



## MINUTES

### CITY OF BRENHAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

**March 6, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, beginning at noon at Brenham City Hall – Conference Room 2-A, 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

#### Members Present:

Bill Betts, Delbert Boeker; Ginger Bosse; Wendy Buth; Trisha Hartstack; Tina Henderson; Ann Jacobs; Harvey McIntyre, Dusty Robinson

#### Members Absent:

Lee Chalmers; Courtney Mason

#### City of Brenham Staff Present:

Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Casey Redman, Tammy Jaster

#### Citizens/Others Present:

Deb Miller, Vicki Bruce, Davin Robinson, Keith Kietlinski, JC Robinson, Lisa Keesler, and Tom Yochlm

#### Media Present:

KTEX/KWHI –  
Brenham Banner Press – Sarah Forsythe

#### **1. Chairman Bill Betts called the meeting to order**

#### **2. Citizen/Visitor Comments**

No comments outside of the agenda items were discussed.

**Special Recognition** made by Dane Rau to Andrea Fischer presented plaque for time served on the Parks Board

## WORK SESSION

### 3. Jackson Street Park Phase I – Presentation from Burditt Consultants

Dane Rau started this topic introducing Burditt Consultants. The City of Brenham has about ½ a million dollars for phase 1 of this project. We will be asking BCDC this upcoming year for phase II funding. A few weeks ago, staff met with Burditt to outline our priorities as well as look at the entire park planning for Phase 2 in the near future.

Touching on key points in Phase I Park improvements: ADA enhancements; improved park lighting; upgraded restrooms; open air pavilion, playscapes, increased parking and overall usage of park amenities. Burditt has been asked to study an area where 4-6 pickleball courts (similar to the complex we have now) can be added once the first priority areas are addressed.

Currently additional funding will be needed to move into Phase 2 but planning for this now will enable us to have a nice layout of all future amenities at Jackson St Park.

Shane Howard with Burditt Consultants presented phase I of Jackson Street Park. The team took the top priorities and how do we prioritize the \$582,000 available for phase I hoping for another \$500,000 in phase II... What we need today is what is priority to start off in Phase I: ADA sidewalk; pathway lighting; parking, ramps; playgrounds; sport field lightening; Northside restroom & storage; Restroom/pavilion; central bridge crossing; spectator shade @ sports fields; pickleball expansion.

What do we want to repurpose the center of the park. What use do we think would be most used by our community? This will determine if we need lighting down in the center of the park. We know we will be replacing the playground as some of the current equipment is now considered vintage.

Parks Board member Ginger Bosse asked where we would be looking at additional pickleball expansion. The area that is now bocce court would be a possible location of new additional courts. There is a tradeoff of what we want to start with now and we hold off on something else because that something else will be going away in the second phase. Example Restrooms, if we fix those up now but then long-term plan is to move the restrooms, we are wasting money refurbishing current ones now. So, it is up to the City Staff and Parks Board to weigh in on what are the priorities. Dane Rau stated that the restrooms, for example, are expensive. The single unit premade unit at the Splashpad cost around \$200,000.

Shane spoke on what we think is priority. Parks Board Member Harvey McIntyre stated that he and his family enjoy the park, and yes, they feel safe, but if we are attracting families in the evenings, lighting should be a priority. Shane pulled the group into priorities. Everyone agrees the ADA is first on the list, then lighting follows; the board also agreed that up grading the playground is 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list. Following up number 3 & 4 would be central bridge crossing with restrooms/pavilion.

The city is looking at the Fall of 2024 for construction to start pending bids. Also discussed was Naming Rights – is there any interest in the community.

JC Robinson stated that he loved everything that was presented, loved the priority list, but thinking long term we also need to consider the fields and drainage as with the last rain the fields looked like a lake. So, unless we address drainage, the fields will continue to be an issue in a rain event. JC suggested that we move the crossover path over

toward the 2 big fields, so it lines up with the middle parking lot and is easier for handicap to access. He also stated that by the time the new Pickleball courts are built, we need to consider redoing the current courts as they have some wear and tear on the courts and have already been patched. Because the courts are low, they retain water. Courts are deteriorating.

Parks Board Member Ginder Bosse asked about the life of the pickleball courts and that they are original tennis courts over 40 years old and they need some attention. Dane Rau stated he is in talks with court experts to see if we need total replacement or repair and that is a difference between \$20,000 and \$100,000 project. JC Robinson wants Parks Board and the City to think long term and make sure we are building the park with the infrastructure for future courts.

## REGULAR SESSION

### 4. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Board Member Delbert Boeker and seconded by Board Member Ann Jacobs to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2024, regular meeting.

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

Board Member Bill Betts	Yes
Board Member Delbert Boeker	Yes
Board Member Ginger Bosse	Yes
Board Member Wendy Buth	Yes
Board Member Lee Chalmers	<b>Absent</b>
Board Member Trisha Hartstack	Yes
Board Member Tina Henderson	Yes
Board Member Ann Jacobs	Yes
Board Member Courtney Mason	<b>Absent</b>
Board Member Harvey McIntyre	Yes
Board Member Dusty Robinson	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.
- Aquatics & Recreation, Superintendent Tammy Jaster reported statistics for the Blue Bell Aquatic Center, staffing, maintenance, programs for recreation, and usage/participation. Locker-room project update. BBAC staff is working on hiring for Spring/Summer; lots of visitors continue. On the Recreation side the Babysitters Training Course filled up and parents are requesting additional classes, New Programs Pizza Bingo & Cards Club are going well with visitors from all around our community. Intro to Pickleball and Pop-Up Play Days are

beginning as well. The carousel is opening March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the season. We are also working on the Movies in the Park Series for the Summer. Titles and information to come.

- Parks Superintendent Casey Redman reported on maintenance updates. Turf infields project completed; WCYSA and Little League seasons are about to begin; Walls repainted and floors resurfaced in the Hohlt restrooms (BCDC); Walls repainted and floors resurfaced at Fireman's baseball field; Phase 3 of the batting cage turf completed (BCDC); Story book panel upgrades coming soon (BCDC); 45 yards of crushed granite used for trail repairs from heavy rains; New LED lights being installed at Fireman's kitchen/pavilion area; Routine maintenance. Casey also updated on tournaments for the 2024 year.



## **7. Adjourn**

Chairman Bill Betts adjourned the meeting.

***Bill Betts***

Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

***Tammy Jaster***

Staff Liaison