

**MINUTES
PARKS AND CLEAN CITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 14, 2011
FOREST HILL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3219 CALIFORNIA PARKWAY
6:00 PM**

Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Members present: Pearl Jones, Gladys Hardeman, Henry Johnson, Dana Robinson, and Armando Villarreal

Members absent: Rodney Wright

Staff present: Sheyi I. Ipaye, City Manager; Roberto Duenes, Public Work Superintendent; Grace Edwards, City Secretary; and Lisa Dawn Cabrera, City Planner

Henry Johnson delivered the invocation.

The pledge of allegiance to the United States and the Texas flags were recited.

A. VISITORS/CITIZENS FORUM

No one wished to speak at this time.

Ms. Edwards performed the swearing in ceremony of Committeeman Villarreal and Mr. Villarreal accepted his place on the Parks and Clean City Committee.

- B. CONSENT AGENDA:** All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the Parks & Clean City Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless so requested, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

1. Approval of minutes date February 14, 2011

Committeeman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Committeewoman Hardeman.

Motion passed without opposition.

C. DELIBERATION AGENDA

1. Discuss and consider "Keep Forest Hill Beautiful" Project (Pearl Jones, Chair)

Chairperson Jones addressed the Committee with the various projects on the Keep Forest Hill Beautiful. Mr. Villarreal asked if the adopt-a-park and adopt-a-median are the same projects as the State of Texas is doing throughout the state. Ms. Jones replied yes and proceeded to further explain the projects that are ideas within the project. In the adopt-a-park project, the Committee would like for citizens or groups to adopt a neighborhood park or any park within the City of Forest Hill and the City would provide supplies for the clean up of the park that is to be adopted. Mr. Duenes informed the Committee that it would not be a problem to supply volunteers with miscellaneous supplies for the cleaning up of our parks system.

The adopt-a-median project has already been in place for a little bit. The median at Alhambra and Forest Hill Drive has already been adopted by City Staff. The other three medians that could possibly be adopted is Heritage Lane and Forest Hill Drive, Valley Forge Trail and Forest Hill Drive, and Landmark and Forest Hill Drive. Ms. Cabrera informed the Committee that the median at Valley Forge Trail and also Heritage Lane had been adopted by City Council at one point, although no work or improvements have yet to be made. Mr. Duenes said that he thought at one point that the Mayor, James Gosey, had adopted the median at Heritage Lane but also no improvements or work has been made to this median. Mr. Duenes informed the Committee that the Public Works Department was in the process of beautifying the Valley Forge and Heritage medians and invites the members of the Committee to get out and drive around and see what has been done thus far. Mr. Villarreal asked if anyone had adopted the median at Landmark and it was answered no one had adopted that median. Mr. Villarreal thinks that he might be able to get the African American Student Organization or the Latino Student Union to adopt this median. Mr. Duenes reminded the Committee that should the median be adopted then the State requires that all work or improvements should be done by the group and at no time should the City be involved with a median that has been adopted.

City Wide Clean Up has been proposed to be held two (2) times from now on during the Spring and Fall seasons.

Neighborhoods-in-Action is a new project that involves giving an award to the most improved neighborhood, most improved street, or some incentives to encourage neighborhoods to clean up their own area. Ms. Jones would like to get the graffiti cleaned up.

Another new program would be Sr. citizens and disabled persons receiving assistance with mowing or removing trash from yards. The Committee would like to put a notice on the water bill and the Forest Hill News advertising this program for the City's seniors and disabled.

The Committee would like to see activities taking place in our parks in order to get families to visit our parks within the City. Discussion was held regarding the various activities available in the different parks. Griggs Park is the biggest park and offers some tables, bleachers, and soccer fields. Discussion was held about bar-b-q pits at parks and not being allowed to have them at parks due to a burn ban and renting out the park. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Villarreal will report back to the Committee on bar-b-q pits, our ordinance, and the burn ban. The park on Anglin offers soccer and football fields as well as bleachers and a concession stand.

