



**MINUTES OF
PARKS/CLEAN CITY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 8, 2009**

The Parks/Clean City Committee met on the above date at 6:05 p.m. with the following Committee members and City Staff present: Rodney Bailey, Gladys Hardeman, Pearl Jones, Chad McCarty, City Manager David Miller, Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle, Acting Public Works Director Roberto Duenes and City Planner Barbara Koerble. Absent: Gladys Hardeman.

Opening Agenda:

A. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Chad McCarty called the meeting to order.

B. Invocation

Invocation was delivered by Chairman Chad McCarty.

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 May 11, 2009 meeting

A motion was made by Committee member Pearl Jones to accept the minutes of May 11, 2009. Seconded by Committee member Donald Bailey and passed as follows:

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

E. Deliberation Agenda:

It was requested by Chairman McCarty to move item #5 to the first item on the deliberation agenda.

Committee member Rodney Wright arrived at 6:12 p.m.

5. Staff Report- Roberto Duenes

Mr. Duenes explained that \$11,143 has been spent this year on things such as sod, fertilizer, sand, supplies, and one time costs for connection of the restrooms (plumbing and electrical). Mr. Miller stated that fees are charged to help with expenditures. He also stated that people tend to take care of things better when they have to pay for it. He gave the Community Center rental as an example. It is only rented to Forest Hill residents and they pay the deposit and appropriate fees. Miller suggested that the committee needs to consider what the anticipated costs will be for the parks. He stated that the Parks funds monies available will need to be used for the matching grant that we hope to have awarded by the state. We service many people in Forest Hill and anticipate our population to reach 14,000-15,000 after the next census. We have to be fair with our citizens on the fees. Mr. Miller said the city may consider a Park Development Fee charged to new developers.

Committee members discussed a previous pool in Forest Hill. Mr. Miller said he is a proponent of a splash park. Construction and liability costs are very high for a regular pool. He added that the five acres for sale off Wichita and Autumn Run would be a great addition to the 13 acres the city already owns for a possible splash park. He encouraged the Committee to suggest to the City Council the purchase of the land as they prepare for the 2009-2010 budget. He stated that it could even be possible to tie in the splash park to an entertainment complex.

Mr. Miller said Wichita would need to be improved to a four-lane, curb and gutter street.

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

City Manager David Miller reminded the Committee that some cities do not allow practice on city fields.

Committee member Rodney Wright stated that some semi-professional teams look for places to practice. Mr. Miller said that we do not have any practice fields in the city.

Vice Chair Pearl Jones asked how much the soccer association was donating to the city. Acting Public Works Director Roberto Duenes said that they typically pay \$350 per week on the average; they shut down for 2 months out of the year. They donate \$15 per game. He stated that we would need to look at our options to see if we make more money hourly or by the game.

Vice Chair Jones asked if baseball would be an option since most cities charge per hour for the field plus pavilions and a deposit.

Committee member Rodney Wright stated that amenities sell products.

Vice Chair Jones stated that she thought the White Settlement rates were reasonable.

Chair Chad McCarty stated that soccer would be more widely played due to the high population of Hispanics in the city. City Manager Miller believed that to be true since soccer is played year round.

Miller stated that it might be good for the city to host soccer tournaments to bring in more money. Duenes said that years ago tournaments used to be played here and the Forest Hill team traveled to other cities to play.

City Manager David Miller discussed the upcoming 3-on-3 basketball tournament on July 25th.

Committee member Wright would like the opportunity for citizens to participate in the soccer league. Miller suggested that the Optimist Club get involved and help organize the leagues. He stated that we have to ensure safety for our citizens.

Vice Chair Pearl Jones asked how scheduling is done. Duenes said that the soccer fields are for practice only. Jones asked if we need a practice field. Committee member Wright said it could be a revenue generator. Duenes said that the baseball field could be used as a practice field.

Chair McCarty said that we don't want to make fees too low.

Committee member Wright said he feels Forest Hill residents should pay a discounted rate or get it for free; or users should pay a set fee per game.

City Manager Miller suggested the city set a minimum fee in 2 hour maximum increments for usage. He also stated the city could call Keller and Mansfield Parks and Recreation offices to see how they handle soccer and football game rentals.

3. Discuss May 30, Community Clean-Up Day

Discussion was led by Venus Wehle. She stated that it was very successful, 41 volunteers participated. She thanked the board and committee members. Vice Chair Jones said that everyone wanted to cooperate and they liked having the opportunity to throw out unwanted items; she suggested holding the event twice a year. Chair McCarty said maybe it could be rotated between Fall and Spring.

4. Discuss current budget

Chair Chad McCarty stated that this was discussed during the Staff Report given by Roberto Duenes.

5. Discuss Smoking Ordinance No. 2009006

Vice Chair Jones stated that she wanted this item on the agenda so that the committee could see what the final ordinance read. City Manager Miller stated that one Council member asked for a change in Section 86-123 and it was made that bars, nightclubs and adult entertainment establishments would be exempt from the ordinance. City staff is working on drafting a letter to all businesses to explain the new ordinance. He informed the Committee that Ms. Jones represented the Parks/Clean City Committee quite well.

6. Discuss Tree Preservation Ordinance No. 2009005

The discussion of this ordinance was included in discussion of the smoking ordinance.

F. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approval:

Gladys Hardeman, Secretary

Chad McCarty, Chairman