



**MINUTES OF
PARKS AND CLEAN CITY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 11, 2010**

The Parks and Clean City Committee met on the above date at 6:05 p.m. with the following Committee members and City Staff present: Henry Johnson, Pearl Jones, Dana Robinson, Rodney Wright, Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle and Acting Public Works Director Roberto Duenes. Absent: Donald Bailey, Gladys Hardeman, and Chad McCarty.

Opening Agenda:

A. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Pearl Jones called the meeting to order.

B. Invocation

Invocation was delivered by Board member Henry Johnson

C. Pledge to Flags

Pledge to the United States and Texas flags were recited.

D. Consent Agenda:

1. Consider Minutes of the December 14, 2009 Parks and Clean City Committee meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Rodney Wright, seconded by Board member Henry Johnson to amend Item #4, paragraph 6, to read "It was suggested that a fee for practicing on city fields be added to the ordinance. After much discussion and deliberation on ranges, the Committee agreed to \$15 per hour for 'coordinated organizations' and \$20 per hour for 'non-coordinated organizations.' Mrs. Jones asked that the amendments be made to the document and be submitted to the Council for inclusion in their packets and **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Jones, Robinson, Wright
Nays: None
Absent: Bailey, Hardeman, McCarty

F. Deliberation Agenda:

2. **Discuss and consider meeting date and time.**

Discussion was led by Venus Wehle. Ms. Wehle gave a list of the days of the week that are currently scheduled for other city meetings. After discussion of other dates and times, it was decided that the Board continue meeting at 6:00pm on the second Monday of the month.

No action was taken at this time.

3. Discuss and consider process for planning meetings.

Discussion was led by Vice-Chair Pearl Jones. She encouraged Board members for their input on agenda items. Ms. Wehle stated that she could create a six month calendar with the meeting dates and distribute it electronically to the Board. Mrs. Jones stated that Mrs. Hardeman is the Secretary and that she send out reminders about upcoming meetings and assist with minutes of the meetings. Ms. Wehle will send minutes notes she takes each meeting to Mrs. Hardeman for review.

No action was taken at this time.

4. Discuss and consider scheduling date for 2010 spring clean-up activity.

Discussion was led by Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle. She listed the Saturday's in April that would be options for the clean-up day. Board Member Wright asked that Staff look at April 24th, then April 17th, and then May 1st in this order. Ms. Wehle will look at scheduling the "Crud Cruiser" from Fort Worth. Mrs. Jones stated that we cannot do it by ourselves; we need volunteers. Residents would still be asked to show a water bill and their drivers license to participate.

Mrs. Jones asked that the Board consider two clean-up days per year, one in spring and one in fall. Ms. Wehle suggested a neighborhood clean-up in fall in the four quadrants of the city, selecting a few streets with different groups of volunteers.

A motion was made by Board Member Henry Johnson, seconded by Board member Rodney Wright to direct staff to schedule either April 24th, or April 17th, or May 1st for scheduling a 2010 spring clean-up activity and it **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Jones, Robinson, Wright
Nays: None
Absent: Bailey, Hardeman, McCarty

5. Discuss and consider "Adopt-A-Park" project.

Discussion was led by Board Member Pearl Jones. She stated that we need a program to make our parks and neighborhoods more beautiful. It would involve individuals and groups. Mr. Wright stated that he participated in one in his former neighborhood in the southern part of the state. Mr. Robinson stated that he liked the idea and suggested other organizations that might help. Mr. Johnson suggested cleaning easements along the frontage road.

Mrs. Jones reminded the Board about the survey that was included in the Parks Master Plan and what the residents want to see in their parks and around their city.

Mrs. Jones suggested that the city supply gloves and bags, maybe rakes if not a liability. She reviewed agreements and length of service, scheduling, duties, and reporting procedures. She stated that the organizations be recognized at the volunteer awards banquet. Mr. Wright stated that they could even vote for the best cleaned area; he reminded them of the "yard of the month" program that used to take place in his neighborhood.

Mrs. Jones stated that all city documents reviewed had a waiver of release that was signed by participants. Also, she suggested an orientation session for volunteers. A packet would be created for all volunteers with information. Mrs. Jones would like to go to the City Council with a proposal.

No action was taken at this time.

6. Discuss and consider revisions made to Parks Ordinance.

Discussion was led by Board member Pearl Jones. She stated that the minutes of the December 15, 2009 City Council meeting did not reflect what she thought she heard that evening. She said that she “heard” that all the Council agreed with the \$15 per hour and \$20 per hour practice fees but it wasn’t part of the motion;

Mrs. Jones said that the Board needs to go before the Council again. Mr. Wright said that he would go before the Council if needed.

A motion was made by Board Member Henry Johnson, seconded by Board member Dana Robinson for Mrs. Jones to work with Ms. Wehle to complete the documents necessary to bring back to the City Council on January 19, 2010, the recently passed Parks Ordinance #2009026 to amend the fee schedule to include a fee for practicing on the fields and it **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Jones, Robinson, Wright
Nays: None
Absent: Bailey, Hardeman, McCarty

7. Discuss ideas for creating a city-wide clean-up “campaign.”

Discussion was led by Board Member Pearl Jones. She stated that Council member Thomas has said publicly that the city appears dirty.

Mrs. Jones reviewed a document created by Ms. Wehle with several ideas for an on-going campaign. Mr. Johnson said that residents and businesses need to be contacted to clean up their yards and driveways.

Mr. Johnson suggested putting something in the *FOREST HILL NEWS* each month that is eye-catching that encourages residents to keep their property neat and promotes the city’s clean-up efforts.

G. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approval:

Venus Wehle, Staff Liaison

Pearl Jones, Vice Chair