Discussion was held among the members of the Committee regarding graffiti, property that are eye sores, and Code Enforcement. Ms. Cabrera informed the Committee that Code Enforcement works on a daily basis to keep properties in compliance with City and State Nuisance Ordinances.

Committeewoman Hardeman made a motion to accept all projects as a Keep Forest Hill Beautiful Program and present it to City Council as a plan of action, seconded by Committeeman Robinson.

Motion passed with no objection.

2. Discuss and consider P&C Goals and Objectives for FY 2011-2012 (P&C Members)

Chairperson Jones pointed out that the wrong information was placed in the packet and so sufficient amount of time was not allotted for review.

Committeeman Johnson made a motion to table this item for the next meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Hardeman.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss and consider applications for appointments to the Parks and Clean City Committee (P&C Members)

Chairperson Jones informed the Committee that with the appointment of Mr. Villarreal then there is only one vacancy on the Committee and that there have been two applications turned in. A discussion was held among the members of the Committee in regards to the applicants and that Mr. Lewis ranked the Parks & Clean City Committee as number 6. Mr. Flennoy was in attendance and ranked Parks & Clean City Committee as number 1. The Committee discussed that importance of the ranking which Board, Commission, or Committee that the applicant would like to serve on and with Mr. Lewis placing the Parks & Clean City Committee as number 6, then the members of the Committee did not feel like he really wanted to serve on this committee.

Committeeman Robinson made a motion to recommend to City Council to appoint Allen Flennoy to fill the vacancy on the Parks & Clean City Committee, seconded by Committeeman Villarreal.

Motion passed without objection.

4. Discuss and consider End of Year Recap (P&C Members)

Chairperson Jones updated the Committee on the various items that the Committee has accomplished over the last couple of years.

Committeewoman Hardeman made a motion to approve of the End of Year Recap and present the report to the City Council, seconded by Committeeman Johnson.

Motion passed without opposition.

D. REPORTS

1. Parks Visitations / Assessments (Rodney Wright, P&C Member)

Mr. Wright was not in attendance, so he was unable to give his report.

2. Status/Update of Griggs Park Grant (Lisa Dawn Cabrera)

Mr. Ipaye presented the Committee with an update of the Griggs Park Grant and informed them that the City is trying to save the grant. Part of the grant application was a piece of property that was to be used as part of the City's match. The property had originally been assigned a value of \$360,000 but when the property was appraised the appraisal came back at \$32,000. The City of Forest Hill does not have the funds to come up with the rest of the match, so we are in the process of trying to acquire additional land as an additional match.

Mr. Ipaye informed the Committee that the City is trying to raise some funds in order to update the playground equipment at Jewel Kelley Park, Griggs Park, Heritage Park, and the park located on Trailwood Drive. Mr. Ipaye requests that the Committee name the park on Trailwood

Drive. A discussion ensued regarding naming of parks and whether or not parks should be named after people who has and have not lived in Forest Hill.

The Committee was updated as to what will the old City Hall and Community Center will be now that the City is in their new building. The old City Hall has been transformed into the Police and Fire Sub-station and the Community Center is in the process of being transformed into the Sr. Citizens / Youth Center. A basketball court has already been installed behind the Community Center and now we need a new playground for the younger children to play. Mr. Ipaye informed the Committee is in the process of working out an Interlocal agreement with Fort Worth ISD to install a soccer field at Harlean Beall Elementary that anyone may enjoy. The Committee discussed that instead of the playground equipment being placed at Jewel Kelley Park since there is playground equipment at the school across the street then it should be placed at Leo Spicer Park or another park within the City. The Committee requested for Mr. Ipaye to hold off on the equipment for the Jewel Kelley Park. Much discussion was held among Mr. Ipaye, City Staff, and the Committee regarding different ideas for Leo Spicer Park and the neighbors of this park.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Pearl Jones
Parks & Clean City Chairperson

ATTEST:

Lisa Dawn Cabrera
City Planner