



## MINUTES

### CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE PARKS AND RECREATION SUB COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER  
14050 FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS 75234

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016  
6:30 PM

**Members Present:** David Merritt, Michelle Holmes, Rodger Cramer, Nic Rady, Linda Bertl

**Members Absent:** John Jakob, Michael Driskill

**Resignation:** Jorge Gonzalez

**Staff Present:** Mitzi Davis, Meredith Dowdy, Charles Cancellare

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

David Merritt called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

#### II. APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2016 AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

Roger Cramer moved to adopt the meeting minutes; Second by Linda Bertl. Motion passed unanimously. Nic Rady volunteered to record the minutes for tonight's meeting. Sub-Committee members will need to appoint a new secretary at the next meeting.

#### III. DISCUSS JOHN F. BURKE NATURE PRESERVE

Charles Cancellare came to discuss the John F. Burke Nature Preserve. The City is in the process of creating a new Master Plan. From the input of a recent community meeting and committee ideas: Dunway is compiling the site layout, possible site amenities, and desired uses from the stakeholders into a complete Master Plan. The nature preserve is 107 acres of land jointly owned by Farmers Branch, the NTTA, and Valwood Improvement Authority whose section is in Carrollton. The committee has visited similar sites in the DFW area and developed an initial program list. The existing site currently has parking under the Tollway, some trails, and a few Eagle Scout projects including the main gateway and picnic areas. The water's edges include Cook's Creek, the Elm Fork, and a few ponds. The park has pecans, red oaks, live oaks, elms, and other various tree types. The Preserve includes meadows, prairies, wetlands, and most of it is located in the floodplain. One concern is the regional hydrology, as the Preserve is situated where waters from the Lewisville and Grapevine lakes merge near Sandy Lake Park. All work must be approved by the Core of Engineers before building. Another concern is how to make the bridge zone near the entrance work with the Tollway. The current trails are undeveloped and must be developed into soft trails that meet ADA compliance laws. This could include either a boardwalk that could designate the 100 year flood zone or possibly decomposed granite mixed in with adhesives. There is discussion of building a bridge across the Elm Fork with talks of eliminating bicycle traffic through areas of the park. Other amenities include possibly building an outdoor classroom, a tree-house overlooking an elevated overlook, an amphitheater, interactive signage, bird blinds, and a composting restroom. Some initial monetary figures included \$250,000 for a boardwalk, updating existing trails for approximately \$238,000, improved maintenance trail \$118,000, way signage for \$15,000, interpretive signage for \$7500, an entrance pavilion for \$200,000, eight educational stations for \$2000-\$4000 each, amphitheater for \$180,000, restroom for \$90,000, parking lot for \$603,000, observational platform \$275,000.

#### IV. DISCUSS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN PARKS

Replace ballpark lighting \$225,000 in budget yearly and on schedule. Farmers Branch Park restrooms \$285,000 this year. There is discussion of Farmers Branch Park adding additional parking head in on Dennis with 600 linear feet of parking spaces for \$140,000. Remodeling the bathrooms \$100,000 and possibly regrading the fields for drainage for four full soccer fields. Irrigation alone would cost \$500,000. Playground upgrades are budgeted at \$50,000 per year.

#### V. REPORT SUMMARY OF BOND COMMITTEE MEETING FROM MAY 26, 2016

Michelle Holmes reported on the May 26 meeting and indicated that John Speed presented a great matrix. Nic Rady and David Merritt were unable to attend that meeting. Michelle Holmes informed our members that we must be

finished by August 1st with finalization of cost. The Bond Committee has scheduled two listening meetings on July 19; 2pm at the Senior Center and 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

**VI. DISCUSS TRAIL PLAN OVERLAP WITH PUBLIC WORKS STREET IMPROVEMENT**

Phase I of Public Works Street Improvement is almost complete and Phase II projects on Valley View are underway. There is not much overlap with the Trail Master Plan, except Valley View which has already been discussed.

**VII. DISCUSS POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

The Sub-Committee members would like to schedule Derrick Birdsall, Historical Park Superintendent, to present his ideas for the Historical Park at the next meeting. The Dallas Morning News article that rated DFW cities and parks did not include Farmers Branch. It would be interesting to see where Farmers Branch falls on one criteria: the ten minute walk to a park. Several citizens comments have been submitted. Requests include a permanent sign near the Four Corners for information/news display. A dog park has been mentioned multiple times and we may move this to consideration. Requests for a coffee shop at the train station, shaded seating at Gussie Park, a sand volleyball court, and more sidewalks were submitted.

**VIII. DISCUSS BENCHMARK MATRIX**

The PARD Sub-Committee liked John Speed's matrix that was presented during the overall Bond Committee on May 26. The PARD Sub-Committee members opted to adopt his model for use and David Merritt will refine the matrix.

**IX. CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

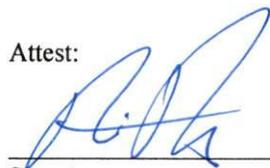
The July 4th meeting has been moved to July 11th. Unanimous approval.

**X. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Linda Bertl. Second by Roger Cramer. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

  
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 Chair

Attest:

  
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 Secretary