



MINUTES

CITY OF BRENHAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

April 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, beginning at 12:02 pm at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center, at 1800 E. Tom Green Street Brenham, Texas.

Board members present were Bill Betts, Paula Buls, Jim Baker, Andrea Fischer, Tina Henderson, Lee Chalmers, Delbert Boeker, Ginger Bosse, and Dusty Robinson

City of Brenham staff members present was Dane Rau, Casey Redman, Crystal Locke, Tammy Jaster, and Hannah Mertz.

Others present were JC Robinson, Kathy Boer, Linda Thomas, Albert Buchanan, Nick McIntyre, Jimmie Maurer, Charlie Mast, Mildred Nobbman, Thor Davis, Robbie Gail Charette.

Media present were Josh Blaschke, KWHI News and Alyssa Faykus, Brenham Banner Press.

1. Chairman Bill Betts called the meeting to order

2. Citizen/Visitor Comments

Citizen Charles Mast complimented the Blue Bell Aquatic Center facilities, staff, and operations.

WORK SESSION

3. Presentation and Discussion Related to the Skate Park at Fireman's Park

Community Services Specialist Crystal Locke presented this item. Locke explained that the skate park at Fireman's Park is a healthy outlet for children, teens, and adults to get outdoors. Locke added that staff recognized the increase in usage at the park. Locke introduced citizen Albert Buchanan to present ideas about possible expansions such as a bowl and pump track.

Buchanan shared that the usage level of the skate park has grown incrementally over the past year and stated it is overused and overloaded. Buchanan added he wanted to discuss two items with the Board. First, Buchanan noted that with heavy use comes maintenance items that need to be addressed, such as rust developing on the surface of the equipment. Buchanan also mentioned the need for better lighting, more picnic tables for seating, additional trash cans, and a water fountain.

Secondly, Buchanan proposed that due to the increased traffic, the City looks to expand the park with a pump track, a linear type of obstacle course, and a bowl, a popular amenity that looks like an empty swimming pool. Buchanan provided the Board with photos of skate parks around the region.

Buchanan introduced Steven Greer, a local mentor to younger riders at the skate park. Greer explained the wear on some equipment pieces, such as the mini ramp and half pike. Local rider, Conner Simmons, expressed the benefits of a skate club or mentor program. Dalton Francis suggested the City require skate park users to wear helmets when using the skate park.

Board member Paula Buls asked about helmets and how other skate parks enforce that rule. Buchanan replied that in Spring, Texas, the skate park is staffed, and riders cannot enter without a helmet. Buchanan suggested signage and self-policing for the local skate park.

Rau asked about the location of the skate park and the amount of space for additional amenities. Buchanan said he measured the area to the west of the skate park, almost 60' by 40'. Buchanan added there is space surrounding the skate park to add a pump track. Buchanan said the pump track could circle around the park, under the trees, and between the skate park and the fence next to N. Park Street.

Board Member Fischer asked how quickly the repairs need to be addressed. Greer noted the repairs are not affecting riders but should be addressed within the next year or two. Buchanan added the trees are encroaching over the skate park and need trimming.

Chairperson Bill Betts asked how skate park users access the park – walk, ride a bike, or be dropped off by parents. Buchanan noted a good number are dropped off by parents. Buchanan also shared with the Board that 50-70 people access the park per day on average. Buchanan added the heaviest use time was from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Chairperson Bill Betts thanked Buchanan and the local skate park users for attending and presenting the Board and staff with great feedback.

4. Discussion and Update Related to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Local Park Grant Program for the Brenham Family Park Phase I(a) and Recreational Trails Grant Program for the Nature Trail at Hohlt Park

Community Services Specialist Crystal Locke presented this item. Locke stated that the initial grant agreement for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was expected in April/May 2021. Locke said that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff reported experiencing some delays and anticipating a few additional months before the grant agreement phase. Locke added that the review process involves the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Environmental workgroup staff and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Locke said that once the review is complete and clearance is given, TPWD Recreational Trails Program staff can obligate federal funding to our project with FHWA.

Citizen Nick McIntyre suggested using the wooded area of the nature trail for additional disc golf holes to utilize the established trees and space near the railroad tracks.

Locke informed the Board that staff received weekly updates and meets with Jones-Carter bi-weekly, every other Tuesday. Locke explained that Grant Coordinator Matthew Fougerat, with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, notified the City of the following National Park Service (NPS) application window set for March 31-April 30. Locke stated the City is in the grant agreement execution stage initially scheduled for April 2020. Locke added that federal agreements would be sent to the states by June, and the City could see a contract as soon as July. Locke said that plans and specs can be submitted to TPWD before the grant agreement and pre-approved to start the bid phase and construction as soon as the Local Grant Agreement is signed. Locke explained the bid phase would begin in September, followed by construction in November. Staff presented photos of the Brenham Family Park development.

Citizen Nick McIntyre asked if camping spaces and RV hookups would be added at the Brenham Family Park. Rau explained that those items are not currently included in the plan.

Rau stated that staff expect 50% design plans from Jones-Carter in mid-May and will bring those back to the Board in a joint meeting with the Brenham Community Development Corporation.

5. Discussion and Presentation Related to the Design and Plan for the Blue Bell Aquatic Center Modified Phase II

Director of Public Works Dane Rau and Aquatic Superintendent Tammy Jaster presented this item. Rau explained that the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) approved \$10,000 during the FY21 funding cycle for the conceptual and engineered design for the Blue Bell Aquatic Center modified Phase II. Rau explained that the staff focused on creating the handicap accessible parking expansion located in the rear of the facility to allow therapy users to access the facility more efficiently and an updated electronic locking system to accommodate a second entrance from the back of the facility and make the facility more secure. Rau added that he reached out to Paul Aschenbeck with Brenham ISD to discuss the dual use of the school driveway at the Middle School closest to the aquatic center off of Blue Bell Road.

Staff presented renderings from Progressive Commercial Aquatics to the Board, including additional parking, open-air concept decking, an outdoor competition pool, and a teen leisure pool area.

REGULAR SESSION

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the February 10, 2021, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Board Member Andrea Fischer and seconded by Board Member Paula Buls to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021, regular meeting.

Chairperson Bill Betts called for a vote. The motion passed with the Board voting as follows:

Board Member Jim Baker	Yes
Board Member Bill Betts	Yes
Board Member Delbert Boeker	Yes
Board Member Ginger Bosse	Yes
Board Member Paula Buls	Yes
Board Member Lee Chalmers	Yes
Board Member Tina Henderson	Yes
Board Member Andrea Fischer	Yes
Board Member Dusty Robinson	Yes

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funding from the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) for Various Parks and Recreation Projects

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Rau explained that staff has identified parks and recreation projects to present to the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) for funding and is looking for guidance from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Blue Bell Aquatic Center (BBAC)

	Fiscal Year	Description	Budget Request
Tier I	2022	Replace/add shade structures	\$53,045
	2022	Replace metal furniture (final phase)	\$50,000
	2022	Sealant on exterior brick	\$30,000
	2022	Modified Phase II(a)	\$250,000
Tier II	2022	Additional Aflex inflatables	\$12,000
	2022	Refurbish and repaint mini playscape in the leisure pool	\$10,000
	2022	Update front desk area in the lobby	\$25,000
	2022	Update the sound system and add digital displays	\$79,568
Budget Request for FY22 - Tier I			\$383,045
Budget Request for FY22 - Tier II			\$126,568
Total Budget Request for FY22			\$509,613

Recreation

	Fiscal Year	Description	Budget Request
Tier I	2022	5-Year Update – Brenham Parks and Recreation Master Plan	\$6,180
	2022	Movies in the Park	\$4,000
	2022	Christmas displays – Walk-Thru Parks	\$15,000
Total Recreation Request for FY22			\$25,180

Parks

	Fiscal Year	Description	Budget Request
Tier I	2022	Brenham Family Park infrastructure	\$265,000
	2022	Replace scoreboard – Kenjura Field	\$46,350
	2022	Repaint iron bridges – Henderson (2) & Hohlt	\$92,700
	2022	Resurface two (2) baseball fields with MasterTurf – Matthies at Linda Anderson & Boehm at Hohlt	\$15,000
	2022	Phase II Carousel horses, gondolas, mechanical, and paint exterior – Fireman's Park	\$74,196
	2022	Resurface parking lot - Linda Anderson	\$82,400
	2022	Comprehensive park signage	\$27,600
	2022	Bullpen upgrades - Hohlt Park	\$30,900
	2022	Turf home plate – Schulte Field	\$14,450
	2022	Replace play equipment – Hattie Mae Flowers	\$72,100
	2022	Park improvement plan – Jackson Street Park	\$30,000
Tier II	2022	Phase I Improvements – Jackson Street Park	\$550,000
Budget Request for FY22 - Tier I			\$750,696
Budget Request for FY22 - Tier II			\$550,000
Total Budget Request for FY22			\$1,300,696

Budget Request Tier I \$1,158,921

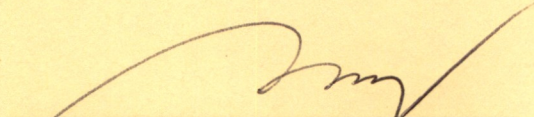
Budget Request Tier II \$676,568

Budget Request Tier I and Tier II \$1,835,489

8. Parks and Recreation Staff Updates

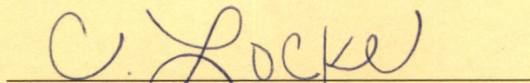
- Community Services Specialist Crystal Locke reported completed projects, work in progress, and future programs and events.
- Blue Bell Aquatic Center Superintendent Tammy Jaster reported statistics for the Blue Bell Aquatic Center, staffing, maintenance, programs, and usage.
- Parks Superintendent Casey Redman reported on maintenance updates.

The meeting was adjourned.



Bill Betts, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Crystal Locke, Staff Liaison