee Monument. The existing bench would be moved near the monument.

(History of the Monument for McGee Park- November 9,1948- The River Oaks Lions Club requested that the City Park on Thurston, be named after Lt. James David McGee.\* McGee Park – In Memory of LT. McGee son of Judge and Mrs. Dave McGEE was an aircraft fighter pilot and was killed when his plane crashed at sea. His squadron commander wrote: Lt. McGee was one of our best-trained pilots and most valuable officers. Lt. McGee was a member of one of the pioneer families in the River Oaks area ( then known as Castleberry) and It is thought that he was one of the first in this area to give his life in World War II. Presented November, 1986, Troop 143, BSA).

10. Public Forum:

No comment

11. Adjournment:

Chairman Makarwich adjourned the Parks Board meeting at 8:17 pm on 8/4/2014



