



MINUTES

CITY OF BRENHAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

July 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, July 10, 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; Lee Chamers; Trisha Hartstack; Tina Henderson; Ann Jacobs; Dusty Robinson

Members Absent:

Wendy Buth; Courtney Mason; Harvey McIntyre,

City of Brenham Staff Present:

Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Tammy Jaster, Kyle Branham; Kelsey Toy

Citizens/Others Present:

Vicki Bruce, Lisa Keesler; Linda Thomas

Media Present:

KTEX/KWHI –
Brenham Banner Press – Sarah Forsythe

1. Chairman Bill Betts called the meeting to order

2. Citizen/Visitor Comments

Lisa & Vicki wanted to Thank Parks Department for hanging the flag at the Pickleball Courts

WORK SESSION

3. Discussion Regarding Updates on the Brenham Family Park

Dane Rau started the Discussion A proposed layout of the Brenham Family Park was provided to all members of the board. The City of Brenham has received positive news

from Texas Parks and Wildlife concerning the Brenham Family Park Grant from 2020. After many studies, reports, environmental assessments and correspondence with both the National Parks Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife we have been told by Texas Parks and Wildlife that they have received the approval to issue a Notice to Proceed to the City of Brenham as it relates to Phase 1 of the Brenham Family Park from the National Parks Service.

We are actively working with Quiddity to finalize the design and meet the grant elements while also getting a better understanding of the overall budget of the development of Phase 1(a). We should receive the notice to proceed within the next 30 days from TP&W and will have from 3-5 yrs. to complete the grant elements that consist of utility improvements, parking, restrooms, walking/bike trail, amenity lake/detention, lighting, wildflower areas, pedestrian bridges and signage.

When we applied for the grant in 2020 the largest grant amount was \$750,000. We will receive that along with additional funds that were previously earmarked for the Brenham Family Park by BCDC which consists of another \$794,000. This currently gives the city \$1.54 million dollars to start on the Brenham Family Park amenities. With inflation and significant price increases over the last 4 years we know it will take additional funds to get this project off the ground and yet meet the grant elements that were submitted. We are currently working with both Quiddity and Texas Parks and Wildlife to make sure we meet the grant elements yet receive a complete project that all of Brenham can be proud of.

This is the closest we have ever been and now the reality of moving forward to open this park up while finding ways to fund the amenities will be a top priority for staff, the City of Brenham, Parks Board and BCDC. We will be having discussion with BCDC, Parks Board and City Council and get their input on the timeline, priorities going into construction, and additional resources needed to fulfill grant elements. We do have some time, as once the NTP is sent to the City of Brenham we have 3 yrs. to construct the park with a possibility of an additional 2 yr. extension.

We just wanted to share the good news that we have verbally been told by Texas Parks and Wildlife and update Parks Board

Board Member Dilbert Boeker asked for 3 years with option of 2-year extension to get project done correct.

Board Member Lee Chalmers asked what reasons there might be to extend 2 years. Dane Rau responded that possible delay in construction, weather related, bids or increase in bids coming in.

Board Member Dilbert Boeker asked if additional funding could we go out for if pricing comes in higher. Dane Rau stated he was not sure.

Board Member Ann Jacobs verified that no bids for anything has currently been acquired. Dane stated that we have not gone out for bids but 90% done with design & pricing.

4. Discussion Regarding Re-Organization of a 7x7 and 11x11 Soccer League Utilizing Hohlt Park Fields

Dane Rau took this item as Casey Redman is out on vacation. Staff has been approached about allowing an organization to utilize Hohlt Park Soccer Fields for a 7x7 and a 11x11 soccer leagues. Casey and I met with the Ramos Brothers, and they are looking at organizing a league that possibly will range from 5 yr. olds to adults. This is similar to Quik Foot soccer and would give a large range of soccer enthusiast a place to play competitive soccer.

