

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TARRANT §
CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in joint work session with the Parks and Recreation Board at 6:00 p.m. in the Bonnie Finn Room of the Bedford Public Library, 1805 L. Don Dodson Drive on the 9th day of November 2010 with the following members present:

Jim Story	Mayor
Chris Brown	Council Members
Ray Champney	
Roger Fisher	
Jim Griffin	
Roy W. Turner	

Constituting a quorum.

Roy Savage did not attend tonight's meeting.

The following members of the Parks and Recreation Board were present:

Jeannette Cook	Chairperson
Lisa McMillan	
Charles Higginbotham	
Dewey Tenant	
Cathy Schneider	
Doug Allbach	
Alan Batjer	
Rochelle Ross	

Constituting a quorum.

Joy Henderson and Linda Flemming did not attend tonight's meeting.

Staff present included:

Beverly Queen	City Manager
David Miller	Deputy City Manager
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden	Managing Director of Community Services
Leigh Morgan	Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Story and Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

WORK SESSION

- 1) **Discuss and review progress for Parks Master Plan.**

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Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Leigh Morgan stated she was excited to present what has been done so far with the Parks Master Plan. She introduced John Fain who is the consultant on the project. A copy of Mr. Fain's presentation is available in the City Secretary's Office.

Mr. Fain stated that tonight he wanted to present what has been done on the Plan and give Council and the Parks Board the opportunity to provide input, add or modify what has been done. He also wants to give an outline of where they are headed and what the timeline is. He wanted to emphasize that there is a difference between the Boys Ranch Master Plan and what is being shown tonight. This Plan is a broader overall, look at the City and its parks and is not as detailed as the Boys Ranch Master Plan. This is a planning project, not a design project and is not tied to any kind of funding or timeline. The end result is a tool to use over the next five years as decisions are made in park development and operations. In order to score as high as possible when trying to secure grants, the City must have a parks master plan in place approved by the state.

Mr. Fain then listed the accomplishments to date. The process started in June with the first meeting with the Parks Board. On July 1, a public workshop was held at the Old Bedford School where a lot of input was received. In July, a general survey and senior survey were distributed at the Boys Ranch, the Senior Recreation Center and on-line and they received a good amount of data from the surveys. In August, the results of the surveys were compiled. He then gave a general summary of the results.

The top six most important recreation programs ranked in order as follows: fitness classes, dog park, adult programs, biking, water exercise and arts.

The athletic facilities that should be added or expanded ranked in order as follows: baseball fields, practice fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, and softball fields.

The recreation facility that should be added or expanded ranked in order as follows: Hike/bike trails, multi-purpose center, open space, shelters/pavilions, playgrounds, and indoor pool.

In answer to the question of should the city make it a priority to acquire more open space, the results were: 60.2% answered yes and 23.3% answered no.

In answer to the question of how the City should fund new park facilities, the answers ranked as follows: bond programs, the general fund and user fees.

In regards to the senior survey, the programs that are most important ranked in order as follows: walking, fitness classes, dance arts/crafts, rest areas/overlooks and aquatics.

From August through October, several more workshops were held with the Parks Board and they came up with an existing facilities map which will go into the Master Plan. The map shows the City facilities already in place and is critical in coming up with recommendations. From there, they then developed standards which are used to establish benchmarks for certain park facilities like pavilions, shelters, etc. The standards are then applied to the current population, the population five years out and the population ten years out. He compared the 2010 standards with the 1995 standards which was when the last master plan was developed. This information was compiled by looking at several other cities, the National Parks Association standards and with information from the Board and surveys. He then presented a draft framework plan based on these standards combined with what is currently in place to show the possibility for improvements in the park system.

Mr. Fain then presented goals and objectives which are very broad and general ideas for how the City wants to see the park system evolve over time but will not identify specific projects. The goals were as follows:

Goal 1: Develop a diversified parks system that satisfies the varied recreation needs of citizens and protect and enhance the quality of life in Bedford.

Goal 2: Create a system of pedestrian and bicycle linkages between residential neighborhoods, businesses, linear greenbelts, schools, public administrative facilities, and other activity centers, as an alternative to automobile transportation.

Goal 3: Preserve and protect Bedford's natural environment and native ecosystems to the greatest extent possible.

Goal 4: Provide for high quality image, landscape, and visual unity for the entire city through planning and expanding beautification efforts.

Goal 5: Use private, county, state and national resources as well as city resources to improve the park system.

Goal 6: Expand economic growth, improve the quality of life for citizens and promote economic development opportunities through parks, recreation and open space planning and programming.

Goal 7: Increase safety and reduce maintenance and operational costs throughout the park system.

Mr. Fain stated that the most important criteria in the Master Plan are the priorities set for the City. He has taken obvious boundary lines and split the city into three parks districts with different needs and separated by major thoroughfares. Each district is set up with separate priorities; so conceivably, the City could write three separate grants if desired. These priorities were evaluated from a number of resources including the results of the surveys, recommendations from the Parks Board and Council, current and projected demographics, existing land use and open space opportunities, City staff, available projected capital, Texas Parks and Wildlife criteria, and needs assessment findings. He stated that the establishment of priorities is essential, not only as a guide for the City's development, but it is also a requirement of Texas Parks and Wildlife. These priorities shall assure the state that Bedford is addressing its recreational needs in response to the findings of this document.

The priorities for District 1 - North ranked in order as follows: lake dredging, creek improvements, trails, overlook/interpretive area, disc golf, fishing pier, picnicking, playgrounds, dog park and sports/play fields.

In the Parks and Wildlife scoring packet, if the project sponsor has a locally adopted Parks and Wildlife approved plan that addresses the outdoor recreation needs, you get five points. Also, if you address the top three priorities, you get ten more points.

The priorities for District 2 – South ranked in order as follows: trails, land acquisition, sprayground, sand volleyball, picnicking, playgrounds, creek improvements, and tennis courts.

The priorities for District 3 – East ranked in order as follows: walking trails, creek improvements, land acquisition, sports/play fields, and playgrounds.

City-wide indoor priorities ranked in order as follows: walking track, gymnasium, weight room, floor exercise, meeting space, performing arts/cultural center, and senior center.

Mr. Fain explained that as top priorities are taken care of, lower priorities move up. He stated that the plan was highly oriented towards getting grants. In answer to how do you have a plan that meets grant criteria but not needs, he stated that those are listed in the goals and objectives section of the plan and that grants will free up money for other projects. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 but the City must have a match.

Mr. Fain then explained what is left to do in the process. The text for the Plan should be completed for review by City staff and Council by November 24. There will be one more meeting with the Parks Board on December 2 and a resolution adopting the Master Plan will be submitted to the Council at their meeting on December 14. This resolution must be included in the Plan. The Plan must be submitted in December, 60 days before the grant application. He will be working on the grant application January and February. A work session to finalize the grant will be held with the Parks Board on February 2 and the Council will have to hold a public hearing and have a second resolution to approve the grant application in February. Once they have submitted the application, the City will not hear anything for six months.

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The City would have three years to spend the grant funds, though they can request an extension. Within three years, if the City has not finished the project, the City would not be allowed to apply for any more grants until it is finished. The chances for getting a grant are based on how competitive the City is, how well the grant is written, how much money is there and who they are competing against. The City can apply for a grant every six months. The City must be willing to commit to the funds, so they must show that they have the reserves available to fund it. The grant is a reimbursement grant and you can get reimbursed as you spend it and you can actually use the reimbursement to spend again. For right now, the plan is to just write a grant for the Boys Ranch.

The Council and the Parks and Recreation Board had no changes for the Parks Master Plan at this time. Staff asked that any feedback be submitted before Thanksgiving so it can be incorporated into the text. The plan is to go before the Parks Board on December 2, incorporate any changes from that and to have the full, proposed document before Council at the December 7 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Story and Chairperson Cook adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Jim Story, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary