City of San Marcos

Regular Meeting
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday August 15, 2019 5:30pm
Activity Center – Multipurpose Room
501 E Hopkins St
San Marcos, Texas

I. Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm on Thursday August 15, 2019.

II. Roll Call

Present: Frank Contreras, Diane Phalen, Maggie Hutchins, Richard Shaver, Ryan McGillicuddy, Josh Simpson, Jordan Buckley

Absent: Eric Gilbertson, Keith Ubben

Excused:

Staff Present: Drew Wells, Bert Stratemann, Daniel Montemayor

III. 30 Minute Citizen Comment Period: Each speaker signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will be called in the order in which they signed-up. Each speaker will be provided up to three minutes to speak.

Mike Schlimgen from Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing commented on providing service for disabled Veterans through their organization. Mr. Schlimgen reported that the organization continues to contribute by cleaning up Stokes Park. Mr. Schlimgen concern is that there is no ADA access on the river. Mr. Schlimgen proposes adding ADA access along Mill Race.

Diane Wassenich, the Director of San Marcos River Foundation is currently advocating for dam removal. Ms. Wassenich commented the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance and the San Marcos River Foundation have worked over years for land acquisition. Ms. Wassenich concern is to prioritize and conserve the land and recommended more than just a sidewalk trail.
Ben Kvanli commented on the park being closed for some time not allowing for friends and family to enjoy it. In addition users are being ticketed a heavy fine for being in the park. Mr. Kvanli would like to see it open soon.

MINUTES

1. Consider approval, by motion, of the June 20, 2019 meeting minutes.

   A motion was made by Parks Board member Josh Simpson, second by Parks Board member Ryan McGillicuddy to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes. Motion carried by the following vote:

   For: 7 - Frank Contreras, Diane Phalen, Maggie Hutchins, Richard Shaver, Ryan McGillicuddy, Josh Simpson, Jordan Buckley

   Against: 0

INTRODUCTION

2. Park Ranger introduction – Jade Huffman

   Drew Wells introduced Jade Huffman as the new Park Ranger Manager. Jade Huffman is also overseeing the City Marshals, Court Bailiff and Fire Marshals in addition to his normal Park Ranger duties. Jade Huffman stated that he is available to answer any questions for the Parks Advisory Board. The Parks Advisory Board welcomed Mr. Huffman to the Parks Department.

ACTION ITEMS


   Mark Taylor presented the Emerald Crown Trail Proposal and discussed the vision, the planning process, gathering public comments, detail route planning in each city, and a trail description. The Emerald Crown Trail will form the backbone for a regional trail system in eastern Hays County. The trail will connect Buda, Kyle and San Marcos and may someday connect to points north and south. The trail will provide opportunities for recreation and transportation. The trail will only go where it’s wanted and will rely on public land and voluntary easements.

   A motion was made by Parks Board member Diane Phalen, second by Parks Board member Josh Simpson to approve the recommendation of
support to the City Council for the Trail Master Plan of the Emerald Crown Trail. Motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Frank Contreras, Diane Phalen, Maggie Hutchins, Richard Shaver, Ryan McGillicuddy, Josh Simpson, Jordan Buckley

Against: 0

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ Update

4. Hold discussion on the latest update of the Sink Creek Project and awarded U.S. forest service grant.

Drew Wells gave an update on the Sink Creek Project and the awarded U.S forest service grant. The Sink Creek is a 102-acre tract acquired on a lease to own. The U.S Forestry grant was awarded to the City of San Marcos to help purchase and acquire the tract. Conditions and some requirements exist for the grant funding to be released therefore the land will not be available for some time. Plans in the future to allow public to utilize will be discussed but the priority at this time is the requirements of the grant. Drew Wells stated that the Park Staff would like to schedule an onsite visit with the Parks Advisory Board, San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, and the San Marcos River Foundation in October 2019.

Hold discussion of the latest update of Capes Dam.

Drew Wells stated that the city is having preliminary discussions with the county. The County recommendation is to do a renovation to the dam area. The city is requesting the county to have a interlocal agreement to include the historic aspect of the area, environmental consideration, liability, ownership, and maintenance of the area. The decision will be back at City Council on what next steps will be taken.

Parks Board Ryan McGillicuddy asked if there will be any proposed land swaps. Drew Well stated that preliminary discussion with the county include the City taking over the 5-mile area parks. Concern from City staff and Council is how the county will maintain the dam area. Drew Wells stated that plans are still being discussed and worked out.

Hold discussion on the latest update for the recommendation on a shuttle pick up and drop off point of Cape Road and Mill Race.
Drew Wells stated that the city is waiting on plans from the county on the Capes Dam area. Drew Wells also stated that Capes Road is currently not a safe place for shuttle or pick up/drop off point. The safety concerns need to be addressed.

Hold discussion on the latest update for the CDBG completion projects celebration.

Bert Stratemann stated that he contacted HUD about setting up a date in September toward a morning time to celebrate the completion of CDBG projects such as Anita Reyes Park and Dunbar park. Park Staff will update the board on the date and time.

REPORTS


No feedback on monthly reports

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. Board Members may provide requests for discussion items for a future agenda in accordance with the board’s approved bylaws. No further discussion will be held related to topics proposed until they are posted on a future agenda in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Update on Capes Dam
Park Ranger Policy
Update on Cost Recovery Fee Update
Update on Parking

IV. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public.
This is an opportunity for the Press and Public to ask questions related to items on this agenda.

No questions or answers from press or public

IV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Parks Board member Maggie Hutchins, second by Parks Board member Josh Simpson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Frank Contreras, Diane Phalen, Maggie Hutchins, Richard Shaver, Ryan McGillicuddy, Josh Simpson, Jordan Buckley
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