



**MINUTES OF
PARKS/CLEAN CITY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 11, 2009**

The Parks/Clean City Committee met on the above date at 6:15 p.m. with the following Committee Members and City Staff present: Rodney Bailey, Gladys Hardeman, Pearl Jones, Rodney Wright, Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle, Acting Public Works Director Roberto Duenes and City Planner Barbara Koerble. Committee Member Henry Johnson arrived at 6:21 p.m. Chad McCarty excused absence.

Opening Agenda:

A. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Vice Chair Pearl Jones called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

B. Invocation

Invocation was delivered by Secretary Gladys Hardeman.

C. Pledge to Flags

Pledge to the United States and Texas flags were recited.

D. 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 a Committee Member so requests, 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 from April 13, 2009 meeting

A motion was made by Committee Secretary Gladys Hardeman to accept the minutes of April 13, 2009. Seconded by Committee member Donald Bailey and passed as follows:

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

E. Deliberation Agenda:

2. Discuss City of Forest Hill Parks Scheduling and Usage Fees

Discussion was opened by Vice-Chair Pearl Jones. She asked which parks had pavilions; Roberto Duenes stated that Griggs was the only park with one. He added that in the past, the City has allowed

usage of the pavilion and the Public Works Department placed trash cans at the park for use. He also added that a fee for use has never been charged.

Ms. Jones stated that there was a lot of information in the packet and many good ideas. Roberto Duenes told the Committee that currently there is no electricity at Griggs but there is at Anglin. Water connections are available at Griggs Park and it is hidden from public view so it is not tampered with. Duenes also added that the new bathrooms at Anglin are locked and Griggs are currently open. He also said that the fields are maintained by the Public Works Department, fertilizing as needed, replace sprinkler heads as needed and general park maintenance.

Secretary Gladys Hardeman asked about gates. Roberto Duenes said Griggs could be locked but only from the front entrance; the Right-of-Way is wide open. He added that vehicles would have to come around from the back to get into the park.

Committee Member Henry Johnson asked about fees and if they would be used to clean the bathrooms. Hardeman asked who would monitor the parks if someone rented them; Roberto Duenes said it would probably be handled by the Public Works Department.

Vice Chair Jones asked if the city had any parks with camping capabilities. Roberto Duenes stated that Griggs has the potential as per the City's new Parks Master Plan. Pearl Jones said that potential is there for great things for our parks per the plan.

Vice Chair Pearl Jones made a request of the Committee: that each member take a serious look at the examples they were given, pull from those and see if the Committee can come up with scheduling and fee ideas. She asked that the Committee come prepared with notes for the June meeting. Committee Member Rodney Wright also suggested a deposit fee be included in the document. Pearl Jones suggested including fees for residents and non-residents.

Committee Member Rodney Wright stated that the fees could be used for maintenance and upkeep; he also asked if the city was going to implement strategies to get people to use the parks more. He asked if the information would be posted in a clear area in the parks. Vice Chair Jones hopes so and would like for notification to go out to the citizens of Forest Hill, noting procedures for park rentals. Rodney Wright also wants to promote all the new things that the parks will have so the city won't be on the defense with having to have people pay fees. Acting Public Works Director Roberto Duenes suggested that all sports organizations should pay fees for usage. Pearl Jones agreed

Secretary Gladys Hardeman stated that it was not fair to the city to take on the responsibility of all the costs. Committee Member Rodney Wright asked what the costs of upkeep of the parks were for a year. Roberto Duenes stated that it costs \$100 per week to paint the soccer fields. He suggested that the fields be used for games only, not practice.

Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle suggested that information about parks usage and fees could be posted on the city website, in the city newspaper, flyers at City Hall and other city departments, as well as erecting signage at all parks.

Vice Chair Pearl Jones said that preparation is the key to success for creating an effective schedule of fees and usage guidelines. She requested Roberto Duenes to prepare yearly upkeep fees and bring the information to the June meeting.

3. Discuss May 30, Community Clean-Up Day

Discussion was led by Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle. Volunteers were encouraged to participate.

4. Discuss Ideas for Future Clean-up Activities

Vice Chair Jones asked if clean up days could be scheduled twice per year. Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle stated that Councilman Damian Dalcour has offered his assistance with clean-up projects and had already started with graffiti abatement. Secretary Gladys Hardeman asked if a committee should be formed. Venus Wehle said that could be done or the city could simply use the Parks/Clean City Committee as such.

Committee Member Rodney Wright asked for discussion of future clean up activities to be included on the agenda for the June meeting. He also asked that a report on the Committee's budget, including the Parks Fund be included for each meeting.

Vice Chair Pearl Jones thanked the staff for attending and for all information. She also asked that former Committee Member Gloria Sanders be removed from the Committee list.

Vice Chair Pearl Jones asked that changes made to the Smoking and Tree ordinances be brought back to Committee so they can see what was revised.

F. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approval:

Gladys Hardeman, Secretary

Chad McCarty, Chairman