

**MINUTES**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Meeting scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.,  
Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

**Break room of City Hall, 702 N. Highway 175, Seagoville, Texas.**

**CHAIRPERSON  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
SECRETARY  
COMMISSION MEMBER  
COMMISSION MEMBER  
COMMISSION MEMBER  
COMMISSION MEMBER**

**LAURALEE FURSTENWERTH ACKER  
BRENDA CALLAWAY  
JOYCE MASSEY  
MARY WARREN  
SHARON CHAMBLISS  
BLANCHE GATTIS  
AMALIA (MOLLY) LOZANO**

Mission: *To provide quality leisure experiences, facilities, and programs for the citizens of Seagoville regardless of age or abilities, and to serve as stewards of our parks and natural open space.*

***"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."***  
Harry Truman.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Furstenwerth Acker declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m. Commissioners present were Molly Lozano, Mary Warren, Joyce Massey, Brenda Callaway, Sharon Chambliss, LauraLee Furstenwerth Acker and Blanche Gattis. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Ralph Mendez and Planning Technician/Commission Liaison Cindy Kintz.

Seagoville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Phil Greenawalt and City Councilman Jose Hernandez were also in attendance.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

Commissioner Gattis stated that there was no mention of her reporting some of the lights still being out in Veterans' Park.

Commissioner Chambliss made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gattis, to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on November 10, 2009 with the addition of the following:

Page 3, Agenda Item VII. *Park Comments*, Veterans' Park – Commissioner Gattis reported that some of the lights were still out in the park.

Chairperson Furstenwerth Acker called for a vote with all present commissioners voting AYE. The motion carried (6-0).

III. **RESPONSE TO ISSUES OF NOVEMBER MEETING**

*No issues reported.*

IV. **REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. The following event is requesting approval for use of C. O. Bruce/Central Park:

- Cinco de Mayo – Phil Greenawalt with the Chamber of Commerce will provide information regarding the plans for the May festival at C. O. Bruce/Central Park on May 6, 7 & 8, 2010.

Seagoville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Phil Greenawalt presented the chamber's request to reserve C. O. Bruce/Central Park for the city's first Cinco de Mayo celebration. He stated that he had wanted to host such an event for five years based upon the demographics and need in this area for such an event.

He informed the commissioners that the event would be held May 6, 7 & 8, 2010. The carnival would operate beginning on Thursday, May 6, with vendors and other festivities occurring on Friday and Saturday, May 7 & 8. He reported a Tejano band that had performed during Seagofest was assisting in getting this event off the ground. He discussed possibly moving the location of the carnival closer to U.S. Highway 175, utilizing the tennis courts for dancing and positioning the stage closer to the tennis courts.

Commissioner Gattis advised Mr. Greenawalt to contact Central Elementary School for music and dancers. She reported on seeing some of the students perform. She commented on how colorful their outfits were and on their enthusiasm. Mr. Greenawalt reported that they were speaking with the Spanish Clubs.

Commissioner Lozano spoke of a mariachi group in Crandall and also recommended speaking with the Spanish teachers at the high schools. She also spoke of an around-the-world-in eighty-bites fundraiser she took part in raising money for prom one year.

Vice-Chairperson Callaway inquired about any baseball games going on during that time of year in the park. Mr. Mendez reported coincidentally a Hispanic men's league was playing during that same time period. Vice-Chairperson Callaway and Mr. Greenawalt briefly discussed parking issues.

Secretary Massey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chambliss, to approve the Seagoville Chamber of Commerce's request to reserve C.O. Bruce/Central Park for a Cinco de Mayo Festival on May 6, 7 & 8, 2010. Chairperson Furstenwerth Acker called for a vote with all present commissioners voting AYE. The motion carried (6-0).

At this time, Mr. Greenawalt and City Councilman Hernandez left the meeting.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Bruce Central Park Survey of Users:

Texas A & M University is donating their services in developing and analyzing a survey on the use of C. O. Bruce/Central Park. The survey will be conducted by local volunteers working under the Texas A & M AgriLife Department. Volunteers will be trained using a video created by Texas A & M. The results will allow us to plan for future improvements to the park.

Mr. Mendez reported that he had received an e-mail from the high school counselor informing him that ten students had returned parent permission slips on conducting the survey at the park. He also reported that a member of Keep Seagoville Beautiful wanted to assist with conducting the survey.

B. The 2010 Patriotic Festival dates will be June 24, 25 and 26. I will begin developing contracts and having the entertainers reserve these dates for us.

Mr. Mendez explained to the commissioners that, if the City funded the new Cinco de Mayo event, the Patriotic Festival would suffer due to lack of funding.

The commissioners held a brief discussion over Secretary Massey's suggestion of adding a ball toss game similar to the Punt, Pass and Kick Competition as seen during some professional football games.

Mr. Mendez informed the commissioners of a company that contacted him wanting to do a webinar – a seminar over the internet – on skate parks. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at city hall.

Mr. Mendez explained that the skate park was a community and politically driven project. He informed the commissioners of the City's insurer recommending the City not staff the facility and to have only professionals design and build the facility. He provided a rough estimate of \$200,000 to build the facility plus maintenance costs. He spoke of the City of Grand Prairie having such a skate park with a company overseeing the facility along with an on-site retail shop and the city receiving 15% of all the proceeds. He commented that the company overseeing the facility in Grand Prairie oversaw several skate parks throughout the country.

Mr. Mendez shared with the commissioners other cities that he had spoken to that had a skate park cited an increase in vandalism, graffiti and bullying but that it did give the children something else to do.

Commissioner Gattis inquired as to where the facility would be built within the City. Mr. Mendez replied at Petty White Park.

VI. **INITIATIVES**

Mr. Mendez informed the commissioners that he would be going to the January 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to discuss requesting \$8,000 in funding from S.E.D.C. for a new fountain at C. O. Bruce/Central Park.

VII. **PARK COMMENTS**

- ❖ C. O. Bruce/Central Park – Secretary Massey did not have any issues to report other than the park being wet due to all the recent rainfall.
- ❖ Heard Park – Vice-Chairperson Callaway reported that she had not seen anybody there in awhile.
- ❖ Casa Grande Park – Commissioner Chambliss reported that, from the windshield survey she had taken, the park looked fine.
- ❖ Putnam Park – Commissioner Warren reported that the park looked fine.
- ❖ Petty White Park – Chairperson Furstenwerth Acker reported that the adult league championship game was held the proceeding Sunday.

Vice-Chairperson Callaway reported that she had submitted the grant paperwork and the grant will be awarded sometime in March/April 2010.

- ❖ Veterans' Park – Commissioner Gattis reported that the lights on the Police Department side of the walkway were still out and that the plants looked good.

She commented on seeing a guy working on the flower beds. She inquired about running brick sales advertisements once a quarter in the Suburbia News.

- ❖ Bearden Park – Commissioner Lozano reported that the park looked clean and on people still dumping what looked to be tree limbs.

Mr. Mendez informed Commissioner Lozano that it was not tree limbs that she saw but actually more posts. He stated that he had already spoken to the sports association about removing the posts. He reported that lights were still being shot out at the park.

Mr. Mendez stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Thompson suggested an adopt-a-bed program in the City's parks. Commissioner Gattis spoke highly of the Citizens on Patrol Program.

VIII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Without any further business to conduct, Chairperson Furstenwerth Acker adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m. with all present commissioners in agreement.

**LAURALEE FURSTENWERTH ACKER  
CHAIRPERSON**

**ATTEST:**

**CINDY KINTZ, PLANNING TECHNICIAN  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LIAISON**