

**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD**

February 8, 2018
@ 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas.

Board members present:

John Topp, Chairman
Michael Galvan, Vice Chairman
Julie Herrington
Paul Powers
Sylvia Rivera

Absent: Jane Mercier, Jimmie Traylor

Chairman Topp called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance followed

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

At this time, Mayor Rivera addressed the Board asking that the Board consider allocating approximately \$1,500 from their budget to provide electricity to the property on Polo Circle. The allocation would be in the event that the Board does not have a specific use for the funds for their events and projects. Additionally, he informed the Board about the possibility of the City leasing the median on El Camino real from the Harlingen Country Club. It will be the Parks Board responsibility to beautify it and the funding for the maintenance of the property will come from the City's general fund. This would be from the 2018-19 budget as the City has no money in this fiscal year to start the maintenance in the event the Club agrees to the lease agreement. Mayor Rivera stated that the agreement has been submitted to the Club which will then require the bank's approval and then back to the City Council for final approval.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – July 19, 2017

The minutes were approved, without corrections, upon a motion by P. Powers and a second by J. Herrington. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

DISCUSSION HELD ON THE STATUS OF THE CURRENT BUDGET, ANTICIPATED PROGRAMS, EVENTS OR PROJECTS AND ANTICIPATED EXPENSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR

Chairman Topp stated that the Board requested \$21,200 in the budget for this current fiscal year but the Council only approved \$10,000. The expenses associated with the Lighting of the Palms was approximately \$4800 leaving a balance of \$5200.

Discussion followed on the 4th of July event. Ideas suggested were having an evening parade due the weather being so hot during the day. There could be a concert with hot dogs as the food item. Suggested also was the possibility of having water stations throughout the parade route.

Joint venture with the Country Club – inviting Bryan Easley, General Manager to the Board meetings for his input.

- Order more banners for street poles - set up for 4th of July. 14 banners plus rental of lift: approximately \$1800.
- If more banners ordered for Christmas – approximately \$2500 which includes the banners and additional hardware for additional street poles.
- Comment made too many lights already on the median – no need for more.
- Encourage residents to decorate with flags - consider a fundraiser for Memorial Day.
- Could also put up small flags for the 4th of July parade.
- Get word out in the newsletter encouraging residents to decorate.
- Parade start time: 6:00 p.m. with line up at 5:30 p.m.

P. Powers suggested putting up 4th of July banners on the existing street poles. A motion by J. Herrington to order 14 more banners plus the rental of the lift to set up and take down for 4th of July - \$1800. M. Galvan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Topp and J. Herrington will get together with Bryan Easley to obtain his input as to what the Club can help with.

Approximate budget for the parade: \$2,000 leaving \$1,400 left.

P. Powers not in agreement with running electricity to Polo Circle at this time.

YARD OF THE QUARTER PROGRAM

A discussion was held on who gets to select the winner. A comment was made that only one person should be responsible for doing the selection. S. Rivera suggested that instead of doing the Yard of the Quarter, that there be recognition for volunteers. J. Topp stated that he was in favor of dropping the program except for the Christmas competition. J. Herrington suggested doing something jointly with the Club and maybe have the voting and selection be done by the local residents.

One issue associated with the selection is 'timing'. S. Rivera commented that there is an issue with newsletters on the ground. She suggested the City's newsletters be mailed out instead of hand delivered. Another suggestion was an email subscription for the City's newsletter. It was pointed out that email subscription from residents become city property and subject to Open Records requests. After much discussion, the consensus by the Board was to continue to hand deliver the newsletters.

There was further consensus by the Board to drop the Yard of the Quarter program and keep the Christmas décor competition. No need to buy more gift certificates.

P. Powers made motion to authorize \$2,000 for the 4th of July event. S. Rivera seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion followed on last year's Kids' Triathlon and the issues that were associated with that event. There was no benefit to the City and produced no new membership to the Club.

P. Powers made a motion to that \$1400 remaining to be designated as a 'contingency'. M. Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

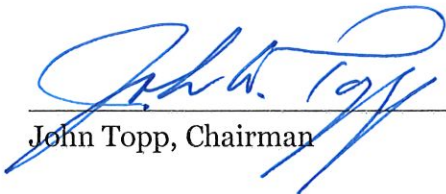
Minor discussion followed on the Veterans Memorial. J. Herrington commented that she would be in favor of any kind of memorial.

In summary, the Board approved \$1,800 for additional banners; \$2,000 for the 4th of July Parade and \$1,400 in contingency.

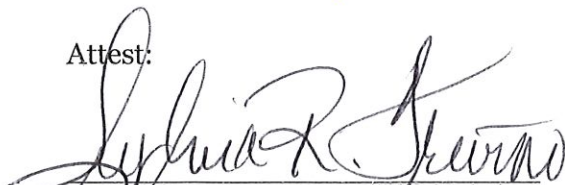
DISCUSSION HELD REGARDING THE BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP

J. Topp stated that most of the Board's terms expire in September 2018 and all members are willing to continue to serve. In the event there is a potential vacancy, Bryan Easley, General Manager of the Harlingen Country Club, could be recommended to serve on the Board. The City Council will consider these reappointments at the appropriate time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



John Topp, Chairman

Attest:


Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary