

Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 8th day of April, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at Raymond Rimkus Park, 6440 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine if Quorum is Present.

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with the following Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chairwoman Danielle Bolton, and Commissioners Carolyn Gabriel, Jack Dean, Michelle Alonzo, Joyce Trent, and Evan Bohl. Absent and excused was Commissioner Kathy Hill. Also present was Staff member Melinda Moritz.

2. Review and Consider Approval of the October 8, 2020 Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Bohl made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Commissioner Alonzo. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard.

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

4. Reports: Activities or Events that Impact Parks or Access to Parks:

a. Discussion - Parks FY 2022 Capital Acquisition Plan (M. Moritz)

Staff member Moritz addressed the Commission, stating that the Parks Capital Acquisition Plan had been submitted to the City Manager and that she had included a replacement utility vehicle, a new lawnmower, the Linkwood-Pavona Place Trail fencing, quiet shelters for each park, Forest Oaks Pool shade covers, two new restrooms, a fitness station and a dog park for Raymond Rimkus Park, and a skate park for Shadow Mist Park. She explained that all of the City Department Directors had submitted their Capital Plans as well and that the total for all departments came to \$1,411,375. She then stated that the City Council would be meeting on Saturday, April 10th, at 9:00 am to discuss the entire Capital Plan and determine for each department what would be approved and what would be either added or deleted.

A general discussion was held on the plan to include the type of fitness stations to be installed at Raymond Rimkus Park and where the dog park would be located.

b. Discussion and Action – Plan for Future Year Improvements to Park System (M. Moritz).

Staff member Moritz directed the Commissioners to the Summary of Recommendations as stated in the Park Master Plan. She noted that several items had been completed, such as the shade over the playground areas, beautification, and funding for improvements, and that the Crew was in the process of constructing a basketball court at The Ridge at Leon Valley Park and Raymond Rimkus Park. She further stated that the Park Commissioners needed to review the Park Survey at the back of the Master Plan to determine which items they would like included in the next fiscal year planning.

c. Discussion – Summary of Items/Responses Received from the Town Hall Meeting (M. Moritz).

Ms. Moritz directed the Commissioners to the Town Hall Meeting results packet, stating that the City Council's annual Town Hall meeting had been held in early March and items discussed included whether or not to obtain Certificates of Obligation or a Bond issuance to fund numerous capital facilities including new park restrooms for Raymond Rimkus Park, pool renovations, a new Public Works building, a new library annex and several more capital facilities, and whether or not to put a Bond issuance on a ballot for a vote or to simply obtain Certificates of Obligation to fund these improvements.

She stated that a survey had been taken at the meeting to gauge citizen preference via a new software program called Mentimeter, and that approximately 61 persons had participated in the survey. She then explained that each item was placed in a list and then ranked by the citizens. Commissioner Bohl remarked that the dog park had not scored highly in the list of items and wondered why it had been placed in the FY 2022 Capital Plan. Ms. Moritz explained that only 60 or so persons had participated in the Town Hall meeting, but that she had sent out park surveys to all residents and the dog park was one of the most highly sought park improvements in that survey.

Further discussion was held regarding the dog park and the restrooms at the park. Ms. Moritz stated that it was possible that several items in the FY 2022 Capital Plan might be moved out for funding through the proposed Bond or Certificates of Obligation, which would reduce the amount of funds needed from the General Fund Reserve for the improvements.

5. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Staff member Moritz explained that the Bexar County Huebner Creek Conveyance LC-17 Segment III project was substantially completed and that the contractor, Oscar Renda was now off site and the properties had been deeded to the City. She further explained that JMI Contracting had been hired to perform the one-year maintenance and to finish up all punch list items left by Oscar Renda Construction. She also gave a brief update on the Hike & Bike Trail engineering progress.

Commissioner Bohl stated that he was pleased with the items planned for the next fiscal year, especially the skate park and that he would like to see a designated area be constructed for a food truck court at the skate park and in Raymond Rimkus Park. He stated that he had a few ideas on what that could look like.

Commissioner Dean stated that his concern was the state of the Triangle Park in that the crumbling chicken coop type structure on the park grounds had still not been removed, the old fencing needed to be re-installed, the area needed mowing, several tree limbs needed to be trimmed up, two dead trees removed, and that he wanted to place picnic tables in that area.

Ms. Moritz stated that the Crew was mowing Bandera Road this week and that they would be cleaning up the Triangle Park as a part of their mow duties in that area. She noted that she would have the Crew trim up the trees and remove any dead trees. She stated that she had spoken to the LV Historical Society and that they too wanted the fence put back up and that they had determined the pigeonnaire was not salvageable and wanted to remove it completely, but that they wanted to rebuild it in the exact same spot. She said that she could not make that decision and that they would have to request this from the City Council. She said that she would let them know the Crew would be removing the dilapidated structure. She stated that the Public Works Department had been extremely shorthanded with two positions being vacant and one of the Crew members having passed away from Covid, but that new employees had been hired and would be on duty shortly.

Commissioner Alonzo asked about the progress of the Peachtree at Poss Park and about the Silo Park mural ideas. Ms. Moritz stated that all the development that had been planned had already occurred at the Peachtree park. She noted that the landscaping and irrigation had been installed. She stated that the City Council had decided to postpone any murals on the Silos for now.

Commissioner Bolton informed Ms. Moritz that there was a significant drop off on the side of the trail near the tennis courts in Raymond Rimkus Park that was a trip hazard. Ms. Moritz stated that the Crew was aware of it and it had been scheduled for repair.

Chairman Christensen ended the meeting by thanking the Commissioners and requesting that meetings for April and May be held at one of the parks and that meetings in July, August, and September be held at the Conference Center, due to the heat. Vice-Chairwoman Bolton asked if the meetings could be moved to 7:00 pm, as she had trouble attending at 6:30 pm. After a brief discussion, Chairman Christensen stated that it seemed there was a general consensus to move the meetings to 7:00 pm. He then asked for a motion to adjourn.

6. Adjourn.

Commissioner Dean made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Bolton. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Roger Ohristensen, Chairman

Date

Minutes Passed and Approved at the May 13, 2021 Park Commission meeting.