



MINUTES

CITY OF BRENHAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

August 23, 2023

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, beginning at noon at Brenham City Hall – Conference Room 2-A, 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members Present:

Bill Betts, Delbert Boeker, Dusty Robinson, Ginger Bosse, Lee Chalmers, Tina Henderson, and Wendy Buth

Members Absent:

Andrea Fischer and Courtney Mason

City of Brenham Staff Present:

Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Casey Redman, Tammy Jaster and Kyle Branham

Citizens/Others Present:

Matthew Wehring, JC Robinson

Media Present:

KTEX/KWHI – Mark Whitehead

1. Chairman Bill Betts called the meeting to order

2. Citizen/Visitor Comments

Matthew Wehring, Pickleball member spoke on the Pickleball Club. When they started, they had 50 club members in 2018 when the courts were built. In 2023 there are almost 200 members. Jackson Street Park needs additional Pickleball expansion. The courts are full daily. It is not just club members using the courts, it is families, kids, teens and a variety of our community. Matthew compared Brenham with 6 courts to some surrounding

communities: Bellville has 8 courts; Navasota has 12 courts; Sealy has 8 courts; and Caldwell has 2 courts. Matthew also addressed the lights being an issue and needing to be addressed. Board Member Tina Henderson questioned times of play, and Matthew stated the Pickleball Club has 3 specific days/times that are dedicated to use the court during that time frame. Board Member Ginger Bosse asked about the courts in Navasota. Navasota is at the High School and a couple of churches. Dane stated that he spoke with Lisa Kessler and their approach with BISD for additional courts. Casey Redman asked if Jackson Street was the place to expand. The Pickleball Club likes Jackson Street Park and would like to see more courts built there.

JC Robinson talked about the private sector and several indoor locations popping up especially in the larger posed the question on surveying the community to see what the actual needs are. Do people want wider trails? He stated he visited with several park users and they don't want wider trails, they want gravel trails and they like trees. JC also expressed the need for more courts in the park. Dane stated we have some data from a few years ago, but we can do another survey.

WORK SESSION

3. Discussion and Update to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Local Park Grant Program for the Brenham Family Park Phase I(a)

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Rau explained that Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant for Brenham Family Park Phase I(a) We have been in a holding pattern since May of 2023 with Texas Parks and Wildlife and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers as it relates to the Notice to Proceed for the Brenham Family Park Phase 1(a). The hold up was related to the classification and approval by the Corps of Engineers of stream classification and whether or not permits were needed for improvements to take place around the minor swales and ravines located on our site. In July, we were finally able to get 2 Core of Engineer project managers on-site to walk the property and show them the three areas of concern. We had a great site visit, and a lot of positive information was discussed between City staff, Quiddity engineers, Environmental Consultants and Corps of Engineer staff. On August 8th we received the letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that no permits were needed, and we were able to re-submit the EA. Staff immediately worked with Paul Wild, Environmental Consultant and re-submitted the EA to Texas and Parks and Wildlife who sent it over to the National Parks Service.

This was a huge step to get the "No permit required" letter from the Corps of Engineers and should put us in motion to receive the NTP by the end of year.

We are finalizing the main creek crossing which is 95% complete and looks great. Quiddity has the park plans at 90% design and has submitted them to the City for final review. Once we receive the NTP we will be able to wrap the design up and bid the project out based on the amenities that are listed in the grant which include parking lot, 1-mile of bike/walking trails, lake feature, lighting, benches, wildflower areas, etc. We have approximately \$1.5 million to begin Phase 1(a) and additional funds for an all amenity playscape. We look forward to receiving our

NTP and getting started with this project in 2024 or sooner. See attached letter from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.

4. Discussion and Update on Several Capital Projects Funded in FY 22-23

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Staff would like to update the Board on several Capital Projects that were funded by BCDC in 2022-23. The two largest projects are finally designed and ready for bid.

Turf Fields at Hohlt Park

Budget \$771,000

This project had to be pushed back due to scheduling and making sure an engineered set of plans were designed so that all vendors had an opportunity to bid on alike quantities and specifications. We also had to make sure the least amount of impact was had while under construction pertaining to Little League and Select Tournaments. Plans have been finalized and Request for Proposals (RFP's) will be opened on August 29th by City personnel and CEI Engineers. We structured the scope of work so that we have some alternatives to consider, fearing that this project may go over the allocated amount of \$771,000. Once we open bids we will discuss how to proceed and discuss with BCDC our options. We are hoping to complete all 4 softball fields at Hohlt and work within the timeframe of November 13-Feb 2. We held a preliminary proposal meeting on August 15th and had 6 vendors at the meeting/walk -thru. We will keep you all posted once the RFP's are opened and scored. This project details turf being installed on up to 4 softball infields at Hohlt Park along with several bullpen areas.

Aquatic Center Locker Room Refurbishment

Budget \$208,000

BBA Architects has completed the plans for the refurbishment of the main restrooms and locker rooms at the Aquatic Center. These are approaching 23 yrs old and need a face lift. We will be opening Request for Proposals on September 26th. Improvements will involve updating showers, lighting, flooring, vanities, upgrading lockers, benches, and removing some walls along with replacing partitions. We have conducted the asbestos survey and all results came back good. We are hopeful to start in Nov/Dec and be complete within 90-120 days. We do expect these improvements to be over the \$208,000 but do have some options if this happens to consider with BCDC.

5. Discussion and Update on Progression of 18-hole Disc Golf Course at Brenham Family Park

Kyle Branham updated the Board from the last meeting To update from the last meeting. We have made significant progress on the Disc Golf Course. All 18 course baskets have been assembled and installed by staff at each hole location. We do have 1 remaining basket to install as a "test basket" when you enter the course and that will be installed within the next few weeks. The fairways have been established with stakes and multiple shredding's have taken place. As we continue to perform

shredding and mowing, the fairways will become more defined, while allowing out of bounds areas to continue to produce natural wildflower growth areas as the park was intended to have.

We have been working closely with a small group of the disc golf community that have helped get the course into the current shape that it is at. This group has a better understanding of what makes a course go from good to great and what will draw as many people as we can in the disc golf world to Brenham. This group has been playing the course for several weeks now and have made the proper adjustments to allow the course to play as designed. It is laid out across all 25 acres and has a mixture of short par 3's to long par 4's.

Concrete Throwing pads or T-pads as the community calls them are currently in the works. The 18 locations have been established and site prep work is on the schedule. Once the creek crossing project is complete, we can get a concrete truck on location to pour each T-pad. We are looking to have this phase of the disc golf course completed before September.

As we continue making progress towards completion, signage will be the final step. The local disc golf group have already offered up their services and will fly the course with a drone and take aerial photos so we can have the course mapped as accurately as possible with tree lines, out of bounds lines, and the variety of hazards on the course. This will be a drawing on the sign and at each T-pad location. We will then be taking it one step further and having each hole flown from T-pad to basket. The goal with this is to then be able to provide a QR code on each

REGULAR SESSION

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the June 14, 2023, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Board Member Lee Chalmers and seconded by Board Member Delbert Boeker to approve the minutes from the June 8 regular meeting.

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

Board Member Andrea Fischer	Absent
Board Member Bill Betts	Yes
Board Member Courtney Mason	Absent
Board Member Delbert Boeker	Yes
Board Member Dusty Robinson	Yes
Board Member Ginger Bosse	Yes
Board Member Lee Chalmers	Yes
Board Member Tina Henderson	Yes
Board Member Wendy Buth	Yes

6. Parks and Recreation Staff Updates

- Public Works Director Dane Rau tagged on to Casey & Tammy with updates to the Parks and Recreation Team. One topic was vandalism to the park restrooms. Hopefully it has stopped but if you see, please report as it can be expensive repairs.
- Aquatics & Recreation, Superintendent Tammy Jaster reported statistics for the Blue Bell Aquatic Center, staffing, maintenance, programs for recreation, and usage/participation.
- Parks Superintendent Casey Redman reported on maintenance updates. Tournaments are wrapping up for the year but already getting requests for the next year. This time of year with drought, water leaks staff is addressing. Install of Disc Golf; Shade over splashpad controls; Soccer and Football starting. Hohlt Park is busy.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Bill Betts adjourned the meeting.

Bill Betts

Bill Betts, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Tammy Jaster

Tammy Jaster, Staff Liaison