



## **Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes**

**The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at The Ridge at Leon Valley Park, 5740 Grass Hill Drive, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:**

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

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., with the following Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chairwoman Danielle Bolton, and Commissioners Carolyn Gabriel, Yvonne Orozco, Kathy Hill, Joyce Trent, Michelle Alonzo, and 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Drew Power. Absent was Commissioner Evan Bohl and Alternate Commissioner Kimberly Bohl. Commissioner Jack Dean had previously emailed his notice of resignation from the Commission. Also present at the meeting were Staff member Melinda Moritz and Special Events Coordinator Maribel Mendoza.

**2. Review and Consider Approval of the May 13, 2021, Park Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Orozco made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Bolton. 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 – Summary of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Plans (M. Mendoza).**

Special Events Coordinator Maribel Mendoza addressed the Commissioners by giving a short presentation on the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, stating that this year's event would be very different. She noted that the Leon Valley Historical Society's 5K run would start the day with a 6:30 a.m. check-in near the Northwest Little League (NWLL) softball fields on Andres Salazar Drive and that the actual run would begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at about 9 a.m., with a planned route through the Grass Valley and Sun Valley neighborhoods, as well as Raymond Rimkus Park. Commissioner Hill, being a member of the Leon Valley Historical Society, gave a more thorough explanation of the 5K run and its route.

Ms. Mendoza then went on to explain that the annual parade would not be held until that evening at 6:30 p.m., with food trucks and a DJ being stationed at Raymond Rimkus Park, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:45 p.m. She noted that the fireworks display would start at 9:15 pm and would end at 9:30 p.m. and that the fireworks would be launched from the softball field.

Ms. Mendoza further explained that H.E.B. employees, from the H.E.B. Marketplace at 5601 Bandera Road, had been chosen to act as the parade Grand Marshalls, as they acted so heroically during the Covid-19 pandemic. She went on to state that the parade would start at the DPS facility driveway on Evers at Huebner Road, and would progress down Evers Road to Poss Road, and from there end on Poss Road at the NWLL entrance. She noted that Evers Road would be opened after the parade had ended, but that Poss Road would remain closed.

A general discussion was held regarding the 5K run, light towers in the park, and food trucks, and ended with Ms. Mendoza asking the Commissioners to refer any food truck vendors they knew to her, as they needed more trucks at the event.

**b. Discussion and Possible Action – Food Trucks at City Parks (Commissioners).**

Staff Member Moritz stated that the Commission had been asked by the City Council to make a recommendation on allowing food trucks at Raymond Rimkus Park. She noted that she had included a copy of the City of San Antonio regulations for food trucks in parks in the Commissioner's packets.

A general discussion was held regarding possible competition from the vendors at the NWLL, how and if the City should charge for the use of the property, the number of food trucks that would be allowed in the park at any given time, and where in the park they could setup. Commissioner Hill suggested the City Council allow a trial period to see if this idea was well received and if any problems arose.

Chairman Christensen stated that it seemed there was a general consensus that this would be a good idea, but they were lacking specific guidelines. He stated that he would like to postpone the item until the July meeting in order to get answer to the questions posed. There was a general consensus from the Commissioners to accept his suggestion to postpone.

**c. Discussion – Dog Park Committee Recommendations (Commissioners)**

Commissioner Hill addressed the Commission, stating that the Committee had a lot of information to share with the group, and handed out several documents pertaining to the setup of dog parks, including recommendations from the

American Kennel Club on how to setup a dog park, dog park vendors, and dog park designs. She noted that the ideal dog park would be between ½ and/or one acre of land. Vice-Chairwoman Bolton agreed and then stated that they should get pricing on the amenities, as some of the items were expensive. They both noted that small dogs should be separated from the large dogs, that it needed to be close to a parking lot, that there should be a water source for both dogs and people, and that there should be a limit of two dogs per person. Commissioner Hill then explained that there should be an age limit on how old a person should be before being allowed to bring a dog to a dog park, as young children may not be able to control their dog.

A general discussion was held on rules, using the park at their own risk, feces pickup, shade, fencing, agility courses, and play items. Staff member Moritz mentioned that the City did not have the personnel to police a dog park. Commissioner Hill explained that the policing could be performed by volunteers.

Commissioner Orozco stated that she had been to the dog park in Corpus Christi and that they had small gravel and Astro turf as ground cover, a pavilion, and nice black fencing.

Ms. Moritz mentioned that a good place for the park might be on the City-owned property off of Andres Salazar Drive near the NWLL, as it was not currently being used.

Commissioner Power noted that the park could be built with donations from corporate sponsors such as Blue Animal Foods, Purina, Raising Canes. Commissioner Hill stated that costs could be further reduced by making this an Eagle Scout project.

Chairman Christensen stated that all the ideas were good and that the Commissioners should take a look at the property and bring the item back to the next meeting for further discussion.

## **5. Commissioner and Staff Comments.**

Chairman Christensen announced that he had been asked by Chairman Yarnell of the Capital Facilities Oversight Committee to attend their inaugural meeting to discuss the park components being considered for possible Bond or Certificate of Obligation funding. He then explained that because the Commission had new members, he wanted to instruct them on how to place an item on their agenda, and that would be by requesting that another Commissioner second their request, and then be prepared to explain the request at the meeting.

Commissioner Alonzo asked if the recent flooding at the park was worse than usual. Ms. Moritz explained that she had seen worse, but that the rainfall intensities had increased over time so that even small amounts of rain were now causing the creek to flood.

**6. Adjourn.**

Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Orozco. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

  
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Roger Christensen, Chairman

9-10-21  
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Date