We would like to discuss with the board this approach and work through some logistics as it relates to length of season, use of fields and rates charged. When we visited with the Ramos Brothers the first thing that they have to secure is insurance for hosting a league and playing at City of Brenham Fields. This is required of all leagues, select teams and tournaments when playing on Brenham fields. Once insurance is provided, we can move forward with other logistics. Their preference is to play on Thursdays and Sundays and utilize up to 3 fields total. They would also like this to be a 10–11-month season. We spoke to them about field usage during the Fall with WCYSA, Flag Football, Blinn Soccer and other entities using the fields and how we need to make sure to not abuse the fields to keep them in good playing shape. They are open for discussion, and we would like to speak with the board on a few items.....

1. Is this something of interest with already having WCYSA? (This would bring adult soccer back and more options).
2. How long of season are we comfortable with?
3. What type of fee schedule do we assign since this is not a local league and the length of season may extend a lot longer?

Casey and I will present this item and be able to work with the board on a preferred direction. We will need your feedback as we want to accommodate more users but need to be careful how we do so.

Staff feels 11 months is to long but we also want to meet in the middle to get some adults/kids involved. Chairman Bill Betts asked about he southside by the amphitheater however there is little to no lighting there. Board Member Ginger Bosse asked if they are affiliated with any association. Dane Rau stated they were not. Kyle Branham stated this would be a community organization and by word of mouth.

Board Member Trisha Hartstack asked what the difference between WCYSA and this was. Dane stated that this group would include members from all around, not just Brenham/Washington County. Trisha then stated that a benefit would be that it brings people to the area and helps with HOT tax.

Board Member Dilbert Boeker stated that he felt \$10 was not fair to charge this group as we should charge them more.

Kyle stated that \$50/\$60 per person for the season was about a normally cost. Kyle also stated that club soccer in Washington County is for the youth up to age 12 and there is nothing currently for 13+

Board Member Dusty Robinson suggested that maybe we look at a daily rate to charge for the use of the fields or start with a 6-month option and reevaluate.

Because this is unique, and the amount of time spent it is hard to determine a rate fair to the city and fair to the league.

This is like a church league for soccer open to outside Washington county residents. Per Day there maybe 1 – 3 games per day depending on the day and what else is going on at the fields. Board Member Dusty Robinson suggested some type of daily rate especially if there is multiple games in one day. Or come back to board with a new rate for something like this.

REGULAR SESSION

5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the July 10, 2024, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Board Member Lee Chalmers and seconded by Board Member Ann Jacob to approve the minutes from the July 10, 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	Absent
Board Member Lee Chalmers	Yes
Board Member Trisha Hartstack	Yes
Board Member Tina Henderson	Yes
Board Member Ann Jacobs	Yes
Board Member Courtney Mason	Absent
Board Member Harvey McIntyre	Absent
Board Member Dusty Robinson	Yes

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Rehab Intensive Program combining Rehabilitation and Aquatic Therapy to be offered at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center.

Tammy Jaster and Kelsey Toy discussed this opportunity. We have been presented with a possible partnership with Amberly Darby, a licensed PTA for over 20 years specializing in an intensive program for neurological disorders as well as rehabilitation following neurological traumas.

Staff had the opportunity to meet with Amberly about the possible partnership. The partnership would include leasing the use of the facility in order to launch a location in Brenham to bring a unique opportunity to families and the community of a new enhanced Intensive Program. This Program Wings to SOAR is tailored to meet the needs of children and families first. The program will enhance the Thera Suit Method Intensive Program by combining it with aquatic therapy as well as horseback therapy.

Amberly has meet with the Horse Arena and will be utilizing their facility 3 days a week asking to use our multipurpose room 2 days a week along with the pool.

This program is unique to the customer base it reaches. Normally families must seek the Thera Suit Method, Aquatic Therapy, and Equine Therapy in different locations. Amberly is combining her knowledge into one program for the client.

The program focuses on core stabilization as the center, brain mapping to organize motor planning, and accelerate outcomes by reinforcing positive patterns for improving rehabilitation of the body as a whole, to create: SOAR: Stabilize, Organize, Accelerate Rehabilitation.

