

**STATE OF TEXAS §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD §**

**The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Bedford met in a regular session at the Old Bedford School Meeting Room on January 5, 2012, with the following members in attendance:**

- |                          |         |                                |         |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Alan Batjer           | Present | Council Liaison -              |         |
| 2. Bill Nichols          | Present | Jim Griffin                    | Present |
| 3. Jeannette Cook        | Present |                                |         |
| 4. Douglas Allbach       | Present | City Manager Designee -        |         |
| 5. Cathy Schneider       | Present | Mirenda McQuagge-Walden        | Present |
| 6. Lisa McMillan         | Present |                                |         |
| 7. James "Bucky" Greer   | Present | Other Staff -                  |         |
| 8. F. Dewey Tennant      | Present | Eric Valdez, Recreation Coord. | Present |
| 9. Drenda Witt           | Present |                                |         |
| 10. Linda Flemming       | Present |                                |         |
| 11. Charles Higginbotham | Present |                                |         |

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeannette Cook at 6:30 p.m.

### **NEW MEMBERS/OFFICER ELECTIONS**

#### **1. Introduction of newly appointed Parks and Recreation Board Members.**

Newly appointed Parks Board members Bill Nichols and Drenda Witt were introduced and welcomed by the Board.

#### **2. Consider and act upon appointment of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary to the Parks and Recreation Board.**

Chairperson Jeannette Cook opened the floor for nominations for Parks and Recreation Board officer positions.

For the position of Chair: The nomination of Jeannette Cook was made by Linda Flemming, seconded by Doug Allbach. Linda Flemming was nominated by Dewey Tennant, seconded by Charles Higginbotham. Jeannette Cook was elected Chairperson with a majority of votes.

For the position of Vice-Chair: The nomination of Linda Flemming was made by Lisa McMillan, seconded by Dewey Tennant. There being no other nominations, Linda Flemming was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson.

For the position of Secretary: The nomination of Drenda Witt for Secretary was made by Lisa McMillan, seconded by Charles Higginbotham. There being no other nominations, Drenda Witt was unanimously elected Secretary.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **3. Consider approval of the following Parks and Recreation Board minutes: a) November 3, 2011 regular meeting**

The Board considered the minutes of the November 3, 2011 regular meeting. Noted corrections were in reference to Parks Report and the "tree branch hanging over fence" at Carousel Park should actually be part of the Stormie Jones Park report. It was also noted that Cathy Schneider's name was misspelled in the Call To Order section. With those noted corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4. Consider and act upon a permit application for the Race 4 Railsbacks event on January 14, 2012.**

Stephanie Johnson, representing the Railsback family, presented information on the planned 1 mile fun run and 5K race they plan to hold to honor their uncle, Leighton Railsback, who passed away in 2011, and their father, Charles Railsback, a local doctor who is turning 70 years old. The race will start and end in the Boys Ranch Park and they are estimating 150-200 participants; 50 have registered to date. The Police Chief has reviewed and approved of the race route and the Bedford police department will provide traffic control. Proceeds of the race will benefit a scholarship fund in the Railsback name at Texas Tech University. Lisa McMillan asked if the race would be timed using a chip and Ms. Johnson replied that the race would not be chip-timed this year, but it was something they would look into if they did this next year. Several Board members expressed an interest in participating in the event and their support for the race. A motion was made by Lisa McMillan, seconded by Bucky Greer, to approve the permit application for the Race 4 Railsback event on January 14, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Report on the Park Donation Fund.**

Mirenda McQaugge-Walden reported that the Parks Donation Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$47,575. There are about 1600 water accounts currently contributing to the fund and last year there was about \$8,700 contributed. Mirenda noted that the Board could make a recommendation as to how these funds could be spent for next budget year, or that the Board could choose to hold the money for use at a time in the future. Jeannette Cook reviewed for the new Board members how the Parks Donation Funds are generated and how they have been spent in the past. Lisa McMillan asked about the planned new park name signs and when those were scheduled to happen, and stated that we could possibly use these funds to help pay for the signage or other major capital expense in the future. Jeannette Cook discussed using the funds for opening an initial "bare bones" dog park that could be added to later. It was the consensus of the Board members to not program any expenses from the Parks Donation Fund at this time and to let the funds continue to accumulate for use on a major capital expense, like the dog park, in the future.

#### **6. Discuss individual Park assignments:**

- a.) **Bedford Trails** (Charles) – Looks good.
- b.) **Boys Ranch** (Bucky) – Good; Jennifer noted graffiti on the box behind On Stage and asked about where the memorial bench that was located by the new restroom went.
- c.) **Brook Hollow** (Alan) – No Report
- d.) **Carousel** (Cathy) – Cathy had no report, but Drenda had gone by park recently and reported that everything was in order.
- e.) **Central** – No Report
- f.) **Meadowpark** (Doug) – Good.
- g.) **Monterrey** (Dewey) - Good; light bulbs need changing.
- h.) **Stormie Jones** (Linda) – The fence section at entrance off of Aspenwood is still leaning into park.
- i.) **Harris Ryals Park** (Lisa) – Swing closest to Murphy Dr. is broken; questioned when the park was to be dedicated and new signage erected with new park name. Jeannette noted that the asphalt walking trail through the park is broken up, covered in weeds and needs repair. There are several attractions (i.e. sand volleyball) that could be easily added to this park to make it even better.

Jeannette Cook asked if the walking trail along Cheek Sparger had a name and if it was actually a part of the Bedford Trails system. If not, it should be added so that we show added trail miles. The same could be done with a repaired trail around Harris Ryals Park that would then connect into the Bedford Trails. She asked if there was any bond money to make these trail improvements. Mirenda McQuagge-Walden indicated that there may be some money left in the 2005 Bond fund that included funding for trail improvements and that she would investigate what is left and how it can be used.

Jeannette Cook noted that with the new year and new Board members, the Board should revisit individual park assignments, explaining to new members that each Board member would be responsible for stopping by and checking on a specific park and reporting on its condition at each meeting. The individual park assignments for 2012 are as follows:

Bedford Trails – Charles Higginbotham  
Boys Ranch Park – Bill Nichols  
Brook Hollow – Alan Batjer  
Carousel – Drenda Witt  
Central Park – Bucky Greer  
Meadowpark – Doug Allbach  
Monterrey – Dewey Tennant  
Stormie Jones – Linda Flemming  
Harris Ryals – Lisa McMillan

(Jeannette Cook and Cathy Schneider will check on various parks as needed.)

## **7. Staff update on recreation programs.**

Mirenda McQuagge-Walden thanked Cathy Schneider for helping at the December Tree Lighting event. She noted that they had a great turnout and had joint activities with the Library this year (i.e. a hayride between the Library and Old Bedford School), hot chocolate, crafts, and the Trinity HS NHS students helped out too.

She noted that the Volunteer Banquet will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, and the annual Valentine's Dance will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, both at the BRAC with a Circus theme. She also noted that

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the contract for the design of Phase 1 of the Boys Ranch Park renovation will be on the  
Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**8. The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012.** Members noted that they would like to discuss the Dog Park and budget items on the next agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business to come before the Board, Linda Flemming, made a motion for adjournment of the meeting, seconded by Dewey Tennant. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Jeannette Cook, Chairperson  
City of Bedford, Parks & Recreation Board