

MINUTES
IRVING PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MONDAY MARCH 8, 2010
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
6:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Trivella Smith
Larry Stipes
Marilyn Wilson
Chuck Kirk
Helen Chaplin
Marcy Brown-Marsden
Karen Harmon
Mike Kwiatkowski
Kimberly Zahorik

IPAR STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Michalski
Gayle Averitt
Dwight Pinnix
Walter Ritchie
Becky Dietz
Al Johnson
Mike Griffith
Gene Moulden

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allan Meagher

Item 1 – Call to Order

Larry Stipes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item 2 – Presentation of Miracle League Program Sponsors

Doug Fox of the Irving YMCA introduced Bill Conley, President of the Conley Group. The Conley Group donated a check in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Conley spoke and said that it was an honor to be a part of the Miracle League.

Doug Fox also introduced the representative from Dr. Pepper / Snapple who presented a check for \$10,000 to the Miracle League Field. This check is the first of a 3 year commitment to donate a total of \$30,000. The Dr. Pepper / Snapple representative agreed with Bill Conley in saying that they were honored to be a part of the organization.

Chair, Larry Stipes advised that the Park Board had voted unanimously at the previous meeting to name the Miracle League Field “Joe Taylor Field”. Mr. Taylor was at the meeting and spoke to the Board thanking them for the opportunity to be a part of this program for disabled children.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Chuck Kirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Marcy Brown-Marsden 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Chairperson Report

No report this month.

Item 5 – Council Action Report

No report this month.

Item 6 – Current Projects Update

Gene Moulden updated the board on the current projects including the Animal Shelter dedication date of March 27th.

Item 7 – Information Items

A. Corridor Maintenance Improvements

Doug Wilson gave a little background information on how the Corridor Team was developed. The Parks Department received 9 employees from the Street Department in order to create the Corridor Team. This team collects litter from the roadways and medians that the City has previously paid an outside Contractor to collect. The Corridor Team focuses on some of the primary corridors in the city. The City is still using an outside contractor to maintain part of the cities right of ways and medians. As of 2/21/10, the Litter Corridor Team has collected 106,860 lbs of litter from our roadways and medians. Chris Michalski answered questions from board members.

B. Director's Report

Chris Michalski advised board members that the West Irving Aquatic Center fees will be established based on the current fees of the Cimarron Family Aquatic Center. Chris wanted to make the board members aware that the proposed fee schedule will be going to the City Council in April to be adopted. Chris anticipates there to be an issue over the Irving/non Irving pricing due to the placement of the aquatic center.

Chris revisited the fact that the Southwest and Northwest pools will be demolished and will not open this season due to those pools not being cost effective upon opening the new West Irving Aquatic Center. Chris answered questions from board members.

Chris Michalski updated the board on the Motocross track in stating that the City is still working through Insurance issues. The City of Irving is trying to create the model for other cities to follow.

Chris informed board members that the results of the internal survey for employees have been released to the department Director's. Chris received the results for the Parks Department and has developed action plans to address the needed areas of improvement. Chris advised the board that Building Services has now moved under Casey Tate in the CIP Department.

C. Athletic & Aquatic Activities Update

Walter Ritchie updated the board on upcoming events including the Underwater Easter Egg hunt on March 12th at North Lake Aquatic Center. Walter advised the board of the declining numbers of registration in the athletic programs due to the economy. The recent rain has also affected the programs. Walter mentioned that the Senior South Zone Championships at North Lake went very well. Walter also mentioned that the North Lake Aquatic Center will be closed for campus construction March 13th thru 15th. Walter answered questions from board members.

D. Park Maintenance Team Update

Mike Griffith updated the board regarding the Park Divisions involvement in the tree work being performed due to the damage from the snow storms which occurred on February 12th.

Mike stated that there were approximately 900 trees damaged in the public areas and in the process of removing 35 trees that were considered dangerous. To make things even more challenging is that this event occurred during the “Oak Wilt” season where we had several Live Oak trees damaged. We are in the process of trimming broken limbs and painting the wounds with tree paint to help protect them from this disease.

The Parks Department will continue tree work at all Public Areas, focusing on the hazardous trees first for our citizen’s safety. Staff will monitor trees that have severe damage for insect and disease problems. Mike answered questions from board members.

E. Recreation Activities Update

Dwight Pinnix updated the board on the upcoming activities including the third annual Home School Fair at Lee Park on March 27th. Dwight commented on the good attendance at the Community Fest event held at Senter Recreation on March 6th.

F. Administrative Activities Update

Gayle Averitt updated the board on the status of the 1st floor City Hall renovations. Gayle advised the board that there was a Budget Kick-off meeting on March 8th and also the Parks Department will begin to hire the summer employees.

Item 8 – Committee Reports

Item 9 – Future Agenda Items/Open Discussion

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