This is an intensive 3-week program for 2.5 hours a day x 5 days a week x 3 consecutive weeks. During this time, additionally they will utilize the therapy pool for 1 hour 2 days a week for the 3-week program. There would be up to 3 clients each month with a week break monthly.

Amberly is requesting the use of the multipurpose room for the Thera Suit Method, the opportunity to keep the unit tucked in the corner of the room, and use of the pool. Amberly would be at the facility from 830am – 5pm 2 days a week. Pool time would be during open hours and not during peek aerobic or high usage times. Pool time would consist of Amberly and patient so not much room is needed.

Staff is requesting guidance on this possible partnership, pricing, etc. as we have not had a partnership similar to this one in the past.

Board Member Trisha Hartstack said as a therapist, she absolutely loving this idea because therapy is so huge for any type of chronic or acute illness so this combination is a wonderful addition to the community.

Board Member Lee Chalmers asked if she has insurance and labiality and she does under the SOAR umbrella.

Linda Thomas stated that there were a couple of therapists that contacted me about this, and I'm talking registered therapist in the community about what this was about. They saw the minutes. This is all brand new to me and I didn't need any information as to who they were dealing with, but they did want to address the question of basically, is it certified people and so forth.

And then I guess my other question would be in the past we've had, therapist and businesses that also work in various rehabs and so forth that have set up usage of the pool for clients and it never seem to last, so I was hoping that the therapist could have been here but I think we need to look closely to the program, to this person/therapist. Especially her not being a local person and the impact it may have on the existing professionals in this community, there be a negative ripple effect.

Dane stated that John did work with the BBAC but once COVID hit, they ended up putting a pool into their own facility and assisting their clients on their own.

Board Member Trisha Hartstack stated this was really geared to Neuro, this isn't rehab from a stroke, surgery or injury, this should not pose any threat to the therapist around here. This is very specialized service that isn't offered in our community.

Question was brought up if she accepted insurance from clients, but currently she does not. This is something she is working towards, but currently is not able to. Her clients pay out of pocket for this service and treatment.

Chairman Bill Betts stated that we may want to ask the City Lawyer to look at this and come up with an agreement.

A motion was made by Board Member Delbert Boeker and seconded by Board Member Lee Chalmers to work with the City Attorney and then move forward with contract.

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	Absent
Board Member Lee Chalmers	Yes
Board Member Trisha Hartstack	Yes
Board Member Tina Henderson	Yes
Board Member Ann Jacobs	Yes
Board Member Courtney Mason	Absent
Board Member Harvey McIntyre	Absent
Board Member Dusty Robinson	Yes

7. Parks and Recreation Staff Updates

- Public Works Director Dane Rau spoke on behalf of Casey Redman and Parks Updates. Henderson concession window replaced; Tree trimming in various parks; 4" water line installed at Hohlt; Numerous limbs and trees down from storm; Trail light repairs at Henderson Park; Tree replacement at Owsley; Multiple water leaks ongoing

Hosted Minor League All-start tournaments at Linda Anderson-June 14th through June 25th. Will also host Minor Sectional Tournament July 3rd-July 8th

- 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. Tammy Jaster and Kelsey Toy have attained their Association of Aquatic Professionals Designation (AqP) ; Kelsey Toy has also obtained her CPRP Certification (Certified Park and Recreation Professional) ; will be gearing up for end of summer and Fall staff. Pool has been busy with parties, dolphins swim team, and special Olympic swim team. Locker Rooms were completed and open Memorial Day Weekend. On the Recreation side the Carousel is still operating on Saturdays and for rentals. Cards Club, Walk with a Doc, Pizza Bingo, and Pop Up Play Days going strong. And Movies in the Park has some hic ups due to weather but we are working and rearranging days.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Bill Betts adjourned the meeting.

Bill Betts, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Tammy Jaster, Staff Liaison